

Daily Bread

18/08/2020

TENETS OF THE GOSPEL (PART 1)

What are "tenets" of the Gospel?

These are the fundamental beliefs/principles that makes or defines the Gospel. These are the legs upon which the Gospel stands on. If you are preaching the Gospel and you do not preach the following principles then your Gospel is not complete. Before you embark on a mission to preach and teach the Gospel, you must grasp these tenets and make them part of your theology otherwise your preaching will be void. Let us go through these tenets one by one.

1. Righteousness.

This is a very important Tenet of the Gospel. If we do not preach righteousness then our Gospel is not complete and it therefore cannot help anyone. Some people have been in churches for many years but they still do not understand righteousness.

What is righteousness?

It means to be right with God. A position of being ok with God. Not being enemies with God anymore (**Romans 5:20**). It is God's nature of being right that is given as a gift to anyone who believes the Gospel.

How can one become righteous?

I) by believing in Jesus Christ (**Romans 10:10**)

You cannot make yourself righteous. No one can put enough effort to be righteous. No amount of good works is enough to earn you righteousness. Righteousness comes to you as a reward for your faith in the Gospel. It is a gift that is given to anyone who believe in the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If anyone believes this story, the righteousness is imputed/given to him... **Romans 3:22 (KJV)** "Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe...."

You see that righteousness is for those who believe in Jesus Christ and not for those who are good but without Christ.

Please note that, righteousness is not a product of your good works but it is a product of your faith. It is not a reward for your good deeds but it is a reward for your faith in Jesus Christ. Some still believe that you have to do "good works" for you to be righteous but that is not true. Righteousness came to you the day you believed in Jesus Christ. Please read the book **Romans 3**.

ii) Righteousness is of Christ.

As sin is of the devil, righteousness also is of Christ. As sin entered the world through one-man Adam, righteousness also entered the world through one-man Jesus Christ. **Romans (5:19)**. So, Adam brought sin but Christ brought righteousness.

ii) Righteousness is a gift.

It is a gift of God given freely to those who believe (**Romans 5:17**). Those who believe in him are given the gift of righteousness and be like Him. If you are a believer, you are already a righteous person. It is not like "you will be" righteous but "you are" already righteous.

Facts about righteousness.

* It is not for nice people in the communities, it is for those who believe in Jesus Christ. Some people still think that good people are automatically righteous people.... not at all. Righteous people are only those who have received the gift through believing the Gospel.

* You do not pray to be righteous. Righteousness is from the word right(s)... Citizens do not pray for their rights but they enforce them. You do not ask God to make you righteous that is wrong Gospel. You are already righteous at your new birth. It is like a child asking his father to be allowed to use his surname...the child inherits the surname at the day he is born just like a believer who inherits righteousness the day he/she is born again.

* You do not lose your righteousness regardless whatever you do. Just like in the physical, you do not lose your father's surname or your identity because of your wrong behavior. Yes, you can be sent to jail or killed but still your identity does not change.... same as a believer, once you are righteous, you are righteous forever because the gifts of God are of no repentance (**Romans 11:29**). However, if you remain in sin even with your new identity of righteousness, the consequence of sin will still fall upon you so we do not take God's gift of righteousness for granted and continue in sin.

This is the most misunderstood Tenet of the Gospel. I advise you to study the whole book of Romans and bring out questions that we can discuss....to be continued tomorrow.

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Daily Bread

19/08/2020

TENETS OF THE GOSPEL (PART 2)

When we talk about the tenets of the Gospel, we are simply breaking the various pieces that makes up the Gospel. Every believer and preacher should know in detail the tenets of the Gospel because without understanding and articulating them well, the Gospel will just be like any other religious story. In our last episode we discussed the first tenet which is righteousness, today let us see how many we can cover...

2. Eternal Life/everlasting life.

You cannot preach the Gospel without preaching eternal life. Your Gospel will be incomplete. This tenet must be understood by both preacher and believer and should be expounded to those whom we wish to convert to Jesus.

John 3:16 (KJV) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

What is Eternal Life?

It comes from the Greek word "Zoe" which means abundant, full, bubbly, complete life. So, if a man believes in Christ, he gets this life which is full and complete life. Jesus came to give us this life **John 10:10** "The thief cometh to steal, kill and destroy but I came that they might have life and have it in abundance." This life that Jesus is referring to here is eternal life.

This life is also called "**the God kind of life**". It is the life that God exists by.

The reason why God is forever is because he exists by this quality of life called eternal life. There are different types of lives, like human life, animal life, and plant life and there is also eternal life. As human beings exist by using human life that has an expiry date of about 120 years (**Genesis 6:3**), God also exists by using eternal life that has no expiry date that is why English translations of the Bible called it everlasting life. All living creatures in heaven and all angels exist by eternal life that is why they do not get sick or die.

