REVIVAL NEWS From Revival Ministries Australia P.O. Box 2718 BC TOOWOOMBA Q4350 Australia Phone: 61-7-46130633; e-mail: <u>rma@revivalministries.org.au</u> Website: www.revivalministries.org.au

**** AUGUST 2023 **** AUGUST 2023 **** AUGUST 2023 ****

MY GOSPEL

Nicholas Jackson

In closing his letter to the Romans, the apostle Paul pens a benediction which gives a great summary of the gospel that Paul preached and taught, "Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith..." Rom.16:25-26.

There are five key points that Paul shares with us revealing his gospel. He is so bold to say that God will be able to establish us according to this gospel! What gospel do you preach? What gospel can you say is "your gospel"? Is it the same as Paul's gospel?

1. According to "my gospel"

Paul says that God would establish us "according to my gospel". Paul had made the gospel his; he owned it, he lived it and breathed it. If you met Paul, you met the gospel. When the gospel becomes yours, this means that it lives inside of you. It is part of your being. It is alive in you. You live by the gospel. Many preachers today share messages, preach sermons and even try to compete at who can do this better than the other. Paul's gospel was the truth and reality that Paul lived by. Denominations have set statements of faith that you have to agree to in order to be part of that denomination. Paul's gospel, his doctrine, was revelatory truth he had received and a doctrine that was imparted and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit!

When Paul saw Peter and Barnabas beginning to act like hypocrites, withdrawing from fellowship with Gentile believers when certain Jews came, he confronted them because "they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel" (Gal.2:14). In the beginning of his letter to the Galatians he says, "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed" (Gal.1:8). Paul was serious about this gospel! Are you? Has it become yours? Are you willing to live or die by this gospel? When the gospel becomes "ours" it gives us great authority!

Paul wrote to Timothy, "Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to <u>my gospel</u>" (2Tim.2:8). My gospel is the good news that Jesus, the Promised Son of David, has literally and gloriously risen from the dead. Paul also wrote in 2 Timothy 1:10 that "Jesus Christ...has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel". This gospel is the message of the abolition of death! Life and immortality come to light through my gospel! The gospel Paul preached and believed in was the "gospel of Christ which is the power of God for salvation for all who believe" (Rom.1:16). This gospel raises dead people to life! I know this because I was once dead in my trespasses but have now become alive in Christ through this gospel! (Eph.2:1,5-6).

The gospel is a declaration that there is a new king and that He has won a great victory! Jesus is the promised King, the Christ, who has ascended the Throne of David and who rules all things (Is.9:7; Matt.28:18; Acts 2:33). The gospel is a proclamation of the victory of the Messiah, that He has defeated sin and Satan through the Cross (1Jn.3:5,8; Col.2:15) and has "abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2Tim.1:10). The gospel is "preaching in Jesus the resurrection from the dead" Acts 4:2.

God wants this gospel to be established in you so that it becomes "your gospel!"

2. According to the "preaching of Jesus Christ"

There are not many today who preach Jesus as the Christ. The majority of the church worldwide has very limited understanding of who Jesus is and what it means to call Him **the Christ**. Christian bookstores are full of teaching on principles "for successful living" and motivational messages that are not what Jesus and the apostles taught. We are not to preach good self-centred messages. We do not preach a religion or a church. We are to preach a person! We preach Jesus the Christ!

When Jesus asked His disciples who they said He was, Peter declared, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Matt.16:16). Jesus' response was, "...upon this Rock [the revelation of who He is], I will build My church" (Matt.16:18). The first time that Jesus mentioned the "church" was in response to the revelation of who He was! The church is built on the revelation of Jesus the Christ! When we preach Him, the church is built!

We need to understand and preach the revelation that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God! Paul said to Titus that the hope of eternal life and the fulfillment of God's promises are *"manifested in due time...through preaching"* (Tit.1:3). The Word manifests through preaching! It is as we preach Jesus the Christ that He manifests, He appears! The Word manifests, becomes real in our experience, only if it is preached! Somebody needs to tell somebody! It is the Word which has power to demonstrate the reality of God!

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory..." (John1:1, 14) God again wants the Word to become flesh, to manifest in human beings! As the Word manifests through preaching, the world will see **His glory!** As we preach the Word of Jesus the Christ, the hope of eternal life manifests and we are established in His glory! Paul charged Timothy before the Lord Jesus Christ to "Preach the Word!" (2Tim.4:2).

Paul told the Galatians, "it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles" Galatians 1:15-16. We preach the One who has been revealed in us. We preach the One we know by experience. "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" Colossians 1:28. We become mature and complete through the preaching of Messiah. Let us all commit to "preaching of the unsearcable riches of Christ among the Gentiles (nations)" Ephesians 3:8

3. According to "the revelation of the mystery"

God establishes us according to "the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began, but now made manifest." Something that today's church in general has lacked is "revelation of the mystery". The mystery "in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets" Ephesians 3:5. We are in a season of history where the truth of the ministries of apostles and prophets is being restored to the church so that we can again partake of the "fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ" Ephesians 3:9. What was hidden, is now being made known!

The foundational mystery to be made known, from which all the mysteries flow out of, is that "without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory" 1 Timothy 3:16. This is an awesome mystery to be made known and is without controversy! Jesus actually is God manifested in the flesh! The God who created the world, appeared in the flesh, "Immanuel, which is translated, "God with us" Matthew 1:23. "Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God...being found in appearance as a man" Philippians 2:6,8a. This revelation, that Jesus was God manifested in the flesh, is what makes the church "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1Tim.3:15).

