

## "Good News"

Scripture Lesson:- I Cor: 15: 1-10.

Text:- I Cor: 15: 1. "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand".

Introduction:- There is hardly a word in the English language which is so little understood as the word "gospel". What does it mean? The word "gospel", means "God's spell", or "good spel", or in other words it means, "good news".

The gospel is good tidings of great joy. It is good news out of heaven. When the angels came down out of heaven to proclaim the tidings, what did they say to those shepherds on the plains of Bethlehem, was it "behold, we bring sad tidings?" No it was, "Behold, we bring unto you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior

The shepherds received it as good news. They did not question it. They did not say, "it is an only excitement". That is what the old master, Satan, is saying now. He knows that the moment a man receives, believes, the good news, he just receives it. No man under the power of Satan receives the good news. But those shepherds believed the message that the angels brought, and their hearts were filled with joy.

### I.

Death. Well, the gospel has taken it out of the way.

(Toll of the tolling of the bell). But all that is changed now. The grave has lost its terror. As we go onward towards heaven we can shout, "O death! where is thy sting?" He took the sting out of death. Yes, he took the sting out of death, and the victory out of the grave. To die, the apostle Paul says, "is gain".

### II.

Sin. What a terrible hour one would have with the

sin problem when he stood before the judgment bar of God. The gospel says are all put away by Jesus Christ. Out of love to me, God has taken all my sins and cast them behind his back. God never turns back; He always marches on. He will never see my sins, he will never see your sins, if they are behind his back. Satan will have to find them, he will have to get behind God to do so. But they are not to be found, for "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us"

He takes them all away. You come to Christ as a sinner and if you receive his gospel your sins are taken away. You are invited to make an exchange; to get rid of all your sins, and to take Christ and His righteousness in place of them. That is good news.

### III.

Judgment? The day when we either hear the words, "Depart from me, ye cursed", or hear the words, "Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." It will be a fearsome day for him that is lost. The gospel says that it is all settled. "There is now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus". "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life". So, I am not coming into judgment for sin. Christ was judged for me, and died in my stead, and I go free. He that believeth, "hath", h-a-t-h, eternal life."

Sinner, would you be safe now? Would you be free from the condemnation of the sins that are past? Take your stand on the Rock of Ages. The victory is yours, through Him.

### IV.

It is a free gospel. Any one may have it. "For whom is this good news". It is for yourself. It is for all men. "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature". I can imagine Peter saying, "Lord, do you really mean that we shall preach the gospel to every creature". The Lord answers, "Yes, Peter?" "Shall we go back to Jerusalem and preach the gospel to those sinners who murdered you?" "Yes, Peter", go back and

tarry there until you be endued with power from on high". Offer the gospel to them first. Go and search out the man who spat in my face. Tell him I forgive him. Go search out the man who put the crown of thorns on my brow. Tell him I will have a crown ready for him in my kingdom, if he will accept salvation. Find out that man who took the reed from my hand and smote me over the head, driving the thorns deeper into my brow. Tell him, I will forgive him, if he will accept the salvation which I bring. Yes just accept it, no price is necessary, just accept it. Go and find the man who struch me with the palm of his hand. Find him and preach the gospel to him. Tell him that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin, and that my blood was freely shed for him. Go and seek that poor soldier who drove the spear into my side. Tell him I forgive him and will make of him a soldier of the cross, if he will take this salvation that I bring.

Thank God, that the gospel is to be preached to every creature. There is no man so far gone but the grace of God can reach him; no man so desperate or so black, but He will forgive him. Thank God for the whosoever will of the gospel invitation. "God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life". "Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely!"