

Theme: The Gospel is the glorious news of God's saving grace, and it shows us how Christ saves us from our sin and is received by faith alone, apart from our works.

## I. Intro – Visiting the Mormon Site in NY

- A. Glad to have gotten away for a few days of R&R
- B. Went to sites where Mormonism was founded
- C. Really learned a lot about Mormonism
- D. Ask three different guides “What is the Gospel”
- E. “Christ atoned so we can be saved if we repent, believe, get baptized, make covenants with God and endure to the end in obeying.”
- F. We said - that is REALLY BAD news - not good news!
- G. I also pointed out that is Law - not Gospel - and they are different!
- H. So what is the Gospel? How is it different than the law?

## II. The Gospel - The Good News!

- A. The Gospel is Good News!  
I am not ashamed of the **gospel**, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. Romans 1:16
  1. The word Gospel means Good News
  2. It is Good News because it announces how we are saved
- B. The Gospel is Good News - about salvation - and righteousness

I am not ashamed of the **gospel**, because it is the power of God for the **salvation** of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>17</sup> For in the **gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness** that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The **righteous** will live by faith.” Romans 1:16–17

1. The Gospel tells us about how we can be saved
2. The Gospel deals with righteousness (2x in v17 in Greek; 3x in NIV)
3. The Mormon guides knew that much - salvation & righteousness
4. But is the Good News that I can work hard and be good enough?
5. What does the Gospel reveal about righteousness and salvation?

## III. Our Sin and the Law of God

- A. The disastrous problem - our pervasive sin
  1. The problem with works salvation is it underestimates our sin
  2. It thinks our sin is just surface, a minor problem
  3. Scripture says sin is pervasive & insurmountable  
As it is written: “**There is no one righteous, not even one**; <sup>11</sup> there is **no one** who understands, **no one** who seeks God. <sup>12</sup> **All have turned away**, they have together become worthless; **there is no one who does good, not even one.**” <sup>13</sup> “Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.” “The poison of vipers is on their lips.” <sup>14</sup> “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.” <sup>15</sup> “Their feet are swift to

shed blood; <sup>16</sup> ruin and misery mark their ways, <sup>17</sup> and the way of peace they do not know.” <sup>18</sup> “There is no fear of God before their eyes.” Romans 3:10–18

- a. Sin affects every human (vv10-12) - no one, all
- b. Sin corrupts our speech (vv 13-14) - throat, tongues, lips, whole mouth - entire practice of speech
- c. Sin corrupts our actions (vv15-17) - feet, path, shed blood, don't know way of peace
- d. Sin affects our heart/attitudes (v18) - no fear of God
- e. Every part of every person is ruined by sin
- f. This means we can't save ourselves - law/works are BAD NEWS

#### B. We have a natural tendency to think law will save us

1. This is major problem Paul deals with in Romans 1-3
2. We want to think we can save ourselves by doing enough good
3. This is the Gospel the Mormons shared with us

#### C. The bad news of the Law and works salvation

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup> **Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.** Romans 3:19–20

1. The Law does not save - it was not meant to!
2. The Law convicts us so that we will be quiet!
3. The Law does not heal - it merely diagnoses

4. Example: MRI to show back problem - no healing
5. The conclusion - no salvation by the law!
6. The Law is wonderful to diagnose - & useless to save/heal

## IV. The Gospel And Righteousness

### A. Righteousness not through law - but faith - Good News!

But **now a righteousness from God, apart from law**, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup> **This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.** There is no difference, <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. Romans 3:21–24

1. Righteousness comes from God - not us!
2. Righteousness not through Law - apart from law
3. Righteousness comes through belief - faith - not law (v22) - and Romans 1:16-17

I am not ashamed of the **gospel**, because it is the power of God for **the salvation of everyone who believes**: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>17</sup> **For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”** Romans 1:16–17

- a. Gospel is about salvation through faith (same Greek word as believe)
- b. Righteousness is from God - not us!
- c. Righteousness comes by faith - not our works!

- d. Mormons - "We believe that through the atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, , by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel."
- e. Scripture - by faith apart from law and our obedience

**B. Righteousness is given - not earned**

1. The Gospel is concerned with righteousness
2. But righteousness comes from God - not us
3. Righteousness is given - not earned by our works
4. Righteousness is by grace through faith - not by law through works!
5. This is Good News - for it is the only way we can be saved!

**C. All this is freely given to us in Christ**

<sup>22</sup> This righteousness from God comes through faith in **Jesus Christ** to all who believe. There is no difference, <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are **justified freely by his grace** through the redemption that came by **Christ Jesus**. Romans 3:22–24

1. All of this is made possible through Jesus
2. Jesus lived a sinless life, died to pay for our sin
3. Jesus was buried and raised for us
4. And all of this is given FREELY to us - grace
5. This my friends is GOOD NEWS

**V. Applying the Glorious Gospel**

**A. Have you received the Gospel?**

1. I proclaim to you today the Gospel - Jesus lived, died, and was raised for you!
2. Look to Him today for salvation!
3. Don't trust in the law and good works to save - it will not - it can not!
4. Cheer up - you are worse off than you think!
5. Cheer up - God has come to us in Christ to save!
6. Look to Christ and Christ alone

**B. Do we celebrate the Gospel daily?**

1. This good news never ends!
2. We do not then shift to guilt, works, law, manipulation, etc.
3. The Gospel is faith from beginning to end
4. This should produce freedom. life, joy
5. In Christ, God can not love you more, nor can He love you less
6. In Christ - you are the child of God, heir of God
7. Celebrate the Gospel this week!

**C. Communion - celebrating the Gospel**

**The Glorious Gospel**

Romans 1:16-17; 3:10-24  
 August 18, 2013  
 Communion  
 2 Corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2  
Corinthians 13:14

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