

“This is the Gospel”

Galatians 1:1-5

I. A simple idea, deeply understood and loved

A. Paul is in an _____ --someone who is sent; a messenger with authority

Upper case apostles:

1. Personally commissioned by Jesus;
2. Witnesses of the _____

B. Paul had a stunning encounter with the resurrected Jesus on the Damascus road Paul wrote a very focused letter in the late forties of the first century

To new believers in churches in _____ – what is now southern Turkey

C. Paul goes back to _____ with the Galatians – “This is a football.”

He is not talking about a game, but about _____ and _____

Whatever is of _____ relevance is relevant here and now as well

If we want to be relevant now, we must stay _____ on what is eternal

D. Paul is celebrating _____ in a world of fear and anxiety

A world where people are on the _____ of self-justification

II. The Gospel: Good News from beyond

A. It is of “_____” – it is the means by which we are saved

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”

1. Grace: an _____ act of kindness
2. Peace: a deep, below the _____ sense of well being, rest, and contentment

How do grace and peace come to us? “Through the Lord Jesus Christ”

And how has Our Lord Jesus brought this about?

B. The Gospel in a six-word nutshell: “He gave himself for our sins”

The _____ of the gospel: Jesus sacrificed His sinless self for His sin-full people

“The wonderful _____” [Martin Luther]

Why did Jesus die for our sins? “To deliver us from the present evil age”

The Gospel is all about _____ – about emancipation from bondage--exodus.

C. The Bible divides history into two _____: this life and the life to come

The Christian life is living in this age the life of the age to come.” [John Stott]

The Gospel is not about what we do for God; it is about what He has done for us.

D. Paul cannot get out of his introduction without bursting into _____

“God, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Like Lombardi on the gridiron, Paul makes his “Gospel” speech over and _____

E. The Gospel became Martin Luther’s “football” as well

Like Paul, Luther desperately sought to cobble together his own righteousness

Far removed from grace or peace, he learned of an “_____” righteousness

“I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise.”

Such grace, when grasped even a little, begins to give us _____

Luther became a Gospel Lombardi:

“Most necessary is it that we know this truth well, teach it to others, and beat it into their heads _____.”

III. The Gospel is about _____

_____ flows out of the grace and peace of the Gospel

“The key to continual and deeper spiritual renewal is the continual re-discovery of the gospel.”

[Tim Keller]