

#12: "the love of God through Christ Jesus our Lord."

When I was a kid I watched the movie "Back to the Future" (great movie, if you haven't seen it, watch it)

- The opening scene is of Marty McFly (played by Canadian Michael J. Fox) on his skateboard grabbing on to the back of cars and trailing along on his board.
- The movie is awesome, it's about time travel, love, adventure, excitement, morality... but when I was done watching it... **all I wanted was a skateboard.**
- I had to save my allowance for what seemed like an eternity, do extra chores, do some cleaning at the church to make extra money before I finally had enough, and I went down to Toys R Us and bought one!
- I will never forget the feeling that came afterwards.
- Life was too good to be true. – I was so fearful something would come along and I would lose my board. I even remember, as scary as it was, that something might happen to me (fatal accident, something that would render me cripple etc) because it was just UNFATHOMABLE that I got to have this skateboard and enjoy it forever.

Have you ever thought that way?

- Maybe everything doesn't feel "too good to be true", but something you get, or will get, or something happens that you are so looking forward to enjoying you can't imagine you'll actually get to enjoy it like you've dreamed?

That's how Paul felt... and how he anticipated that his reader would feel as he gets to Romans 8:31

**Romans 8:31 – "What then shall we say to these things?"**

- What "things" is he referring to?
  - o The verses immediately preceding... of course.
  - o Also everything he has said since Romans 1:16 when he says "I am not ashamed of the gospel..." because he then takes 8 chapters to unfold the gospel message in its entirety.

**THE TEN WORDS OF THE GOSPEL:**

- Three foundational concepts: **RIGHTEOUSNESS, JUSTIFICATION, SANCTIFICATION**
- Two practical actions: **SACRIFICE, RENEWAL**
- Five general descriptions: **GRACE, PEACE, FREEDOM, LIFE, HOPE**

You should now be becoming familiar with these words, these concepts... you should be familiar with the content of the gospel, ways to articulate these great big concepts.

- Get the gospel clear in your mind so it can be clear out of your mouth.
- "But there is SO much information!"

If you were at Liquid Sunday in September you heard me tell the story of my friend and co-worker at Paul Davis who absolutely loved Nascar.

- He seemed to know everything there was to know about nascar, and he had this funny way of manipulating every conversation so it seemed as though it seamlessly related to nascar!
- I would be trying to talk about the weather, or hockey, or anything and without even realizing what happened I realized we were talking nascar again.
- No offence to anyone who loves nascar... but to me, there are very few things that thrill me less.
- We WILL immerse ourselves in what we love... we will make time for it, it WILL be on the tip of our tongues...

#### 4 Essential Components of the Gospel: GOD, MAN, CHRIST, RESPONSE

1. **God** – the creator, the judge, righteous, “who made us, and to whom are we responsible?” (Romans 1:18-25) – RIGHTEOUSNESS, JUSTIFIER
2. **Man** – sinful, unrighteous, selfish, slaves to sin, depraved, “what is our problem before the creator/judge?” (Romans 2:1 “you have no excuse”, chapter 2 the law judges, ch. 3 – no one is righteous) – SINFUL, CONDEMNED, NEED TO BE JUSTIFIED
3. **Christ** – “How has God acted to save us? What is his solution to our dilemma?” Christ, the God-Man, the solution, the saviour. (Rom. 3:21 “BUT, GOD”, Rom 5:8 “while still sinners, Christ died for us”) – HOPE, PEACE,
4. **Response** – how does this “good news” apply to me? “How can I get in on it”? (Rom 4:5 – faith counted as righteousness, Rom 10:9 – confess Jesus is Lord, believe in your heart...)”)

Is that how the apostles shared the gospel?

#### Acts 3:18-20

But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled.

<sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup> that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord

- Problem – you need your sins blotted out (rather than judged) by God.
- Solution – Christ suffers (the crucifixion)
- Response – Repent and turn to God in faith.

#### Acts 13:38-39

Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, <sup>39</sup> and by him everyone who believes is freed<sup>[e]</sup> (JUSTIFIED) from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

- You need God to grant you “forgiveness for sin” (implication is that you are a sinner), that happens through “this man” (Jesus Christ) and it happens for “everyone who believes”.

*The gospel isn't a specific number of words you say, or terms you use, or 30 second ramble you memorize... it is telling people the truth about God, themselves, Christ and their need to respond with belief and repentance.*

- The book of Romans is all of the necessary proof, argumentation, background information you need in order to know how to respond uniquely to each individual or group that you encounter.

*After expounding the great truths of the gospel in Romans 1-8, Paul gets to the verses we will conclude the series with:* What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### 3 Questions about the Gospel:

1. How do we know that it applies to us? (v.31, vs. 28-30)

“Love God” = Obedience

“Called according to His purposes” = Fruit

2. How can we trust that it is true? (v.32, 33-34)

By remembering and believing and proclaiming what He HAS done. (because our assurance is rooted in Christ)

3. Can we ever lose what it promises? (v. 38-39)

We should be as convinced of our perseverance as Paul was. (because it is anchored to God’s love)

When we apply the Gospel, it makes us “More than conquerors”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

- Conquerors beat their foes... they conquer them, what does it mean to be “more” than a conqueror?
- I believe it means our “enemies” or our “opposition” does not just “lose to us” but actually serves us.
- Read verse five without the yoda’ism - *Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword separate us from the love of Christ?* after Paul’s OT quotation he answers plainly: *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors.*
- That means tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger and sword – which is Paul’s way of saying all our difficulties, illnesses, dangers, poverty, broken relationships, tragedies or anything else we experience SERVE us in three ways directly related to the gospel:
  1. They serve to make us confident in our justification. (Faith & Fruitfulness in the midst of difficulty – James)
  2. They serve to make us more like Jesus (sanctification)
  3. They serve to maximize the eternal weight of glory we will experience (glorification)

Next Week: [Mike Wilkins]

“Christmas Sunday #1”

Matthew 1:1-25