

## RETURN TO THE GOSPEL- October 1, 2017

- Good morning Faith Family, and what a Family it is!
- Brother Pete Harden is visiting our Family in Vermont; John is joining us from Stockholm Sweden with others.
- Pastor Jeff and Griffin are with our Brother CV and fellow seminarians in India.
- Our sermon went out worldwide this morning from MUCH MORE 520 Radio, 14 countries and 34 states
- Our family in Kampala, Uganda are joined with us in worship.
- Kent Island, The Jerusalem sending church, we are gathered as One for the

**As we are broadcasting around the world, it is fitting that God would line us up with today's message.** RETURN TO THE GOSPEL: Circling back.

**KEY TRUTH:** Because the Gospel is the driving force behind the Christian life, we must consistently return to its message.

*Maintaining a proper understanding of the Gospel is critical to living in close fellowship with our Lord as well as being a disciple that shows others to be constantly circling back to maintain a healthy spiritual walk.*

### RETURNING TO THE GOSPEL

Our walk with God is to be more like a **CIRCLE** than a straight line, always circling back for re calibration. When we circle back we are not only reminded of the core of what discipleship is but what true worship is.

**IS WHEN YOU COME INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD BY HIS GRACE AND EXPERIENCE HIS GLORY AND RESPOND WITH REVERANCE AND OBEDIENCE TO ALL HIS COMMANDMENTS: THE GREAT COMMISSION**

The Gospel therefore is not only our starting point, but also the fuel that powers us by His Spirit to walk with Jesus.

The Disciple Path used the analogy of the Gospel NOT only being the starting blocks in which we launch from in a track meet, BUT also is the track itself on which we run the race!

**T/S AS WE LISTEN TO TODAY'S MESSAGE WE HOPEFULLY WILL SEE MORE CLEARLY WHY WE MUST RETURN** again and again to the Gospel , for it is the driving force to our lives as followers of Christ .

THIS DRIVING FORCE IS THE LOVE FOR GOD AND HIS GLORY (WHICH INCLUDES THE CHURCH AND THE HATRED OF SIN.....

**T/S Today we are going to look at the letter Paul wrote to the church in Corinth. Paul had heard the church was slipping in to deep sin.** His desire was to bring them back to the Gospel that saved them, to return to the foundation, which is Christ.

My prayer is as we go into the scriptures today, let us keep in mind and examine closely two entities: Two entities that need to ALWAYS CIRCLE BACK AND RETURN TO THE GOSPEL.

1. You and me, the individual Christian and
2. The church, and specifically our church here at the Bridge.

### LET'S PRAY

- PAUL'S CONVERSION
- PAUL'S TIME IN CORINTH – ACTS 18
- PAUL'S CONCERN FOR GOD'S GLORY AND THE CHURCH
- SO PAUL WRITES A LETTER
- **THE SOLUTION: CHRIST CRUCIFIED**

DESCRIBE CORINTH AND THE SIN. (factions, false gospels, tolerating sex sin, divorce, misuse gifts) **SOLUTION: RETURNING TO THE GOSPEL**

***T/S Before we read the text, I want us to ask these questions;***

1. how is your intimacy with the Lord ?
2. are you in a fade or drift from God ?
3. are you more entangled with the cares of this world ?
4. are you captive in private sin, feelings of anger or hatred ?
5. caught up in gossip
6. neglecting Gods will when you have heard clearly what to do ?
7. are you disengaged from the body or plain lazy ?
8. apathetic.
9. perhaps none of that, but troubled with sadness, trials, discouragement or loneliness ?

### **DO YOU FEEL FURTHER FROM GOD INSTEAD OF CLOSER?**

- PRONE TO DRIFT
- CONSTANT WAR WITH FLESH, THE WORLD, SATAN
- ANYONE OF US CAN FALL INTO SIN. (REMEMBER KING DAVID)

***T/S As we look into the passage of 1 Corinthians 15: 1-8 ,and today's message, we will look at and hopefully see more clearly:***

1. What is the Gospel
2. What are the essentials of the Gospel
3. What are benefits of the Gospel
4. And how does returning to the Gospel and making disciples apply to the church and to us at the Bridge.

## **T/S PAUL WRITES LETTER 54 A.D. / ARROGANT MEMBERS DIVIDING CHURCH / FALSE GOSPELS..NO RESURRECTION / BLENDING: EPICUREAN. HIS DESIRE TO RE-CIRCLE THEM TO THE GOSPEL, ONLY HOPE AND SOLUTION**

### THE TEXT

*15 Now I would remind you, brothers,[a] of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.*

*3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.*

**LETS TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT VERSES 1 and 2:** Break it down

**Verse 1: NOW**....urgent, at this appointed time, now, it is of the essence I write you NOW. Your lives are revealing a departure from the gospel. The timing of this message is utmost importance and from the divine time table of our Lord.

**REMIND YOU:/MAKE CLEAR**.....they were listening to false gospels, no resurrection ( Sadducees) live for the moment (Epicureans ).....there lives were revealing behaviors that were not Gospel born, not Christ like.

