

LESSON SEVEN

The Content of the Gospel— Reading the Bible Together and Preaching the Word

Scripture Reading:

Eph. 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise.

1 Pet. 1:23-25 Having been regenerated not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, through the living and abiding word of God. For “all flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass has withered, and the flower has fallen off, but the word of the Lord abides forever.” And this is the word which has been announced to you as the gospel.

Rom. 10:17 So faith comes out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Acts 5:20 Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

Acts 8:35 And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he announced Jesus as the gospel to him.

I. The gospel is the power of God to dispense and impart Himself into man through the Word of God—Rom. 1:16; Eph. 1:13; 1 Pet. 1:23-25; Rom. 10:17:

- A. The book of Acts shows us the two elements of gospel preaching: the Spirit and the Word.
- B. The apostles entered into the Spirit through prayer, and when they went out, they preached the Word; the Word is the expression of the Spirit and the embodiment of the invisible Spirit—Acts 5:20; John 6:63
- C. The word of the truth is the gospel of our salvation; when we heard and believed this word, we were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise—Eph. 1:13.
- D. The word of God is the seed of life—Luke 8:11.
- E. We have been regenerated through the living and abiding word of God; this is the word which has been announced to us as the gospel—1 Pet. 1:23-25
- F. So faith comes out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

II. Using the verses and footnotes of the Holy Bible Recovery Version to bring people to salvation and to nourish them—Acts 8:35:

- A. The Bible is the world-renowned classic of classics and is the highest book in the human race; although people may not believe it and may even oppose it, they still would admit that the teachings in the Bible are the highest—2 Tim. 3:15-16; Acts 17:2.
- B. When you go to contact someone, you should open the Holy Bible Recovery Version and read a few verses to him; when you read the important verses to someone and then read the footnotes with him, he will definitely be touched—Acts 8:26-35; Luke 24:16-19.
- C. When you speak to someone you must know what type of person he is, on what level he is, and what kind of word he needs; then you should speak that kind of word to him. You only need to bring out the good things, to present to him a few big “diamonds” from the Word of God; once he sees them, he will be attracted. This is the way to preach the gospel.
- D. Sometimes maybe you don’t know what to say; you may bring your Recovery Version and one or two Life-studies, and you may show him a footnote.

III. An example—“The best gift God has given to man is the Bible”—2 Pet. 1:4; John 17:8; 1:4:

- A. The content of the Bible is unique because all Scripture is God-breathed—2 Tim. 3:16; John 6:63.
- B. You are endowed with a spirit which enables you to understand the Word of God—1 Tim. 2:4; John 8:32.
- C. The Bible can solve all our problems—6:18-21; 3:16:
 - 1. The Bible unveils God’s plan to us—6:18-21:

“And because a strong wind was blowing, the *sea was churning. Then, when they had rowed about twenty-five or thirty stadia, they saw **Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they became frightened. But He said to them, It is I. Do not be afraid. Then they were willing to ***take Him into the boat; and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.”

 - a. *Verse 18 footnote 1: The churning of the sea signifies the troubles in human life.
 - b. **Verse 19 footnote 1: This signifies that the Lord can overrule all the troubles of human life. He can walk on the troubling waves of human life, and all the troubles are under His feet.
 - c. ***Verse 21 footnote 1: We need to take the Lord into our “boat” (our married life, our family, our business, etc.) and enjoy peace with Him on the journey of human life.
 - 2. Everyone who believes into Him would have eternal life—John 3:16:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who *believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.”

a. *Verse 16 footnote 3: Believing into the Lord is not the same as believing Him (6:30). To believe Him is to believe that He is true and real, but to believe into Him is to receive Him and be united with Him as one. The former is to acknowledge a fact objectively; the latter is to receive a life subjectively.

D. You need a New Testament Recovery Version Bible; you are welcome to join a Recovery Version Bible study group—Col. 3:16; Matt. 4:4

IV. Other examples:

A. Philippians 4:6-7: verse 6 footnote 1; verse 7 footnote 1.

B. 1 Thessalonians 5:23: footnote 5 and 8.

C. Haggai 2:7: footnote 1.

D. Ecclesiastes 3:11: footnote 1.

V. We need to be constituted with the word of the truth of the gospel, so we can preach the gospel with the word of God.