

**Good News**

**Introduction:** In the text the Apostle Paul writes "...I declare to you the GOSPEL which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand."

**GOSPEL**

- Term used often by many but sometimes without understanding
- Greek=evangelion (u-on-gel'-ion)
- Good news, glad tidings
- Paul simplified the GOOD NEWS in this text

1. Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures
2. He was buried
3. He was raised on the third day according to the scriptures

— Gospel (good news) is simply the message of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus

Holy (passion) Week—reveals clearly the Good News

- Begins with triumphal entry
- Maunday Thursday (Table)
- Good Friday (Cross)
- Easter Sunday (Empty Tomb)

From EACH emerges—Good News!

I. **Good News at the Table** (Supper of synoptics, John 13)

NOTE: Maundy Thursday

Three Good News declarations from the table

NOTE: All about fellowship or relationship with God

### A. Status does not exclude us

1. Those around the table prayerfully chosen by Jesus
2. 5 fishermen (Peter, James, John, Andrew, and Philip)
3. Bartholomew (Nathaniel) only royal descent—David
4. Matthew (Levi) hated, low-life tax collector
5. Jude, Simon the Zealot, Judas—zealot sect
6. Thomas (Didymus)—twin from impoverished Galilee
7. Diverse, all from humble status, ordinary people
8. All chosen to share the table with Jesus

### B. Doubts will not eliminate us—Thomas

1. John 14—How can we know the way
2. Won't believe unless I see Him

Paul Tillich—"Doubt is not the opposite of faith it is an element of faith."

3. Thomas was welcome at the table
4. His doubts, questions, did not exclude him
5. Neither will yours

### C. Failures don't disqualify us

1. Twelve had seen miracles/heard teaching
2. James/John/Peter all failed
3. Still welcome at the table—not disqualified
4. Your failures do not disqualify you

Status/Doubts/Failures—none leave you out!

## II. **Good News at the Cross** (2<sup>nd</sup> key day of Holy Week—Good Friday)

### A. Forgiveness has no limits

*Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." 43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise." Luke 23:42-43 NKJV*

1. Both thieves reviled for awhile
2. One saw something in Jesus—changed his mind
3. No hate, anger, revenge, only love
4. "Remember me..."—Good News—"Today you will..."

NO LIMIT TO FORGIVENESS

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## B. Judgment has no hammer

*Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. 34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Mark 15:33-34 NKJV*

1. Pervading darkness—cry of the Lord—"My God, My God..."
2. Father—forsakenness for the first time
3. Became sin for us—Father had to turn away
4. Our sin has separated us from God

*But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. Isaiah 59:2 NKJV*

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23 NKJV*

5. Jesus took our judgment with every nail
6. Good news—no judgment—no hammer for us

## C. Access to the Father is wide open

*Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. 46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" Having said this, He breathed His last. Luke 23:45-46 NKJV*

1. Father forsakenness/3 hours of darkness
2. Jesus' blood was offered to the Father

*How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:14 NKJV*

3. It is finished...into Your hands...veil torn
4. He paid the price as the perfect man
5. His blood was divine and eternal opened access to God
6. One moment—"why forsaken?" Next—"into Your hands."
7. Good news, we may have been forsaken, broken, left out—access to God is available
8. I can come, pray, know Him

### III. **Good News at the Empty Tomb** (3<sup>rd</sup> important day)

#### A. Death is not final

*Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? Luke 24:5 NKJV*

1. Early in the morning—women brought spices
2. Uncertain about the stone
3. Distressed to find the tomb empty
4. 2 angels declared—He is not here
5. Good News—death is not final!
  - a. Lost its sting
  - b. Loved ones
  - c. Disease/death only temporary
  - d. Situations you think are gone are not final

#### B. His Word can be Trusted

*He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Matthew 28:6 NKJV*

##### 1. His earlier promise

*Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, 18 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, 19 and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again." Matthew 20:17-19 NKJV*

2. He kept His word
3. Later when He left—He kept his word regarding the comforter
4. He will never leave you
5. Cast all care (1 Peter 5:7)
6. Keep what we entrust (2 Timothy 1:12)
7. If you confess with your mouth, believe in your heart—you will be saved!

**Gospel is GOOD NEWS!**—No matter how bad, no matter how big your failure, He keeps His word—Come to Him

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. Revelation 3:20 NKJV*