

The Gospel; Mark 16:15

I. Good News

A. We all like good news

1. We saw Debi off to boot camp on Monday
2. We dropped her off at the airport and waited for her call to let us know she arrived safely
3. We waited, calculated when we thought she would get there based on her flights, layover, and bus ride from Savannah to MCRD Parris Island
4. There were several different times we thought the call would come — all of them well before midnight
5. It was 12:07 AM when we got that call
6. We stayed up until we got that call, we were waiting for good news (that she arrived safely)

B. It doesn't matter where we are in life, we all like to get good news

II. Waiting

A. But waiting (for good news) can be difficult

1. If it doesn't come during our time-line we tend to think the worst has happened
2. I always ask my kids to let me know when they get home so I know they have arrived safely
3. Then... I wait for the text or call
4. In 45 minutes, if I still have not received the call or text, I start to get a little concerned because something could have happened

B. Genesis 3:14–15 (ESV); ¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

C. Scholars often call verse 15 the ‘First Gospel’ — these words spoken by God are the first promise of redemption in the Bible

1. Enmity — hostility between Satan and mankind
2. Offspring — this is a singular noun representing the coming Messiah
3. “He shall bruise your head” — a total and complete victory over Satan
4. “You shall bruise His heel” — an obvious reference to the crucifixion
5. Hebrews 2:14 (ESV); Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

D. God then lets us know that it is through Abrahams offspring

- a) Genesis 12:1–3 (ESV); ¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
2. Genesis 12:7 (ESV); Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.
3. Deuteronomy 18:17–19 (ESV); ¹⁷ And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

E. Israel was waiting for the Gospel — the Good news!

1. Exodus through Deuteronomy is all about the Law that God gave to Moses
2. A Law that would make them aware of sin and its debilitating effects on mankind

3. Deuteronomy 28 is known as the covenant of blessing and cursing
 4. God reveals that if Israel obeys His laws (613 of them) He will bless them and if they disobey He will curse them
 5. Israel gets a firsthand look at sin and what it does to mankind
 6. Daniel is a road map to the Messiah
 - a) Daniel 2 is the statue made up of four different materials
 - b) Daniel 7 is the four beasts which are four kingdoms along with 10 horns which are 10 kings
 - c) You could follow history with Daniel 10-12
- F. Every Israelite had an educated idea of when God's promised Messiah would come
- III. For Our Sins
- A. The plan from the beginning was the cross
1. Luke 18:31–34 (ESV); ³¹ And taking the twelve, he said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. ³² For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. ³³ And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise." ³⁴ But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.
 2. It was only His sacrifice that would satisfy God's wrath against us
 3. It was only His death that would break the bonds of death
- B. The plan from the beginning was the empty tomb
1. Matthew 28:1–7 (ESV); ¹ Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you."
 2. He broke the bonds of death with His resurrection — therein lies our hope, that since He was resurrected, we will be too
 3. 1 Corinthians 15 is Paul's argument for the resurrection of Christ — that if He was not resurrected, then we are dead in our sins and have no hope
 4. We have "Mary Magdalene and the other Mary" who witnessed the earthquake, the angel roll the stone away — they talked to the angel and saw where Jesus lay!
- C. The plan from the beginning was salvation for all whose choose it
1. Romans 5:8–10 (ESV); ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.
 2. I am always amazed by the conversion of the eunuch in Acts 8
 3. Acts 8:34–35 (ESV); ³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.
 4. "Good news" is the same Greek word translated 'gospel' in other places
 5. Philip must have told him about the cross, about the burial, about the resurrection — about the sin cleansing blood of Jesus
 6. Acts 8:36–39 (ESV); ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into

the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

IV. Salvation

- A. In the Gospel (the good news) we find our sacrifice
- B. In the Gospel (the good news) we find our cleansing
- C. In the Gospel (the good news) we find our salvation