Now here is the beauty of it. If any man comes to Jesus Christ and believes in the Gospel, he is given this type of life called eternal life. He ceases automatically to exist using human life, he adopts a different kind of life.... he now starts to live and exist by the same life God exists by.... which is life everlasting. Read again **John 3:16**, it says anyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life...which means anyone who has this life cannot perish because it is the

God kind of life. That is why the Bible teaches that those who believe will live forever. That component of living forever is facilitated by the new life in us called eternal life.

Facts about eternal life

- Eternal life is no longer a promise.

It is wrong and unbiblical to think that believers "will get" eternal life. The correct statement is believers have eternal life. The day you believe is the day you receive eternal life. Just like righteousness, eternal life is a gift of God given to those who believe in the Gospel of his Son Jesus Christ. (*John 17:3*)

- Eternal life is not a life that we get when go to heaven.

Many folks still think that those in heaven are the ones who have eternal life, that is not true, and that is not what the scripture teaches, look at this verse *1 John 5:11 (KJV)* "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." You can see that Apostle John has put it on record that God has given us eternal life. Look he is not saying God will give us, he said God has already given us eternal life in his Son...

Let us look at this scripture again. *1 John 5:12(KJV)* "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." What this scripture means is if you do not have Jesus, it does not matter how good you are, you do not have this life. But if you have Jesus (Son), you HAVE this life. Please note, I t is not saying you WILL have but it is implying that you already have it.

Also read carefully the following scripture *1 John 5:13 (KJV)* "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." Did you understand it? The Apostle John is saying to those who believe in the Gospel that they have eternal life. To those who believe, eternal life is not a promise to them anymore but is already a reality.

People have to know that by believing the Gospel they earn themselves the privilege of living with the life of God in them called the "Zoe" life. That is why even when they die, they are not described as dead but as sleeping because in the eyes of God, they cannot die, they will be raised again in the same way Jesus was raised from the dead. Amen

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20/08/2020

TENETS OF THE GOSPEL (PART 3)

I repeat it again and again that if you are a believer and you do not understand these tenets, then you do not know what you are believing in. What we are discussing here is what makes the Gospel Good News. Sometimes the Gospel will sound like a story too good to be true but isn't that supposed to be the nature of good news? The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is indeed Good News and the tenets of the Gospel exposes how good it is. If we are able to explain these tenets to the world and to those who are not yet believers, it would not be difficult for them to accept the Gospel...Today we continue to discuss the other tenets...

3. Forgiveness of sin.

Right at the center of the Gospel is the solution to sin. The Gospel cannot be Good News without the issue of forgiveness of sin. The biggest problem of humanity was centered on how to deal with sin. The Law that was given in the Old Testament could not deal with sin. All the prophets could not help it (*Romans 3:23*). It is only through the Gospel of Jesus that made it possible for remission of sin be preached (*Luke 24:47*).

The day you got born again, the day you believed the Gospel, four things happened to you concerning your sin:

- i) All your sins were forgiven
- ii) The guilt of sin was taken away from you
- iii) You were spared from suffering the penalty of your sin.
- iv) You can no longer stand judgment for your sin (*Romans 8:1*).

When we preach to unbelievers those four things should be explained to them, they should know that God will not have a record of their sin anymore, the moment they believe the Gospel and get born again.

A believer must also be conscious of those four points above. Some believers still judge themselves when God is not judging them. Some are still condemning themselves when God has already spared them. If anyone is in Christ, he has escaped judgment. Sin is a heavy burden, no one is supposed to carry it anymore after he has come to Christ. A man who is in Christ is a new man, he/she has no record of sin, all things for him are new (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

Any man who is in Christ, can no longer be called a sinner. He is born again and his record of sin is erased, he cannot carry anymore the tag of a sinner. Many people confuse it here, they think a person is a sinner because of behavior that is not it, and a person is a sinner because of his nature which lives in him. A person can do good deeds but as long as he is not born again, he is still a sinner (**John 3:3**). So, a sinner is anyone who is not born again or who is not in Christ. So, if you are a believer today, you are not a sinner anymore, for now your behavior does not count but your identity. You are now made a saint.

Many other religions of the world have no way of dealing with sin. It is only in Christ that you find forgiveness of sin (**Acts 13:38**). In many religions, people still go to 'worship' but still cannot shake off the burden of sin in their hearts but when one comes to Christ, his conscience is purged of guilt (**1 John 1:7**).

