

THE FACTS OF THE GOSPEL

The apostle Paul did not waste his time, the Lord's time, or the time of those who heard him, with a social Gospel. Only the Gospel revealed by divine will has the power to save a soul from sin (Rom. 1:16). One who proclaims **another** Gospel is to be "cut off" or "accursed" (Gal. 1:8).

Please consider the following facts that the apostle Paul gives regarding the precious Gospel. To the Corinthians he said,

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

Paul admonished the Roman brethren, saying,

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him. by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Rom. 6:3-6).

And again,

"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17-18).

Paul was consistent in preaching the Gospel.

His previous preaching among the Corinthians was the same as what he now proclaimed. Earlier in the Corinthian letter Paul stated, "For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (I Cor. 2:2). If **"the"** Gospel is not preached, then people do not have an opportunity to be saved.

Paul points out that the Corinthians had to receive what he proclaimed.

God forces salvation on no one! Man has a role to play in his salvation. Nowhere is this made more clear than when Luke records, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41). It does no good, however, to receive something **other** than the Gospel if one desires salvation.

Those receiving the Gospel message can stand upon its promises.

It is a foundation that will not crumble. The blessings of God's grace are appropriated only by one's obedience to the Gospel.

The Gospel is the only saving power available to those lost in their sins.

All above the age of accountability are lost (Rom. 3:10,23). The fruit of sin brings forth spiritual death (Rom. 6:23). Listen to the writer of Hebrews as he says, "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that **obey him**" (Heb. 5:8-9, emph. MLW). Promoting and providing for "fun and games" may draw a crowd and pack the pews, but this worldly approach will not save a single soul!

Those who obey the Gospel must continue to "hold fast the word" throughout their lives.

Notice the conditional "if." **If** a New Testament Christian chooses to live according to God's law, he can expect to be saved. If not, he can expect to be lost. The "once-saved, always-saved" theory is **not** taught in the Bible. This false doctrine comes from the wishful thinking of man! The following Scriptures teach one can fall from a saved state and lose his soul (I Cor. 10:12; I Tim. 3:6-7; 4:1; II Peter 3:17). The writer of Hebrews clearly states, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God" (Heb. 3:12). Brethren and friends, one cannot fall from somewhere he has never been!

One can believe in vain.

Just believing will not get the job done! The demons even believe and tremble, but who will argue that they will be saved (James 2:19)? Belief not properly acted upon is in vain. Christ died for our sins and was buried and rose again the third day. The Lord's burial was prophesied in the Old Testament Scriptures (Isa. 53:9; Psa. 16:10). His resurrection was taught and known in the first century (Matt. 12:40; 27:63).

All sacred and divine matters are to be "according to the scriptures."

One will notice this phrase is used twice in verses three and four of 1 Corinthians 15. All religion is in vain if it is not "according to the scriptures." The creeds of men may please those who want to worship as they please, but such creeds **never** please God.

Search the Scriptures and learn the facts of the Gospel. Obey the Gospel, grow in God's Word, and live the Christian life!

Marvin Weir *from* **Seek The Old Paths**

BIRTHDAYS

Jameson Gragg, 03-01.

ILL

Sunday: Louise Dodson, Millie Robertson, Tom Tucker.

Wednesday: Lindsey Brown.

Allen Scott was admitted to Olathe Medical center on Monday and is in Room 301-1. Louise Dodson and her mother had the flu, but have improved at this time. Dee Adams will have outpatient surgery on her shoulder on March 6th. Jamal Abyad is having complications with his illness.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, David Cole, Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

The Carter family, Marcum family, Evan Pflugrad, and Linda Thomas were in Florida on vacation last week. John and Barbara James arrived safely in Arizona and will be on an extended vacation until sometime in April.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held next Sunday, March 2, following our AM worship. All are encouraged to come and enjoy the good food and company!

GOSPEL MEETING

Our Spring Gospel Meeting with brother Dudley Morton of Peculiar, MO will be held April 6-10, 2008.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 25; Sunday PM, 27; Wednesday PM, 26.

Those To Serve

February 24, 2008

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Thomas

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Trent Thrasher

SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson

OPENING PRAYER John Cody Carter

PRESIDE..... George Thomas

ASSIST..... John Dodson

ASSIST.....John James

CLOSING PRAYER..... Chris Edwards

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYERSteve Brown

CLOSING PRAYER.....Jared Nelson

LORD'S SUPPER..... George Thomas

WEDNESDAY 27th

SONG LEADER.....Ted Thrasher

INVITATION George Thomas

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Morning Worship 10:30 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

Phone: (913) 764-2325

E-mail: olathecoc@sbcglobal.net

CHURCH OF CHRIST

515 WEST PARK

P.O. BOX 482

OLATHE, KANSAS 66051

www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm

www.oabs.org/olathe.asp