

THE GOSPEL

Romans 1:16-17

Intro: (Give some information about myself. Tell them I am Marge Collier's Pastor, and have been for many years. Express appreciation to Sherrie Cochran for the invitation.)

I have been teaching the Bible all of my life. Like many other Christians, I read the Bible through every year. In our church we encourage all of our people to do that, and we give them Bible Reading Schedules so they will know how much they have to read each day if they are going to read it in a year. I firmly believe with all of my heart that it is the Word of God. About forty different people wrote different books of the Bible over a period of some 600 years. And yet there is a unity about this Book that makes it sound like it was written by just one person. And indeed it was! The Bible tells us that "men of God" wrote as they were moved to write by the Holy Spirit. So it is God's book, many writers, but just one Author, and He is the Holy Spirit.

Thus, everything that we believe must be tested by the Word of God.

One of those writers was a man named Paul. He was an apostle of Jesus Christ as he described himself in Romans 1:1.

What is the main message of the Bible? The Gospel.

What is the Gospel? It is good news. It is a good message or teaching, to be delivered (proclaimed, preached) in the name of anyone. It is glad tidings, joyful news.

It is good news because it tells us about God. It tells us about ourselves. It tells us that things are not right between us and God, but the good news is that it tells us what God has done to meet our needs as sinners. The problem is too great for us to solve, but God has solved it, and He had done this through the sacrifice of His Son. And this is the Gospel.

Notice his references to the Gospel in this chapter. See vv. 1, 9, 15, 16-17.

Another reference to the Gospel which he made is in 1 Cor. 15:1-8. (Read.)

The Gospel (2)

But the Gospel is often referred to in the Bible where the word “Gospel” is not used. An example of this is John 3:16-17.

And the Gospel is a message that excludes all other ways of getting to God. It is the only to God. Cf. John 14:6; Acts 4:12.

But people are not saved just because Christ died. The Bible makes it very clear that only those who *believe* in Christ will be saved. But the marvelous fact about faith is that it, too, is a gift of God just like everything else that has to do with our salvation. Cf. Eph. 2:8-9.

No other religion in the world provides salvation. In all of the others you have to work for it if you are to have it. Only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ has salvation been provided for us. And the gift of salvation through Christ is eternal. We can never lose it because it has been secured by God Himself. Cf. John 10:27-30.