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Readings: Romans 1:1-4;16,17; 1 Cor 15:1-5; Gal 1:6-9

Subject: The Gospel

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The word Gospel means Good News, but why is the Gospel, Good News?

1. Its Source is God
2. Its Subject is the Son of God, Jesus Christ
3. Its Strength is that it provides Salvation
4. Its Substance is that Christ died for our Sins
5. Its Success rate is everyone who believes
6. Its Sufficiency is the Dignity of the message

1. Its Source

It comes from the living God, the God of heaven. It was not made up by man in his wisdom. Paul had a unique experience in that he saw Christ in glory. The Gospel was revealed directly to him. Peter told of what he saw.

The Gospel has authority because it comes from God so it carries the stamp of God without contradiction and without any variation. The requirements will not change from one person to another based on capabilities.

2. Its Subject

It is about Christ and what He has done. Without Christ, there is no salvation and no hope so there could be no Gospel. Acts 4:12 teaches that there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved. Only the Lord Jesus can make us right with God.

3. Its Strength.

It tells of being saved or rescued, of receiving eternal life and of being fit for heaven. As Paul writes to the Romans, he tells the answer before he deals with the problem. In the verses that follow from Romans 1:18, Paul deals with the way in which men made their own gods and descended into every form of immorality. He goes on to show that all have sinned, whatever the background, even the Jew with the knowledge of God's commandments failed to keep them. In Romans 3:18,18 he summarises by pointing out that all the world is guilty before God. This includes each one of us and means that, apart from a work of God, we are under the sentence of doom destruction and hell for eternity.

The Gospel tells how God does what is impossible for man to do (Matt 19:26). He makes a way for men to be fit for heaven. We can be delivered from the wrath and judgment of God, we can be justified or declared to be righteous in the sight of God.

4. Its Substance

This is of prime importance because Christ died for our sins, he bore our sins in His own body (1 Pet 2:24). God had foretold that this would happen, He gave us what we could never deserve or earn for ourselves. This is summarised in John 3:16, **“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.”**

Other religious leaders are dead, but Christ died and rose again and “ever lives to make intercession” (Heb 7:25). Without the resurrection, there is no gospel but the resurrection separates the Gospel from religion. It is based on a living Saviour, Christ Jesus.

5. Its Success

It is guaranteed without any questions or doubts. “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life” (John 3:36). No one who has put their trust in Christ has ever been lost.

6. Its Sufficiency

As Paul writes to the Galatians, he answers some who were teaching that it was not enough to believe. He explains that salvation is through Christ alone and that it is a serious matter to get this wrong. The message is simple and wonderful: Trust Christ and live eternally.