Jesus, by nature being God, is able to bring forth a whole new creation. Now, instead of being divided by race, ethnicity and nationality, *"the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel"* Ephesians 3:6. In Romans 11:25 Paul has referred to the mystery of the Gentiles now being partakers of the *"root and fatness"* (v.17) of the promises made to natural Israel. The mystery is that God is *"gathering together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and on earth – in Him"* (Eph.1:10). It does not matter where you come from, the mystery is now being revealed to the saints as God has *"willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles (nations): which is Christ in you, the hope of glory"* Colossians 1:27.

God is bringing all things together in one, things in heaven and on earth – in Him! Heaven and earth came together in Jesus the Christ; God became a man! God, who is Spirit (Jn.4:24) manifested in a Body! As this revelation truth is established in us, we can see clearly that God is looking to do the same thing in the Body of Christ. He is building us together to be a "dwelling place of God in the Spirit!" (Eph.2:22)

4. By the "prophetic Scriptures being made known to all nations"

Jesus told us to "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...and teaching them..." (Matt.28:19-20). We disciple nations! We disciple nations by making known to them the fulfillment of the prophetic Scriptures to all men!

When Jesus appeared to His disciples after He rose from the dead He said, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.' And He opened their understanding that they might comprehend the Scriptures" (Lu.24:44-45). Jesus made known the prophetic Scriptures and their fulfillment in Him!

Paul said that Christ's death for our sins, His burial and His resurrection on the third day were all *"according to the Scriptures"* (1Cor.15:3-4).

When the day of Pentecost had *"fully come"* (Acts 2:1) Peter stood up and declared from the prophetic Scriptures that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was proof that this Jesus was the promised Messiah (Acts 2:33).

When the Ethiopian eunuch was reading from the prophet Isaiah, Philip asked him if he understood. The Ethiopian man wanted someone to help him and so Philip *"beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him"* (Acts 8:35). Can you make the prophetic Scriptures known to all nations? Can you see Jesus the Messiah throughout the Scriptures?

In Genesis – Christ is the Beginning and the promised Seed of Abraham – Col.1:18, Gal.3:16

In Exodus – Christ is the "I AM" in the bush and the Passover Lamb – Jn.8:58, 1Cor.5:7 In Leviticus – Christ is the High Priest and the perfect offering – Heb.3:1, Heb.10:14

In Numbers – Christ was lifted up for us like the bronze pole in the wilderness – Jn.3:14-15

In Deuteronomy – Christ is the Rock and the Prophet to come like Moses – 1Cor.10:4, Jn.6:14

In Isaiah – Christ is the Servant who suffered for our sins, the Son, Immanuel – 1Pet.2:24, Mt.1:23

In Jeremiah – Christ is the "I AM our Righteousness" from the line of David – 1Cor.1:30 In Ezekiel – Christ is the "I AM who is there" – Mt.18:20

In Daniel – Christ is the Stone that crushes kingdoms and fills the whole world – Eph.2:20, Rev.11:15

In Hosea – Christ is our Bridegroom – Jn.3:29-30, Eph.5:22-33

This is only to name a few! We are to make the prophetic Scriptures known to all nations!

The ministry of the church is to the nations! The apostolic nature of the church is to be sent to all nations, in the power fo the Holy Spirit, making known the Christ from the law of Moses, the Psalms and the Prophets (Lk.24:44-49)! The prophetic Scriptures were written as holy men of God were moved by the Holy Spirit (2Pet.1:21). They are of no private interpretation but are to be revealed to all nations that all men may see that Jesus truly is the Promised Messiah, God in the flesh! (Gen.49:10, Is.9:6)

5. According to the "commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith"

The gospel is not a ticket to go to heaven. The gospel is the means by which God brings the nations to obedience to His Word! Paul said that the manifestation of God's Word through the ministry of preaching was a stewardship given to him *"according to the commandment of God our Saviour"* (Tit.1:3).

We are commanded to preach the gospel and to disciple nations (Mk.16:15, Matt28:19). The result of obeying this command is that nations become obedient to the faith and so the kingdom of God is established. Isaiah prophesied this day in Isaiah 2:2-4 saying that the mountain of Yahweh's house will be established on the top of the mountains – that is *"far above all principality and power and might and dominion"*(Eph.1:21) – and all nations shall flow to it. They will say that they want to be taught the ways of the kingdom of God and His Word will judge and rebuke nations and the result will be, *"Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."* Hallelujah!

This is according to the commandment of the everlasting God! It will happen, it is unstoppable, "*the gates of Hades cannot prevail against the church*" (Matt.16:18) that is built and established on revelation, being obedient to God's commands! It is through grace and apostleship that nations become obedient to the faith (Rom.1:5)! We have the apostolic authority, delegated authority, according to the command of God, to bring nations to obey "*the faith that once for all delievered to the saints*" Jude 3.

Nations are becoming obedient to God's Word! Through trained disciples, even "a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith" Acts 6:7. Paul said, "For I will not dare speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles <u>obedient</u>" (Rom.15:18). The fruit of the gospel we are looking for is obedience to the faith. As we are obedient to the "commandment of the everlasting God" to "make disciples of all nations", then we will see nations changing and the "word of the Lord growing mightily and prevailing" (Acts19:20) throughout the nations!

It is time to be established in this gospel It is time to make the gospel "my gospel" It is time to preach Jesus the Christ It is time to be established in the revelation of the mystery It is time to make known the prophetic Scriptures to all nations It is time to be established according to God's commands for obedience to the faith