

The Urgency of the Gospel

Hebrews 2:1-4

Introduction:

- A. The world is full of 1_____ people
 - 1. Most do not know that they need s_____
 - 2. No one can s_____ himself/herself from horrible eternity.
 - 3. The only solution is to t_____ in Jesus to be God and Savior of one's life.
- B. Today's lesson is about the urgency of the gospel
 - 1. We will learn what Hebrews 2:1-4 reveals about the gospel
 - 2. We will learn our role in relationship to the gospel

The gospel was introduced by Jesus (2,3b)

- A. Comparing the introduction of the Law with the introduction of the gospel.
 - 1. Jews traditionally believed that a_____ played a major role in the giving of the Law of Moses at Mt. Sinai.
 - a. S_____ preached this - Acts 7:53
 - b. P_____ taught this - Gal 3:19
 - c. J_____ (Jewish historian) noted this – Antiquities XV:V:3)
 - 2. The Hebrew writer argues - *If we pay attention to what God spoke through angels in the giving of the Law, how much more should we pay attention to what God spoke through Jesus in the giving of the gospel.*
- B. Jesus began His ministry preaching these words: *the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel.* (Mk 1:15).
 - 1. What is the kingdom of God?
 - a. The Jewish people wrongly thought that being b_____ a Jew qualified them to enter God's kingdom
 - 1) Nowhere does the Old Testament teach this
 - 2) Many places God tells the people of Israel that their h_____ were far from Him (e.g. Jer 9:26; Is 29:13).
 - b. God's kingdom is the domain in which He effectively reigns.
 - 1) The domain is the l_____ of believers.
 - 2) God's king is J_____.
 - 2. What does it mean to repent?
 - a. The Greek word means to c_____ the mind.
 - 1) There is something wrong with the n_____ born state of the mind.
 - 2) The Bible points out the basic flaw – s_____

- b. Jesus stated in Lk 9:23 that if you wish to follow Him, you have to d_____ yourself (turn from a focus on self to a focus off self and on Christ)
3. What does it mean to believe in the gospel?
- a. The Greek word translated believe means to r_____ on or place confidence in.
- 1) It is more than just knowing the f_____ of the gospel (Jesus, the very God, became a man, died for sins and rose from the dead) – the d_____ knows this.
 - 2) To believe in is a picture of complete t_____
- b. To believe in the gospel means to:
- 1) Place your entire l_____ in Christ's hands (He is your God)
 - 2) Rely on all that He did on the cross as being your p_____ for all your wrongs (He is your Savior).

The gospel was preserved by the apostles (3c)

It was confirmed to us by those who heard.

- A. The apostles were Jesus's c_____ vessels to preserve the gospel.
1. There were many d_____ who voluntarily followed Jesus.
 2. There were none who c_____ to be apostles. Jesus chose them (Jn 6:64,70,71).
 - a. Rev 21:14 reveals that there are only 12 apostles.
 - b. Judas Iscariot was part of the visible Twelve, but not part of the real Twelve (Jn 6:70)
 - c. Jesus chose P_____ as the 12th apostle and communicated the gospel to him (1Cor 15:9; Gal 1:11,12)
- B. The church became the s_____ system for the apostles in their missionary efforts in spreading the gospel message.
1. What happened to the twelve apostles?- Read Eusebius' Ecclesiastical History and Foxe's Book of Martyrs
 - a. Matthew – killed by the s_____ in Ethiopia
 - b. John – boiled in o_____ but survived and so was exiled to the prison island of Patmos.
 - c. Peter was crucified u_____
 - d. James, the brother of John, was b_____ (Acts 12:2)
 - e. Bartholomew was s_____ alive and left for dead.
 - f. Andrew was c_____ in Greece.
 - g. Thomas was killed with a s_____ in India.
 - h. Paul was tortured and then beheaded by N_____

- i. Philip was c_____
 - j. Judas, not Iscariot, was shot dead with a_____
 - k. James the Less was thrown down from the pinnacle of the Jerusalem temple, survived, and then was s_____.
 - l. Simon the Zealot was s_____ in half.
2. The apostles gained n_____ except persecution and death which shows the gospel to be a divine word not a human concoction.

The gospel was confirmed by miracles (4)

- A. Apostles could not do m_____ at will
 1. Paul left Trophimus s_____ in Miletus (2Tim 4:20).
 2. Today's faith healers claim to heal at will
 - a. Always call those who need healing to come to a scheduled healing s_____ (healings cannot be seen or confirmed).
 - b. Never g_____ to the sick, the cancer centers, the hospitals.
 - c. Never heal their friends or family
- B. Apostles could only do miracles when God w_____ it.

God also testifying with them [apostles], both by signs and wonders, and by various miracles, and by gifts [literally, distributions] of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

1. The spectacular gifts of the Holy Spirit listed in 1Cor 12 were distributed temporarily only for a situation (1Cor 12:11)
 - a. The 120 disciples all spoke in t_____ as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:4). They did not decide to do this.
 - b. After healing a man who had been lame from birth, Peter tells the crowd that Jesus healed him and told them to turn from their w_____ ways (Acts 3)
 - c. Acts 5:12-14 states many miracles took place t_____ the apostles and resulted in many coming to faith in Christ.
 - d. 2Cor 12:12 states that signs, wonders, and miracles accompanied the work of the g_____ in Corinth.
2. Miracles confirmed the genuineness of the gospel.

Conclusion – pay closer attention to the gospel

- A. The gospel and yourself – have you repented of your self-centered life and entrusted your life and destiny to Jesus?
- B. The gospel and others – are you sharing with others? (sign up for a training session)
- C. The gospel and God – are you leaving the results up to God?