

## It's the Gospel Truth and it Cannot Be Ignored

*Mark 16:14-18*

*14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.*

*15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

*16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

*17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;*

*18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

### I. Introduction

#### A. Review

1. On Sept 6, I preached a message, "Truth that cannot be ignored."
2. We talked about the many stories being circulated in various ways, and some sound believable as true.
3. If you see a picture of someone and words quoted under their picture, we immediately believe that person said that thing. **[image of Lincoln commenting on the internet.]**
4. But it matters what you believe because there are plenty of deceptions that can lead you astray.
5. We spoke of the suicide death of 900 members of the Peoples Temple in Jonestown, Guyana, because the people believe in the deception of their leader, Jim Jones.
6. It matters what you believe, and it matters that what you believe in is actually truth.
7. Jesus said "John 18:37... **Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice,**" so it is important to listen to Jesus if you really want to hear truth.
8. Truth cannot be ignored. Lot received a warning from angels that his city was getting ready to be destroyed. He believed it but could not convince his daughter's fiancés it was true. Because they refused to believe truth, those young men were among those destroyed along with their city.
9. And in another story, when Jesus rose from the dead, he told the women who had come to the tomb to go and tell His disciples that He was arisen. But the disciples did not believe them.
10. But fortunately, even though they were skeptical about their claims, they did go and check out the claims and found it to be truth. And it was a truth that transformed their lives.
11. We talked about the truth about the coming of the Lord. While many mock such an idea saying, "**Where is the promise of his coming?**" We've heard that forever, yet all things continue as they were. (2 Peter 3:4)
12. While that sounds like a good argument to skeptics, all things do not continue as they were. There are signs all around us that there is a global shift happening in our world.

And if we are only a few decades old, we can understand there have been major shifts in our world, and not all for good.

- B. The gospel truth
  - 1. There are certain truths that just cannot be ignored and dismissed as something only fanatics believe.
  - 2. The follow up to that message on truth that cannot be ignored, is found in a saying that people repeat all the time, but I'd say that many don't even recognize how serious it is even when it comes out of their mouth.
  - 3. Have you ever heard someone say this to call attention to their sincerity about the truth they are saying: "**I promise. It's the gospel truth!**"
  - 4. Or, "**Honest to God!**"
  - 5. Or, "**I'll swear on a stack of Bibles.**"
  - 6. Why is it that people will use phrases like that?
  - 7. It is because in the back of their minds, perhaps in the deepest part of their hearts, and regardless of their lifestyle, they know there is none so believable as God, His holy Word, and the gospel message.
  - 8. Well I want to preach to you this morning on this thought, "It's the gospel truth, and it cannot be ignored."
- II. The Gospel of Mark proclaimed
  - A. The gospel in Mark
    - 1. The **Gospel** of Mark has the gospel as its starting point and its ending point.  
*Mark 1:1 The beginning of the **gospel** of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;*
    - 2. It is important to know that the "gospel" that Jesus preached had a specific meaning.
    - 3. The word itself means, "good news," but how did Jesus use that word? What was the good news that He came to proclaim?
    - 4. Only a few verses later, we read where Jesus starting his preaching ministry of the gospel:  
*Mark 1:14-15*  
*14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,*  
*15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*
    - 5. Repent and believing the gospel was the message Jesus began to preach.
    - 6. And then when we get to the end of the Gospel of Mark, we see Jesus giving what we call the "great commission" to His disciples which included a command to preach the gospel:  
*Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and **preach the gospel to every creature.***
    - 7. Some have argued that we should not try to convert people from other religions because that is discrimination against a people's belief system.

8. I'm convinced that just as Jesus was rejected by many for proclaiming the truth in the first century, if He arrived in the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, His claims would still be rejected by many.
  9. Jesus was not inhibited by that kind of, what is now called, "woke" thinking.
  10. He was saying, "You want to be woke? There is no greater waking up than waking up when the trumpet sounds and being caught up to be with the Lord in the air!"
  11. Jesus told the disciples to preach the gospel to EVERY CREATURE.
  12. Why? The alternative was serious:  
*Mark 16:16-18*  
*16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*
  13. That is the gospel truth that cannot be ignored! If you believe what Jesus said, you will be saved. If you don't, you will be damned or condemned.
  14. You better believe it! That is a gospel truth that cannot be ignored.
  15. Well as straightforward as Jesus was and told His disciples to be, He said those who believe the gospel will have some signs that follow:  
*17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;*  
*18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*
  16. Each of those signs that follow deserves much said about them, but that is for another day.
- B. The real gospel proclaimed
1. Jesus said when we believe the gospel, certain things will follow so that we can know it is Jesus' gospel and not a fake.
  2. To know what the real gospel message is that Jesus proclaimed, we must first read His Word.
  3. And second, read what His followers did in obedience to His Word.
  4. **Mark 16:15** When Jesus gave His final words, He said, "**go preach the gospel.**" Then shortly after, we can read about them going and preaching the gospel.
  5. So for us as careful readers of the scripture, it is important to compare what we believe, to the gospel Jesus sent His disciple out to go preach.
  6. It is a truth that cannot be ignored, so let us proclaim it.
- C. The gospel IS good news
1. And Jesus called it the "good news," not condemnation.
  2. If you are in an accident and trapped in a car, and gas is leaking all over the place, when the guy comes with the "jaws of life" and starts cutting up your car, you look at that as good news.
  3. Who at that point would say to the first responder, "Don't cut my car! Why are you so judgmental saying I am condemned to die? What's wrong with my lifestyle? Who are

you to judge that I am in danger? What makes you think you are so righteous that I want to get out of my car and go your way?"

