

I. THE WORD IS “GOSPEL”

- A. Have you ever done a word study in the Bible?
  - 1. Today as Paul preaches in the Synagogue of Antioch in Pisidia
    - a. We will take the time to study a few key words
    - b. Paul begins the message in vs. 16 and preaches to vs. 46
    - c. The subject is on Justification by Faith
  - 2. But the story begins in vs. 1 when the church sent MISSIONARIES!
    - a. This is truly the work of a church
    - b. The mission of a church is missions
    - c. Outreach, evangelism, door-knocking, foreign field, etc.
  - 3. Without the INVESTING we would never see the RESULTS
    - a. Invest in the GOSPEL – best return you’ll ever receive!
    - b. Mutual funds might yield 5% in this world’s money
    - c. Gospel Investments yield GREAT REWARDS in Heaven’s Treasures
    - d. Which sounds better?
- B. What is the Gospel? (vs. 26-32)
  - 1. Paul preached the DEATH of Jesus (vs. 28)
    - a. That He was truly crucified on a cruel cross
    - b. Even though He had done no sin – no cause of death
      - i. The most illegal trial in History
      - ii. No accusations, no witnesses that agreed
      - iii. Accused, mocked, and convicted against their own law
    - c. He was beaten and whipped (vs. 29a)
      - i. They fulfilled ALL that was written of Him
      - ii. ISA. 52:14 – “As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:”
      - iii. PSA. 22:16 – “For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. (17) I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. (18) They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.”
    - d. It was CRUEL manslaughter performed by a CRUEL master
      - i. Not the chief priests and the rulers – but sin
      - ii. Sin is the CRUELEST master, my sin hung Him on that cross
      - iii. He had no sin, but went in your place and mine
      - iv. 1 JOHN 1:5 – “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”

2. Paul preached the BURIAL of Jesus (vs. 29)
  - a. Laid in a borrowed tomb
  - b. MATT. 12:40 – “For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”
  - c. Truly dead – Remember Luke is writing this! He is a physician.
  - d. Can you see Luke asking for details as a doctor in consultation?
3. Paul preached the RESURRECTION of Jesus (vs. 30)
  - a. Truly and physically alive!
  - b. He ate with them. He was handled by them. He talked to them
  - c. Not a spirit but a bodily Resurrection!
- C. Many witnessed the Resurrected Jesus (vs. 31)
  1. It is important to see 1 COR. 15:1-8 with fresh eyes this morning
    - a. Paul invites the Corinthians: Go ASK them!
    - b. They SAW Him!
  2. We who are believers today still declare this “GOOD NEWS” (vs. 32)
  3. The word is “GOSPEL”

## II. THE WORD IS “RISEN”

- A. As we approach Resurrection Sunday this year, stop and realize the importance!
  1. None of the World's religions make this claim – a leader RESURRECTED!
    - a. None offers any proof like that – HUNDREDS of eyewitnesses
    - b. None can say Mohammed arose, nor Joseph Smith, nor any Pope
    - c. The Buddhists say reincarnation exists but have no WITNESSES!
  2. We HAVE a witness! We have this Bible! We have the Holy Spirit of God!
  3. We have God's fulfilled promises! Jesus ROSE from the Grave!
- B. David died (vs. 35-36) – His body was buried. His body saw corruption.
- C. Jesus died (vs. 37) but rose again!
  1. Truly God's son, as written in the Psalms (vs. 33)
    - a. But without rot or decay!
    - b. Even Lazarus, when Jesus raised him from the dead
    - c. They were worried about the smell of death and rot
      - i. JOHN 11:39 – “Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.”
      - ii. That's no problem for God!
      - iii. He could have been dead 4 YEARS or 4 DECADES
  2. PSA. 16:10 – “For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”
    - a. Lazarus died again...David is still dead...
    - b. But Jesus LIVES for EVERMORE
    - c. And because He lives, we will too!

- d. 1 JOHN 3:2 – “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”
- 3. The word is “RISEN”

### III. THE WORD IS “JUSTIFICATION”

- A. This is the greatest of all news for the sinner
  - 1. Justification is available through FAITH in Christ Jesus (vs. 38-39)
  - 2. Not “justice”
    - a. When He was placed on that Cross, no justice was done that day
    - b. Nor should the sinner “seek” justice, for we are all already guilty
    - c. JOHN 3:19 – “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”
  - 3. Justice is a foregone conclusion!
    - a. The wages of sin is death – it is already judged!
    - b. Someone has to PAY for sin, God will balance His books!
    - c. The only question is WHO!
- B. Nor is justification “free” – It costs!
  - 1. 1 JOHN 4:10 – “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”
  - 2. That means complete and final payment – a satisfaction of a debt
  - 3. Do you realize that the price of justification is INFINITELY high?
    - a. Only God could pay it – that’s why He came
    - b. Only an Infinite person could pay an infinite price!
    - c. And that is ALSO why Hell is for eternity (we are finite)
- C. The Law is insufficient to justify (no good works suffice)
  - 1. ROM. 8:3 – “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:”
  - 2. Why?
    - a. Because we are already sinners
    - b. And because our payment has less than infinite value.
    - c. ISA. 64:6 – “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”
  - 3. The word is “JUSTIFICATION”

### IV. THE WORD IS “BESOUGHT”

- A. This is a great example of OPPORTUNITY
  - 1. The gentiles become interested (vs. 42)
    - a. They began to understand that Salvation for WHOSOEVER WILL

- b. No longer one person removed from God as a proselyte
    - c. They could have a PERSONAL Savior
  - 2. They wanted to hear the message again! (vs. 42)
  - 3. And then they came back and brought all their friends! (vs. 44)
- B. What a joy this would be for a missionary!
  - 1. Preaching to his family on the foreign field
  - 2. And then the whole city shows up!
  - 3. What if WE brought all of our friends to hear the Gospel preached?
- C. They were so excited to hear the Truth of God's Word
  - 1. They begged to hear more.
  - 2. Many were saved! "CONTINUE" in the grace of God
  - 3. And Paul and Barnabas encouraged them (vs. 43)
  - 4. The word is "BESOUGHT"

## V. THE WORD IS "JOY"

- A. Yes, the Jews were filled with envy (vs. 44-45)
  - 1. They were opposed to the missionaries and God's message to the lost
  - 2. The Jews rejected
  - 3. So, the Missionaries turned to the RECEPTIVE HEARTS (the Gentiles)
    - a. And many believed and REJOICED!
    - b. The whole city heard. The whole city had the choice!
  - 4. Naturally, Satan used his influence to stir things up
    - a. They left for Iconium
    - b. But they also left disciples of Jesus Christ (vs. 52)
    - c. Disciples filled with Joy
    - d. Disciples filled with the Holy Ghost
- B. Can you say you know the word "JOY"?
  - 1. These people received the gift of God in Salvation
  - 2. They were FILLED with Joy and the Holy Ghost (the Comforter)
  - 3. Have you ever known COMFORT? That means PEACE with God?
  - 4. You can! But only by the Gospel
- C. Be Saved Today!