

“THE GOSPEL”

Acts 10:36-48

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INTRODUCTION

When I was a young believer, I used to sing a little chorus that had these words:

“Love, love, love, love, the Gospel in one word is ‘love’; love your neighbor as your brother, love, love, love.”

Sorry, but the words of that chorus have NOTHING to do with the “Gospel.”

Here are some other ideas and expressions that have nothing to do with the Gospel”

- “Something good is going to happen to you.”
- “Possibility thinking”
- “Self-esteem: the New Reformation”
- “Health, wealth, and prosperity Gospel”
- “Social Gospel”
- “The Cultural Mandate”

NONE OF THESE ARE THE GOSPEL.

In Acts 10:36-43 Peter gives Cornelius and the Gentiles the Gospel: “The Word which He sent to the sons of Israel”—now He gives it through Peter to the Gentiles (36).

THIS IS THE GOSPEL. HAVE YOU HEARD IT; BELIEVED IT; PREACHED IT?

I. THE GOSPEL EXPLAINED (36-40)

A. John’s Baptism—(37)—Preceded the Gospel and prepared the way for it: “After the baptism which John proclaimed”

After John introduced Jesus, “the thing that took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee” is the focus of Peter’s preaching: **“Jesus of Nazareth” (38).**

John preached Repentance and _____ in the coming Messiah.

Jesus preached the same emphasis (Mt. 4:17); Peter confirmed this emphasis in 11:18 by describing the salvation experienced by Cornelius and his associates “repentance that leads to life.”

B. Jesus’ Anointing at His Baptism (38):

- “Jesus of Nazareth”—A real historical figure!
- GOD anointed Him with the Holy Spirit (He is the Messiah—“anointed one”); He is also the Prophet and Priest). He is **God’s appointed representative.**

- Such Holy Spirit anointing results in _____.
 - It also means that “God was with Him.”
- C. Jesus’ Ministry in Galilee (38)
- “Doing good”—Power over _____; **healing**.
 - “Healing all who were oppressed by the devil”—Power over _____; **exorcisms**.
 - “Preaching peace through Jesus Christ” (36—not only Jesus preached this, but this is a summary of the message of Peter and other Gospel preachers—Power over _____; **salvation**
- D. Jesus’ Death (v. 39—“They put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross”
- An object of judicial execution—though He was _____!
 - “They” refers to the Jews primarily (“land of the Jews”); but of course the Romans were involved too.
 - Jews considered one hung on a cross or tree as accursed; **He took our guilt and curse!**
- E. Jesus’ Resurrection (40)
- God raised Him. This vindicated *His innocence* and made it possible for Him to save others.
 - “On the third day” just as Jesus had predicted; **His word is true and He can be trusted!**
 - God granted that Jesus would be visible. Such is tangible evidence and proof of His resurrection.
- F. Jesus’ Reign and Sovereignty (36)—seated at the Father’s right hand; thus He is “**Lord over all**” (v. 36)

Peter not only Explains the Gospel, he also Proclaims the Gospel.

II. THE GOSPEL PROCLAIMED (vv. 41-48)

A. Peter’s Witness

1. The Sphere of the Gospel (39, 41)

- a. Of Jesus’ _____ (39): “We are witnesses of **all** the things He did, both in the **land** of the Jews and in **Jerusalem**.”
- b. Of Jesus’ _____ (41)
 - Jesus did not become visible to everyone—only to **specially selected witnesses**—“**chosen beforehand by God**.”
 - Peter clarifies: “To us”
 - The apostles and others “**ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead**.” This is a powerful testimony!

2. The Content of the Gospel (42-43)

- Note that Jesus “ordered” Peter and the apostles “to preach to the people”—the word “preach” implies authoritative preaching (42).
 - The apostles were also “to solemnly testify”—as one who is an official witness.
- a. Jesus is the “_____ of the living and the dead”: as **appointed by God**—not self-appointed.
 - b. Jesus is the _____ (43)—“a believer receives forgiveness of sins.
 - Such forgiveness is “through His name”—**one must believe that He is who He says He is, and who the Bible says He is.**
 - Such forgiveness is through _____—“believes in Him.”
 - Such forgiveness is for _____ who believes—even Gentiles!

However, Peter is not the only one who bears witness to Jesus—so do the Prophets, the Spirit, and Believers.

B. The Prophets’ Witness (43): Everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.

- The message of the Apostles was consisted with the entire Old Testament.
- They were not inventing a new message.

C. The Spirit’s Witness (44-46)

1. The “falling” of the Spirit (44)

- Note that Peter had nothing to do with the Spirit’s coming—he was still speaking.
- The word “fell” implies a heavenly origin of the Spirit.
- Note that multiple people received the Spirit—“all those who were listening.”
- Implied here is that all “believed” the message—“believed in Him”.
- The indwelling of the Spirit is evidence of Salvation.

2. The amazement of the believers from Joppa who accompanied Peter (45; see v. 23).

- They were all Jewish—“circumcised”
- They were all “believers.”
- They serve as witnesses to the accuracy of Peter’s report later (ch. 11).
- The “gift of the Holy Spirit” is the gift “which is” the Holy Spirit.
- The “pouring out” indicates the _____ of the Spirit; it **has nothing to do with the mode of baptism to be used on the converts.**

3. The outward evidence of the Spirit’s presence: Speaking with tongues.

- Once again the speaking with tongues, speaking in other languages—showing the importance of the gospel to all languages of the earth—was one of the outward evidences of the Spirit’s presence.
- The content of the tongues was “praise” to God.
- There is no indication that these people kept tongues as a spiritual gift.
- Once again, as at Pentecost, tongues speaking is an evidence of Spirit filling. In the early church this was one of the purposes of tongues—but only when the _____ were present.
- That someone understood the languages is evident in that they knew they were “exalting God.”
- The languages had not been known by Cornelius’ household and friends or such would not be an evidence of the Spirit’s power.

D. The Believers’ Witness (47-48)

1. Baptism in the “name of Jesus Christ”—*representing all that He is and being done by His authority.* (47, 48)

- Baptism is the outward testimony of the inward conversion.
- Peter and the others would not likely have been convinced that they should baptize Gentiles and allow them to be equal members in the Christian assembly if the Spirit had not acted autonomously here—apart from the Jews initiative.
- Under such circumstances, who “can refuse the water for these to be baptized”?
- The Gentiles received the Spirit “just as we did”: in the *same way*—at the divine initiative, and with the same outward manifestations, and as the result of _____ in Christ.
- Note that Peter “ordered them to be baptized”—likely others performed the ceremony.

2. Fellowship—“They asked him to stay on for a few days.” (48)

- They needed to be “disciplined” in the faith.
- They acknowledged the authority of the apostles and the Jerusalem church.
- Such dependence avoided a split in the church between Jews and Gentiles.

CONCLUSION

You have heard the gospel: **Have you believed it? [Be saved.]**

Will you witness to it? [Be baptized; witness of Christ.]

Will you continue in it? [Fellowship in the local church.]