

The 3 Gospels – the Kingdom, Grace and Peace

After Jesus had risen from the dead He appeared to His disciples a number of times. Before ascending to His father He continued to instruct them at His appearances. It is written that the last thing He told them in Mark 16:15 was “to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” The question is which one? Did you know there is more than one gospel? Maybe it is better said there are three in one. In 1 Thessalonians 2:8-9 Paul reflects on some of the labor he bestowed on them, preaching the Gospel of God. Without much effort it is easy to see that the Gospel of Grace, Gospel of Peace and the Gospel of the Kingdom are all part of and inside the Gospel of God. All three of these gospels or messages have something specific that God wants to reveal to His creation about Himself and what He is doing in the Earth; each a good message and each with its own point of view and story. This writing endeavors to separate and explain each gospel in order to give better understanding of the Creator and His effort to reconcile His creation to Himself and to make a people for Himself.

Gospel of the Kingdom

After Jesus was baptized, the scriptures tell us, “He went forth preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom saying repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand,” Matthew 4:23. Think about it. He could not have preached the Gospel of Peace, (Ephesians 6:15), since He had not yet reconciled all things to Himself, (Colossians 1:20-21). He could not preach the Gospel of Grace since He had not yet opened the door to the Gentiles, (Matthew 10:5-6). So, we find Him preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, “saying repent”. There is much to be said about this gospel. Jesus did much teaching and there are many parables revealing the kingdom to those who have eyes to see. If you read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John you will see a common theme among them. Jesus taught accountability and responsibility, Matthew 5:48. He also came to interpret the law, teaching us to fulfill it with love instead of trying to keep it, serving it as a religion. The Gospel of the Kingdom is for the people of God, not the world. Jesus said that He spoke in parables so they would not understand, Matthew 13:8. This is not the same as the Gospel of Peace. Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world. This is not hidden; it is to be preached to every creature under heaven. The kingdom is for those he has prepared it for. For those who prepare themselves for it; for those who walk in His steps. The Gospel of the Kingdom is for His disciples.

The Gospel of Peace

This is the good message that Jesus Christ died for our sins. Romans 5 explains the whole reasoning behind the need for a savior. Death passed unto all on mankind because of sin. Righteousness passes to those who believe because of grace. Christ died to reconcile us to God, Colossians 1:20-21. This is where salvation and new birth begin. Once we believe it is up to us to become disciples or not.

The Gospel of Grace

As mentioned before the Lord did not open the door to the Gentiles until after He died and after Pentecost. The Jews were the firstfruits but there was much more to follow. In Acts 10 He opened the door to them making them partakers of the same Grace that God had bestowed on the Jews for more than a millennium. Romans 9:1-5 explains many of the blessings God gave to the nation of Israel. Romans 11:7-23 explains how the Gentiles have become partakers with Israel. There is no question that the Jews have

always had favor with God as well as Noah and Abraham. Paul said in Colossians 1:25-27, that he was a minister of the mystery among the Gentiles. Ephesians 3 reveals that the Gentiles would be fellow heirs and of the same body as the Jews, one new man. We should not try to make this gospel about grace versus law. What the Gospel of Grace is trying to tell us is that now that we are in God's family we should try to make a real relationship with our heavenly father and learn to love Him. What the law does is that it commands us to love Him. God wants a people who love Him from their hearts. The command is there to get us started. Once we get to know our God it will develop in our hearts. Think of a parent and child. Would a parent want their child to love them because they said so? I want my children to love me because I first loved them, because I am their father. As, they grew I tried to teach them to show their love toward their mother and I. In Titus 2:11-12, For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age. The commands are really the A,B,Cs of love and righteousness. God wants us to love and serve him because of the love inside of us; and He will teach us His love if we ask Him.

If we look at the Gospel of God from these points of view it will be easier to understand our position in Christ and our responsibility to walk in his ways. If I were to adopt a child into our family I would expect the child to conform to our way of life and teach him to do so. Hopefully someday the child would learn to love his new family. Isn't that what God is looking for from us?