NB: You shall find out all the tenets of the Gospel are for free; it only takes you to believe in the finished work of the cross and it is done. That is why it is called the Good News. That is why we should not be ashamed of the Gospel because what it offers to humanity cannot be offered anywhere else. That is why people should be told about this. That is why some people have left homes and jobs to go around the world telling this story....it is not possible for you to understand this message of the cross and keep it to yourself. The reason why many of us could not preach it was because we did not understand it, now that we understand it, we cannot anymore. Hallelujah!!!

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TENETS OF THE GOSPEL (PART 4)

It is sad that many believers and even some preachers do not really understand what the Gospel stands for. The quickest way of understanding the Gospel is to study its tenets and understand them, this will help you in understanding how you can divide it accurately to your hearers or for your own benefit. Today let us try to explain the fourth tenet.

4. Resurrection of the dead.

The New Testament, which is also called the Gospel/the Good News of Jesus Christ teaches that believers do not die but sleep. The Bible refers to those who die as sleeping because they will be raised again, in the same way and with the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. Now Jesus will therefore become the first born or the first fruits of those who will be raised from this sleep, *1 Corinthians 15:20 (KJV)*. "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept." Jesus therefore is our example. If He rose from the dead, surely those who believe in him will also rise as He did.

The Apostle Paul here is arguing that if anyone thinks that there is no resurrection of the dead then Christ is not risen from the dead but if we believe that Christ has risen from the dead then all who believe in Him will also rise from the dead. *1 Corinthians 15:13 (KJV)*. "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen."

The faith of believers is hinged on the fact that Jesus rose from the dead. If He had not risen, there would not be no Gospel to talk about and people's faith will all be in vain. *1 Corinthians 15:14 (KJV)*, "And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." So, we have to know that indeed Jesus rose from the dead and there is clear evidence in the Bible to support that. Jesus did not rise in private; He was seen by many people after He was raised from the dead. Therefore, if any man believes that Jesus rose from the dead, then he/she has believed that indeed there is resurrection of the dead because Jesus is their first fruits or the example or the way for those who believe.

Facts on the resurrection of Jesus.

- God raised Him from the dead, and was seen by His friends (*Acts 13:30-31*)
- An angel of the Lord confirmed His resurrection (*Luke 24:6*)
- Jesus lived forty more days on this earth after His resurrection (*Acts 1:3*)

- All His disciples saw Him after His resurrection (*1 Corinthians 15:5*), (*Luke 24:36*)
- Jesus was seen by five hundred more people after His resurrection. (*1 Corinthians 15:6*)

This is biblical evidence of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If you believe that He indeed rose as the scripture teaches, then you should also believe that you will also be raised on that great day. The reason believers should not fear death is because, we do not die for ever ,in fact we do not even die but we sleep, and await the blowing of the trumpet on that great day and all of us will be taken up to meet the Lord in the clouds and the time for this to happen is already very close (*1 Thessalonians 4:16-18*).

1 Corinthians 15:52 (KJV), "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." It will happen in a twinkling of an eye; all dead believers will be raised back to life. Brethren this is the Gospel. It cannot be preached without mentioning that one day the dead in Christ will be raised to life. This is the greatest hope that we have. This is the greatest day for believers, when death will lose its grip on us.... Hallelujah!

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TENETS OF THE GOSPEL (PART 5)

We go ahead with understanding the tenets of the Gospel with today's emphasis going to other very important tenets of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ which is.

5. Healing/Divine Health.

You cannot preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and not talk about healing. Jesus Himself came to this earth and His ministry was full of healing of sick people. This Gospel that we preach is a healing Gospel. This Gospel has brought us healing from all our sickness. Sickness of whatever kind is not Godly at all. It is a lie to say, "it is the will of God for me to be sick". God wants all His children to be healed of any kind of sickness and disease. The scripture says so and if for such reason He anointed Jesus Christ...see the following scripture...

Acts 10:38 (KJV)" How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."

Do you clearly see from this scripture that Jesus was anointed to go about healing all people all those who were oppressed by different diseases? If you read from the book of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, you see many healing miracles of Jesus recorded in there. How then can one say there is no healing of the sick and how then do others criticize and criminalize it?

1 Peter 2:24 also put it clearly that by the stripes of Jesus we were healed. When Jesus was beaten before His death, when they ploughed all those ridges on His back, all that was meant to bring healing to us. By His stripes we are healed.

Ways of getting your healing from the Gospel.

