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Speaker: Fraser Munro

Reading: 1 Timothy ch 1 v 11

“The glorious gospel of the blessed God”

The characteristics of the Gospel.

What is it that makes the Gospel glorious?

1. It is Celestial in its source

It comes from heaven. Anything that comes from God is special. The Word of God, the Son of God and the Gospel of God. His Son is unique and special. God planned the Gospel message before the world was made. Salvation was planned before time in heaven before sin was present on earth.

2. It is wonderful in its terms

John 3:16

“God demonstrates His love towards us ...” (Romans 3:16)

“He was wounded for our transgressions ...” (Isaiah 53: 5)

The God who we offended devised the rescue plan for fallen man - Christ coming from heaven and going to Calvary’s cross - to die for us. There is no other story so touching in all the earth. Nothing at all compares. It is the greatest love story ever told. God, in love, devised a rescue plan for us. The Lord came down from heaven to Bethlehem then all the way to Calvary. For His people He drank Hell dry.

He became the passover lamb in Egypt, the scapegoat of the wilderness and in a sense became the representative sinner in Hell. During those hours on the cross He suffered for His people.

3. It is global in its extent and universal in its scope.

A message for everyone. The old, young, rich, poor, educated and illiterate. No matter how far from God a man has wandered there is no one beyond redemption. Whosoever will may come - no matter the need Christ can answer it.

“Good tidings of great joy to all people” (Luke 2:10)

“This is Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews” (John 19:19)

The redeemed will be numbered out of every nation, kindred and tongue.

4. It is personal in its application

“He that believeth shall be saved”

The message must be accepted on a personal basis. Think about the miracles performed by the Lord. The people had to have a personal experience. The results of the message are dependent on you.

“Lord save me” (Matthew 14:30)

“be merciful to me a sinner” (Luke 18:13)

5. It is powerful in its content

Salvation works: “Save me and I shall be saved” (Jeremiah 17:14)). When God saves He truly saves

6. It is sacrificial in its cost

It cost the Lord His Life. Salvation for the believer involves a cost, the Gospel changes life.

When a soul responds to the Gospel you make someone else your Lord and master. Baptism is an outward show of an inward change. The Gospel, if believed, will cost you everything. God provided Salvation at infinite cost

7. It is critical in its consequences

“What shall the end be of those who obey not the Gospel” (1 Peter 4:17)

“What shall I do with Jesus who is called the Christ?” (Matthew 27:22)

It defies Neutrality - you have to respond - reject or receive; divides Humanity - mankind divided in response; decides destiny. Those who die in their sins go to hell, they will stand at the great white throne before Christ.

“whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:15).

All that will matter is how an individual responded to the call of Christ: “Come unto me ... I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28)

The Gospel is not just good advice or best practice - it has explicit instructions of how to get into heaven and avoid hell. “The Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20)

Do you understand the uniqueness of this message?