



**For the Sake of the Gospel
1 Corinthians 9:23
#1676 December 27, 2009 AM
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I. Introduction

A. If we are to be all things to all people that by all means we may save some, then we must proclaim this gospel, but how?

II. Proposition

A. If we are to be faithful witnesses to the gospel of Jesus Christ, then we must proclaim the gospel in word and life.

III. Exposition

A. **The content of the gospel - What is the gospel?**

1. Confusion over gospel – the gospel is NOT moralism=legalism; the gospel is NOT relativism=cheap grace!

a. Pauline word? (60 of 76 times in NT), so it is helpful to go to Paul.

2. Content of the gospel is Jesus the Christ as promised in OT & announced in NT (Rom. 1:1-4; 1 Cor. 15:1-4).

B. **The nature of the gospel:**

1. **This gospel is revealed (Gal. 1:11-12).**

a. It is not man's gospel.

b. Because it is God's gospel, it is the power of God for salvation (Rom. 1:16-17).

1). Implication: the gospel is sufficient for salvation AND life (Galatians 1:6-9).

2. **This gospel must be received by faith (1 Cor. 15:1; Gal. 3:1-9).**

a. This is NOT religion/moralism, nor irreligion/relativism; it is good news!

3. **Because this and only this gospel is the power of God for salvation, it must be transmitted.**

a. Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-17; Luke 24:45-49; John 20:21-23; Acts 1:8

C. **The transmission of the gospel: two inseparable means – word and life**

1. The gospel word– this is what we most often think of when we think about transmission of the gospel.

2. The gospel life – Paul helps us see how the two are inseparably linked (1 Cor. 9:19-23; esp. 9:23).

- a. We proclaim the gospel both by word and life.
 - 1). Paul's ethic (how we live our lives) flows directly from the gospel word (Rom. 1:4-6).
- b. Therefore, a life lived contrary to the gospel distorts the gospel word (Gal. 2:11-14).
- c. The gospel should influence EVERY area of our lives! We should do ALL for the sake of the gospel, that we might participate in it in order that we may save some.
 - 1). To do ALL for the sake of the gospel is to live a gospel life!
 - 2). By living a gospel life, we participate in it; we demonstrate it!

D. The gospel life (neither moralism, nor relativism), but faith working through love (Gal. 2:19-21; 5:6, 13-26):

- 1. Personal and corporate life as Christians (1 Corinthians)
- 2. singleness/marriage and sex (1 Cor 7); Marriage (Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18-20)
- 3. Home life – Parenting, children and parents (Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:21)
- 4. Stewardship – giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15)
- 5. Work/vocation (2 Thessalonians 3:12-16).

IV. Conclusion

A. The gospel Word and the gospel life (1 Thessalonians 2:1-8). This is the purpose of LIFE Institute!

B. As we reflect upon 2009 and begin looking toward 2010, ask yourself – “Does the gospel influence EVERY area of my life?”

- 1. Personal & corporate life as a Christian?
 - a. Am I sacrificing for others or am I sacrificing my personal time with the Lord and the corporate time with God's people for myself?
- 2. Home life? Singleness, Marriage, parenting, children . . .?
 - a. Am I sacrificing for my family or am I sacrificing my family for what I want to accomplish?
- 3. My giving – stewardship?
 - a. Am I sacrificing my wants for the sake of the gospel or am I living for myself and sacrificing the gospel? – debt, offering leftovers to God (see Malachi 1:11-14)
- 4. My vocation – work?
 - a. Am I sacrificing to do my work well or am I sacrificing my work to just get a paycheck?

C. APPLY the gospel to yourself NOW in your failures and look to Christ in faith in the new year, that we may be all things to all peoples so that by all means we may save some – let's do all for the sake of the gospel that we may participate in it!

- 1. Look to Christ to expose sin/lack of faith in your life.
- 2. Confess your sin/lack of faith appropriately.
- 3. Receive Christ's forgiveness by faith.
- 4. Walk in the power of the Spirit by faith!

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