1. By calling anyone who believes to lay hands on you, it can be a Pastor or just a Christian brother or sister. **Mark 16:18**
2. By calling the elders of the church to anoint you with oil in the name of the Lord. Elders here can be your cell group leader, or officials of the church to come pray for you. **James 5:14**
3. Confessing your sins ...sickness is often linked to sin, so if the sin behind the sickness is confessed it also goes away with the sickness. **James 5:16.**

4. By believing in the power of God to heal. Sometimes you get healed just by believing in the healing power of Jesus, confessing all the scriptures about healing and you will be made whole without anyone praying for you.

Please note, healing is a corrective measure but the desire of God is for us to walk in DIVINE HEALTH. Healing is for those who get sick and the reason why Jesus was healing them is because they were not yet born again but after you are born again, you are not even supposed to be sick, you are supposed to walk in Divine health. Why should you not be sick? Because you now carry the same essence of life that God has and that life is called Eternal Life. If Jesus cannot be sick so why should you. John said in **3 John 1:2(KJV)** "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in HEALTH, even as thy soul prospereth.." John wishes that we be in great health not that we receive healing but we should stay healthy.

If you believe that you cannot get sick you will not be sick. Someone said to me, how can you say believers should not get sick when I saw you sick yourself.... good question! But I responded and said, you do not interpret the word of God from human circumstances, if it happened to me that did not mean it is Godly. My circumstances cannot alter the will of God concerning his children. Do you know that you do not need to be sick for you to die? You can die without even be sick, if you believe this then it is yours.....Hallelujah!

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Daily Bread

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TENETS OF THE GOSPEL (PART 6)

The other tenet of the Gospel which is most controversially spoken about is the tenet of "Deliverance"

6. Deliverance

Indeed, it is worthwhile to note that the Gospel has brought deliverance to humanity. We cannot preach the Gospel and leave out the issue of deliverance. Jesus Christ came on earth with a mission which included among others issues the issue of deliverance. We can take our reading from what Luke wrote about Jesus.

Luke 4:18 (KJV)" The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, TO PREACH DELIVERANCE to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,"

Please note, Jesus did not come to do deliverance but to PREACH/ANNOUNCE/PROCLAIM it; Why? Because His coming alone meant deliverance to the captives. Those who were in captivity of sin and evil spirits were already delivered. When He casted out demons with the shout of His voice, it meant that they were no longer allowed to stay in human souls because deliverance was already done. So as believers we should preach deliverance, we should announce to people that they already have deliverance in Christ Jesus if only they believe, that is the Good News/the Gospel. We do not preach and say, come to Jesus and we will do you deliverance no. We should tell them that their deliverance is available if they believe in Jesus.

And please kindly note, casting demons has often been called deliverance but it does not mean that. Deliverance may include casting of demons but it is bigger than that. If anything, casting of demons is a result of deliverance. How would you bring out a prisoner out of his prison cell without first being given authority? So, casting demons means that the paperwork has already been done and demons are now illegal in the body of a person....

So, anyone who believes in Jesus has already been delivered from anything binding him/her. It is not like he will wait for special service to be delivered again. You get delivered the day you believe in Jesus Christ....

Please read this teaching from Apostle Paul here... *Colossians 1:13 (KJV)* "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:" it shows us that Jesus has already delivered us from the grip of satan and his demons. Yes, demons can be

casted out of you. Jesus said those who believe shall cast out demons in **Mark 16:17**. He never said they shall deliver people.

Please also accept that for the sake of us understanding this, sometimes most preachers can call these acts of casting out demons and praying for people deliverance...it is not a big problem.

There is something very wrong with a Christian who seeks deliverance from place to place. There is absolutely no biblical truth moving around seeking deliverance. For you to seek deliverance, it should be assumed that you are bound, right? My question is who is it that has bound you again? Who is that which binds believers week in and week out? Jesus has set you out of that prison. Who dares take you back again for you to need another session of deliverance? How can the devil bind what Jesus has set free? **Romans 8:33(KJV)** "Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth." ...Who shall bind again what Christ has delivered? Can demons and witches come again by force and take you out of Christ to bind you such that you need deliverance again?

Aren't we the ones who confess the scripture in **Revelation 3:7** which says " And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;"

If Jesus would close the door and no one opens it, then it means that when he delivers a person, then no witch from their village will dare bind such person again. Yes, that is what it means. After I was delivered by Jesus, I will never believe I am bound again. Never!

The bible says "**You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free**" (**John 8:32**). The truth is Jesus, the truth is the His Gospel, when this truth has entered in your spirit, it will set you free immediately. It also says " Now the Lord is the Spirit, where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty " (**2 Corinthians 3:17**) ...You cannot be bound again child of God, no way! Where God's Spirit dwells, then there is liberty. The Spirit of God dwells in you, so in you there is liberty.....Amen

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