**BROTHERS/SISTERS: SUPERNATURAL FAMILY**

**OF THE GOSPEL** (I preached to you )...

**PREACHED:...** Paul was FAITHFUL to his calling, ROMANS 10:14

**WHICH YOU RECEIVED:...**John 1 :12, received by faith, by the power of God

**IN WHICH YOU STAND AND ARE BEING SAVED:...**The Gospel is not only about being forgiven of sins and reconciled to God ( Born Again ) but it becomes the rock of our foundation by which we stand and live : Acts 17, " In Him, we live and move and have our Being !!!

**The Gospel not only saves from the cure and power of sin, but continues to do so, and until we will be are saved (in Glory). (It saves, is saving, and will save).** The Gospel is not only the message of Justification, but it is the entirety of all Jesus said, did, and continues to do (intercede). His Word is the fullness of the Gospel in which we receive and Stand and walk by faith and kept by His Power. (Jude/Peter).

**“THE GOSPEL, WHEN RIGHTLY UNDERSTOOD BECOMES THE BASIS FOR EVERY DECISION, EMOTION AND ACTION IN OUR LIVES.”**

**UNLESS YOU BELIEVED IN VAIN:** GOD’S LOVING WARNING

- EXAMINE YOURSELF TO SEE IF YOU ARE IN THE FAITH
- IF INDEED THE SPIRIT DWELLS IN YOU – ROMANS 8:9
- MATTHEW 7:22
- ANALOGIES: SCUBA, AIRPLANE, PARACHUTE, DEATH VALLEY
- WE NEED TO ASK THIS QUESTION: LIFE AND DEATH.

**NOW LETS LOOK AT VERSE #3** - "FOR I DELIVERED TO YOU (passed on) AS MOST IMPORTANT WHAT I RECEIVED"

Paul is saying here THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE , the Gospel, the power to give you eternal life, I have risked my all (1 Corinthians 2 :1) " I came to you in fear and trembling " to pass on the hope that is in me. The Gospel this statement clearly shows this is not Paul' gospel but Gods Gospel:: for he too received it , not devise it.

BEFORE PROCEED: **VIDEO**

**THE GOSPEL IS THE EXPRESSION OF THE ATTRIBUTES OF OUR ALMIGHTY GOD, HOLINESS, RIGHTEOUSNESS, JUSTICE, MERCY, GRACE, HIS LOVE HIS DIVINE LOVE STORY: OUR ONLY HOPE FOR ETERNAL LIFE.**

**THAT IS WHY WE MUST GO AND PREACH to THE LOST and GROW THE FOUND**

**T/S AS WE LOOK AT THE LAST FEW VERSES, I WANT TO POINT OUT 6 ESSENTIALS OF THE GOSPEL. (Piper)**

READ verse 3-8 **3** *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.*

## 1. THE GOSPEL IS GOD'S PLAN, FROM THE BEGINNING:

### A. ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES: HE DIED, BURIED, AND ROSE

Isaiah 53 - 300 prophecies - Jonah - road to Emmaus

1 Peter 1:18 **18** *knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.*

### B. THIS IS GOD'S GOSPEL. NOT A STORY ABOUT GOD, BUT THE REVELATION TO THE GLORY OF GOD. **IT IS HIS GOSPEL AND WOE TO ANYONE WHO CHEAPENS IT<DILUTES IT OR, COMPROMISES IT**

Galatians 1:6 "I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting HIM (JESUS) who called you by the grace of Christ for a different gospel, which is really not another.....he is to be accursed

**Revelation 22/ severe warnings of judgement to any who alters His Word**

## 2. ACTUAL EVENT that occurred in HISTORY

HE DIED, HE WAS BURIED, HE WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD AND SEEN BY MANY WITNESSES --- BURIED / CHAIN OF EVIDENCE, THEREFORE OUR FAITH IS NOT A MYTH, OR A BLIND FAITH, BUT IN THE RISEN LORD / VERIFIABLE COURT OF LAW

## 3. AN ACHIEVEMENT IN AND THROUGH THAT EVENT POWER OF GOD

Something happened in and through the event between the Son and the Father, namely sins were paid for and Righteousness completed. An obedience unto death, therefore, a perfect obedience was achieved and a perfect guilt offering was paid and the wrath of God was satisfied. 2nd Corinthians 5:21 *" He made Him who knew no sin on our behalf, so we might become the righteousness of God in Him."*

## 4. AN OFFER WAS AND IS EXTENDED TO ALL THE WORLD RECEIVE THE EFFECTS OF THIS ACHIEVEMENT AS A FREE GIFT:: IF NOT FREE, IT IS NOT THE GOSPEL (ROMANS: 6:23) IF IT IS BY WORKS AND NOT BY FAITH, IT IS NOT THE GOSPEL

2nd Corinth. 5:20: *Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ although God is making an appeal through us, we beg you to be reconciled to God.*