4. Or does the drowning victim argue with the rescuer and say, "I don't want your life jacket. It is too confining and makes me look fat."
5. No, being offered rescue is good news! Believe the gospel and be saved.
6. Believe it not and be damned.

### III. The gospel truth is believed and obeyed

#### A. Three thousand believed and responded

1. Let us get back to the gospel truth that cannot be ignored.
2. Shortly after Jesus gave the great commission to preach the gospel, we find that the apostles did that very thing.
3. In fact, as soon as you turn the page after the four GOSPELS, you will find Peter proclaiming the gospel in Acts 2, which was immediately followed by 3,000 people believing the gospel and being baptized.
4. Before we read the gospel that Peter preached, just remember what Jesus had said:
5. *Mark 16:15-16*  
*15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and **preach the gospel to every creature.***  
*16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*
6. Believing and being baptized is what Jesus said would happen.
7. Then immediately following Peter's preaching the gospel, we read that this happened:  
*Acts 2:41 Then they that **gladly received his word** [believed] were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*
8. 3,000 people believed the gospel that Peter preached and were baptized.
9. If we only knew what Peter had said to convince so many to be baptized! Well you can, and we will get to that in just a moment.
10. But it is also important to understand that the gospel truth cannot be ignored.
11. If it was good enough for Jesus, if it was good enough for Peter, if it was good enough for the first 3,000 baptized in the church, it is good enough for me.

#### B. Gospel = Apostles' Doctrine

1. In fact, the gospel, also called the "apostles' doctrine" in the next verse, became the gospel truth that the church continued in steadfastly:  
*Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*
2. Ok, let us see what it was that Peter preached to see what got such a huge reaction from the people.
3. Peter, what is the gospel? What shall we do?
4. In Acts 2, Peter preached about Jesus. He told the people who had gathered in front of the upper room, that Jesus had been crucified for their sins but He rose again, and now

offered them a gift of forgiveness.

*Acts 2:37-38*

*37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, **Men and brethren, what shall we do?***

*38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

5. The people Peter preached to were drowning in the sea, they were about to be burned up, and were looking for a rescue.
  6. Well when they heard that Jesus emerged from jaws of death and walked right out of the tomb offering the jaws of life to cut them free from their sins, the condemnation, the guilt, the penalty, and the shame, all of it, they asked, **Men and brethren, what shall we do?**
  7. What we just read of Peter's response, the gospel, is also called "the apostles' doctrine," and declares that Jesus took that penalty of our sins onto Himself on the cross.
  8. And that gospel message says that we can be buried with Jesus in baptism and **OUR** sins go down in that baptism too.
  9. But here is where the good news comes in: When we come up out of that water, our sins are gone, and we emerge from the jaws of death cleansed by Jesus.
- C. Obey the gospel
1. If there is anyone here this morning who has not believed that gospel truth, today is a beautiful day to be baptized.
  2. When you are baptized in Jesus' name, it is the greatest cleansing experience you have ever had.
  3. What do I mean? Well the stains of sin that bring condemnation and have been screaming in your ear every night, every morning, every afternoon—that scream is silenced by the blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who that takes away the sin of the world.
  4. Baptism in Jesus' name provides you that cleansing because baptism in His name is being **buried with Him** in baptism.
  5. When you go down in the water, it is like you accompanying Jesus in the grave when He died for your sins.
  6. And when you go down with Him, He washes away your sins by His blood that He shed for you, by applying His blood on all those sins you repented of.
  7. That is why Jesus said, "repent and believe the gospel." And that is why Peter said, "repent and be baptized."
  8. It starts with believe Jesus' gospel, good news message, then repenting of your sins, and then having your sins washed away in baptism.
  9. That is good news!
- D. The gospel includes the gift of the Holy Ghost
1. But it gets better. After being baptized, one of the signs that follow believing the gospel, was speaking with new tongues.
  2. And after you are baptized, and sometimes even before we are baptized, we can be filled with the gift of the Holy Ghost.

3. And when the Holy Ghost comes on you, you will speak in tongues.
4. Let's go back to Acts 2 to read that:  
*Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*
5. That is the gospel truth!
6. And today is the day to ACT on the message of ACTS—that gospel message we just read.
7. There is no other gospel message.

#### IV. Conclusion

1. I grew up in a church that did not preach this gospel message.
2. I studied in their classes and the gospel they taught was that everyone could basically do what they wanted, as long as we believed in God and confessed every once in a while.
3. The problem that I discovered with that message was, that was not gospel truth. The gospel message had been so watered down, it didn't resemble the original at all.
4. And that watered-down message was powerless to rescue a life drowning in sin.
5. In fact, sticking to the original gospel message was so important, that after Paul had preached to the churches of Galatia, he learned that someone came after him and preached something else as a gospel message.
6. Paul wrote to them as soon as he could to warn them and straighten them out:  
*Gal 1:6-9*  
*6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto **another gospel**:*  
*7 Which is **not another**; but there be some that trouble you, and would **pervert the gospel** of Christ.*
7. If we try to go with some alternate version of the gospel we just read, it is called “**perverting the gospel.**”
8. And just as Jesus said we would be damned for not obeying the gospel, Paul says:  
*8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*  
*9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*
9. It is the gospel truth that cannot be ignored!
10. Here we are this morning in the house of God, hearing the gospel, and it is time to obey it:  
*1 Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?*