

The Good News Is Bad News To Some 12-07-08

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I want to greet you all this morning in Jesus' name. This morning I want to preach the Gospel, the Good News. Usually when people hear about good news they think something good is going to happen to them. There are several movements and songs that try to bless people for something good happening to them. Truly, the Gospel is good news, but we hear that so often and so many get excited about it and talk about this good news and we want to find out a little about what that good news is. We talked about it a little a few weeks ago we read where the angels sang:

*Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

We want to look at it from God's point of view, not man's point of view. Whenever man hears "good news" he thinks "something good is going to happen to me" but whenever God talks about good news, He talks about really great news, that there is redemption and salvation. We want to look at that this morning: the real Gospel.

*Luke 4:16-28 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave [it] again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son? And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country. And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country. But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, [a city] of Sidon, unto a woman [that was] a widow. And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian. And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,*

The Good News! Jesus came and He read a portion of the scripture that told His purpose for coming, The Good News. By the time He was finished reading they were filled with wrath about what He had to say. Do you think it sounded like good news to the world? No. The world loves what they are doing. He came and said, "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised...*" He came to set people free from Satan's bondage, He came to preach to the poor people. He didn't come to make people poor, He came to preach to them. The poor were oppressed, the poor were servants and He came to preach to them that there is a better place coming. He came with good news, He came to heal the broken hearted ... to *heal* the broken hearted. He came to preach deliverance to the captives, to recover sight to the blind and to set at liberty them who are bruised.

Within three minutes they were all angry at him. Why would that be? He came to do all these good things and they were mad at him before He had preached 3 minutes. They were full of wrath because they loved their sin. People don't want to be set free and don't want the Good News. That's why The Good News isn't good news to the world; the world loves the world. It has its draw backs and dangers but it makes it more challenging to see if we can walk that 'fine line' between the world and being a Christian. Being a Christian is loving The Good News. If we were poor and had a task master over us who was working us and barely paying us and someone came along and was going to set us free from that, that would be good news. But when we don't realize we're in bondage or realize we're in poverty and we like where we are, we don't want to be delivered. That's why The Good News isn't good news to the world.

The world's idea of good news is that they get to go to heaven after living their lives here for themselves. The real Good News is Jesus came to destroy sin. When you talk about Jesus coming to destroy sin, their first thought is; "Oh! That's good!, He's going to defeat the Devil." Then when you talk about how Jesus is going to destroy lust, greed, envy, hatred, doing it your own way, your good times and living for yourself, they think "Wait a minute, that isn't such good news ... you mean I'm not going to be able to do the things I want to do? That sounds like bondage to me!" That's exactly the way the Gospel ought to sound to people who don't want set free from their sin. The 'Christian' world doesn't want to make the Gospel sound like it's a bad thing, so they won't preach about what you can't do. However those things that we can't do are the real bondage and sin. They don't want to preach that

because someone will think they must give up their sin. The problem is, it isn't about giving sin up, it's about if we want rid of it or not; if we want it out of our lives or not. Do I want out of it or not? And if you don't want out of it, you don't want the Gospel. It is good news to those who are bound by it.

*Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world.* That is our message. To someone in sin bondage who wants free from it, it is good news but to someone who loves their sin bondage, it is bad news. They don't want to hear it. They do not want to hear it so 'we' begin to make it where they want to hear it and twist it around to make it sound better to them and put a circus on with it and dress it up and make it look a lot better so they will like it, instead of telling them: "The Good News is that Jesus is going to destroy sin bondage and set you free from it." "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world!" This is the message of good news.

There's a man who I used to visit once a week - he used to go visit some of his other buddies, and one, an old man, worked in a bar. Once when he went to visit and talk with him, he joked that another friend wanted to close all the alcohol sellers down and the man got upset and mad at hearing it because he liked his bar and he didn't want anyone to take away the sin. It made him mad and upset and he wouldn't talk with his friend for a few weeks because of that joke. There is a lot of truth in that story. Why do people get so upset within just a few minutes? Because the good news they've been taught all their lives, isn't really good news to them. They don't want anybody taking their sin away from them. Do you know why people sin? Do you know why people do what is wrong? Because they love it. Do you know why people can't quit sinning? It is because they like it. They love to sin. They enjoy it. When someone comes and says "I'm going to take that away because its wrong" like Jesus came to destroy sin, it's like stealing candy from a baby to them. They don't want to hear that. They want to have their sin and don't want to go to hell but they don't want to give up their sin.

I heard a song the other day about how everybody wants to go to heaven but nobody wants to go now, everybody wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to go now. Do you know why they don't want to go to heaven? They portrayed heaven as boring where all people do is sit on clouds strumming harps. The world wants to believe you have to do something wrong before you can have any fun. They want to live it up and have all their fun and then think "well if I have to die, then I'll go to heaven because I don't want to go to hell or hear about hell." They don't really want to hear about heaven but when they have to die that's where they want to go "but I don't really want to go there but I will so I can avoid hell." That's where the Gospel is today.

Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world! That's what Jesus came to do. "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives.*" Whenever we go out preaching, we need to look for people who want to hear the truth. That's what Jesus meant when He said He'd make us fishers of men. He didn't say we go out and catch every thing we throw a net around. "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." A lot of times we try to defend our preaching and have to write what we believe or spell it out or expand on it instead of just believing it and letting him who has ears, hear it. We don't have to defend it. If they don't want to hear it, if they don't want set free from their sin and bondage, let them love it and enjoy it. Life will soon be over and they will look back like the man who went to hell and remember they enjoyed their lives. It isn't that we can't enjoy life but there is not a greater joy in life than to be what we were created to be! There is excitement in it. You don't have to live a sinful life to live an exciting life and have fun. Heaven isn't going to have any sin in it and that's why people don't want to go there. It's better than the other place they think but they look at it as somewhere boring and that's why they have to constantly be entertained. There isn't going to be a bunch of entertainment in heaven. It is going to be real and centered on God and doing His will not doing what we want to do, what pleases us and what keeps us entertained day in and day out. The Good News is God came to destroy sin. People do not like that whenever we put out the real message of Good News. They hate that God is going to do away with what they want to do that pleases them. The truth is, they don't want the kingdom of God because the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21) will not be there. Get out a dictionary sometime and look those words up. You'll be surprised by the meanings of some. Emulations for a start is a competitive spirit, to win. There's nothing wrong with doing your best. People don't want to go to heaven because it isn't good news to them to be delivered from this world and it's darkness. They love it.

Last night we went to Branson to preach and there was probably more people there than ever and it was all about 'Christmas', the Good News. There was one place advertising 4 million lights, another had 2 1/2 miles of lights. Every parking lot within five miles was full with buses to go see 4 million lights. I thought, all these lights and there's just darkness. More and more lights but more and more darkness. They were celebrating their good news but if they heard the real good news, they would have been filled with wrath. Jesus spoke for 3 minutes and He told about the good news and within that time they were filled with wrath.

There's a lot of hubbub about Christmas. We don't need to be ashamed about Christ being born and coming to the earth. We don't know which day it is but we are pretty sure, according to history it isn't anywhere near the date the world celebrates it. It is a blessed thing and should not only be celebrated one day a year. It should be the theme of the message that Christ came to the world but with it the purpose of His coming. It wasn't just to give us a gift, it was to set us free from the bondage of sin. When the message

becomes so harmless to the point where anyone can take part, there is something wrong with it. Christ doesn't want anything to do with this wrong message being passed off today. If we can't see that all this garbage going on is against God and what Jesus taught against (covetousness, lust, greed, materialism) we should just as well go along and look at 4 million lights and stumble in the darkness thinking we're enjoying ourselves. If someone wants to have a special day, I don't have a problem with that but we don't need to drag Jesus through it and tacking His name on it to make us feel better. If you want to have a family day and exchange gifts, go for it but I don't think Jesus can stand having His name at the head of it.

The other night on the street, I was preaching to a group and almost every time someone came up and asked "what about 'God so loved the world' and what about 'being saved'? What about God so loved the world? Didn't He love the world?" When he asked that I realized something that I hadn't realized before about the way that was said. He asked doesn't He love the world? I told him "God's love isn't on trial here, yours is. It isn't God's love that's questionable, it's yours. God loved the world and gave His only begotten Son. We don't have to shirk from that. He isn't on trial. But we are. His love for you isn't in question." Whenever you talk about sin, people act as if it is God's love in question but it isn't, it is man's love on trial. It's who man will love. The Gospel has become shifted, twisted and perverted to the point where God is on trial instead of man because they love their sin ... so the Good News has to let them have their sin now and when they have to die, they'll simply go to heaven instead of hell. God's love is not on trial. He showed His love by sending His Son and if you can't see that, you won't see it no matter how many books you read because you love your sin more than you love God. The Good News is: if you are held captive to sin, you can be set free if you want it but if you want your sin, you'll find a way to keep it.

*Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world.*

The good news is that God came to take away sin. May the Lord help us as we keep that in focus. Keep focused on His Good News message. Those who will not see, there is no one blinder than he who will not see. If someone is blind and wants to see, there is light there to set them at liberty. We have some very good news to the blind, captives and poor but bad news to anyone who wants to stay there.

May the Lord add His blessings and help us to be faithful to His Good News.

*Luke 4:18-19 The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*

*1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*

*Matthew 11:15 He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

*Mark 4:9 And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

*Luke 8:8 And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

*Luke 14:35 It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; [but] men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

*Galatians 5:16-21*

*[This] I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*