5. APPLICATION OF THE ACHIEVEMENT. GOD did something for me in history that is not mine til I receive it by Faith, and that does not occur without God 's Miracle to open my eyes. BORN AGAIN **EPHESIANS 2:8**

2nd Corinth. 4:6 *"For it is God who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness " is the ONE who has shone in our hearts to give the LIGHT of the knowledge of the glory of GOD in the face of CHRIST.*

**BUT THE MISTAKE IS MOST OF US STOP THERE, WE MISS THE PURPOSE for the EVENT (death, burial, resurrection),,, it is just the means,**

**6. THE PURPOSE: BRING US TO GOD !!! (ENTITY #1, OURSELVES)**

1 Peter 3:18 *"For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, SO THAT HE MIGHT BRING US TO GOD."*

- CLIMAX: BRING US INTO FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.
- IT'S WHAT THE GOSPEL DOES
- WE CAN GLORIFY HIM
- WE CAN BEHOLD HIS GLORY
- MOVED TO TRUE WORSHIP
- ALL REVERANCE, FEAR, PRAISE, GRATITUDE AND OBEDIENCE
- HIS LAW AND COMMANDS BECOME OUR DELIGHT
  
- **BENEFITS OF EXPERIENCING HIS LOVE, SECURITY, WARMTH AND ACCEPTANCE**
- **TRUE INTIMACY**
- **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**
- **ALL HIS PROMISES FOR US**

THAT'S WHY WE RETURN TO THE GOSPEL TO COME INTO HIS PRESENCE

GOSPEL --- GRACE...GLORY...GO

EXAMPLES:

MOSES: EXODUS 33 DRAW NEAR...JAMES 3, MALACHI 3. RETURN TO ME

ISAIAH 6: GOSPEL --- GRACE...GLORY...GO

CIRCLING BACK TO THE GOSPEL (OBEDIENCE TO THE GREAT COMMANDS AND GREAT COMMISSION)

**THIS IS WHY WE AS INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS MUST RETURN TO THE GOSPEL SO WE DO NOT STRAY FROM THE PERSON AND THE PURPOSE OF THE GOSPEL.**

**BECAUSE WE WERE MADE TO GLORIFY HIM AND THIS OCCURS WHEN WE KNOW HIM, AND WHEN WE KNOW HIM WE WILL RESPOND WITH FAITHFUL AND LOVING OBEDIENCE TO ALL HE SAYS.**

## CHURCH, ENTITY #2

**T/S We, as a church, must return to the Gospel as well... The Gospel is both the Good news that brings the message to Salvation, but more broadly the Gospel as we said, is the track in which we run the race and stand THIS encompasses the totality of God's Word.**

1. How to lead like Christ
2. How to love like Christ
3. How to make Disciples like Christ
4. How to Obey the Father like Jesus did

What does this mean for the church: RETURN TO THE GOSPEL & HIS WORD: ACTS

GOSPEL – GRACE, GLORY, GO

EXAMPLE: JESUS' LAST WORDS – PREACH THE GOSPEL AND MAKE DISCIPLES.  
ACTS / PENTECOST

- THE RESURRECTED CHRIST (GRACE), THE SPIRIT AT PENTECOST (GLORY), RESPONSE (GO)
- ACTS 20 – BE LED BY THE SPIRIT AND PREACH THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD

**T/S AND WE TOO, AT THE BRIDGE MUST RETURN TO THE GOSPEL OR ELSE LIKE THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH WE CAN SLIP AWAY FROM THE PURPOSE AND THE PERSON OF CHRIST AND MAKE OUR CHURCH ABOUT WHAT WE THINK IT SHOULD BE OR ABOUT OURSELVES.**

- A. PASTOR JEFF – RETURNING TO THE GOSPEL
- B. THE FRUIT – CHRISTINE
- C. TODAY IS AN EXAMPLE

**BEFORE CLOSE, SHOW VIDEO (THE GOSPEL)**

**==CLOSING STATEMENT==**

**THE APOSTLE PAUL INSPIRED BY GOD IN HOPES TO BRING THE CHURCH BACK INTO UNITY AND HOLINESS WROTE AT THE END OF HIS LETTER THE HOPE THAT WOULD RESTORE THE CHURCH...REMEMBER THE GOSPEL, RETURN TO THE GOSPEL.**

**THIS TRUTH APPLIES TO US TODAY AS INDIVIDUALS IN CHRIST AND AS A UNIT, THE CHURCH. THE CHURCH THAT CHRIST DIED FOR.**

**JESUS SAID IN MATTHEW 11, COME UNTO ME ALL WHO ARE HEAVY LADEN AND BURDENED AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST. THE SOLUTION IS JESUS. WE CRY OUT FOR FORGIVENESS AND HEALING. WE RETURN TO THE GOSPEL TO REMEMBER WHAT HE'S DONE FOR US AND BEHOLD HIS GLORY. THE GLORY DUE HIS GREAT NAME**