

The Gospel

The term "gospel" is commonly used with reference to any one of the first four books of the New Testament. However, the definition of the word "gospel" means "good tidings" or "glad tidings", but with our limited comprehension we only have a measured revelation of God's wondrous grace portrayed in the gospel. So profound is the magnitude of the gospel that words cannot begin to adequately describe the greatness of it. Let us therefore attempt, by God's grace, to focus briefly and simply on that which we have seen, which we have experienced, and which we as God's children believe concerning the gospel.

First we must recognize that Christ and the gospel are one. They cannot be separated. WE read in the scriptures that Jesus Christ, the son of God, was from the beginning and dwelt with God in heaven. As he, himself, stated in John 17:5, "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." Thus we conclude from this passage in scripture and from those recorded in the Book of Genesis that God, with his Son, had from the beginning prepared a way for sinful man to be reconciled to his creator. A sacrifice would have to be offered for the atonement of man's sin. He became that perfect and only acceptable sacrifice on the cross of Calvary, and he would become glorified in the power of his resurrection, being victorious over death, hell, and the power of the devil. This is the good news borne by the angels to the shepherds of old and to mankind yet today. Herein line the gospel of salvation for all who believe. We now see the fulfillment of God's promise as recorded in the prophesy of Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord: though you sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow: though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

We read the scriptures of the wonder working power of the gospel, which is the preaching of Jesus Christ, as recorded on the Day of Pentecost, in Paul's conversion, and throughout the New Testament. We have seen it's power manifested in our day when repentant hearts have sought forgiveness of their sins and received the gospel message which proclaims God's grace; the very essence of which is the forgiveness of sins in the holy name and precious atoning blood of Jesus. How wonderful it is to see this great miracle of God performed through th power of the gospel; greater still to experience it in our own heart. To this wonderful and

indescribable work of God through the gospel he then adds still another miracle, and that is faith to believe these miracles are true in me and and in you. If our hearts we believe that he is, and that he is the rewarder of them that diligently see him, (Heb 11:6), Then, we too, like faithful Abraham, will have our faith accounted unto us for righteousness. Only then are we able to witness of God's great love and say with the Apostle Paul "For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day". 2 Tim 1:12 Again he states, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith." Rom. 1:16-17

May our dear Heavenly Father continue to impart the wonderful, resounding words of his gospel unto the hearts of men everywhere as the angel of old testifies even today, "Fear not,: for behold, I bring 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 Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

May this Advent and Christmas season be blessed from above with all spiritual blessings for you and your loved ones.

Ken Storm - pastor

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| Dec 3 | Ken Storm | Holy Communion |
| Dec 10 | Chad Kuivanen | |
| Dec 17 | Ken Storm | Christmas Program – meal following |
| Dec 24 | Ken Storm | No Sunday School |
| Dec 24 | Ken Storm | 7pm |
| Dec 31 | Ken Storm | No Sunday School |

Church Cleaning:
DECEMBER Jon Lehtinen team

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