

“THE NATURE OF THE GOSPEL”

Romans 16:24-27

Message 1902

Christianity is different from all the religions of the world. Christianity stands in a class by itself. I am talking about real Bible Christianity. The early believers who followed the Gospel of Christ were called Christians. So Christianity is based on the good news of Jesus Christ. I am quick to confess that not everybody who professes to be a Christian is a Christian or lives the way the Bible teaches. That is where many of us must constantly correct ourselves.

The first four books of the New Testament present the Gospel in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. The remaining books explain how and why the Gospel is different, and why it is so important. It is the only way to peace with God, my friend.

So now listen to the Apostle Paul as he writes the last part of his letter to the Romans. He explains THE NATURE OF THE GOSPEL in Romans 16:24-27.

24. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

25. Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

26. But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

27. To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

We are led to consider the nature of the Gospel from three significant VIEWPOINTS that the Apostle Paul sets forth in this brief Scripture.

ITS MYSTERY is the first significant viewpoint in learning the nature of the Gospel. The word, mystery, is used in verse 25: “according to the revelation of the mystery.” I must say to you, friend, that God’s purposes are unsearchable. He does not need to tell us why He does this or that. Many times He does but He does not have to. He does not need to. He can operate without referring to us at all. He is under no obligation to us. He can keep His secrets as long as He wishes. The Gospel was kept a secret for many years. While it was developing, it was not clear. The plan of salvation was something of a mystery. The Apostle Paul says, now it is being preached. The mystery is being revealed in “the preaching of Jesus Christ.”

Jesus Christ came in due time. The Bible tells us that He came right when He was supposed to come. The Apostle Paul writing to the Galatians spoke about that. He wrote that Jesus Christ came in the fulness of time, right at the precise moment when all was fulfilled in the preparation.

When Jesus was revealed then He was believed. This Gospel has the power to establish believers. That means that believers need not be tossed about in the intellectual world, the world of thought and philosophy. We have a rock, a security, a steadfastness. It is for us to accept and believe what the Bible tells us even though we cannot always explain it.

The Gospel was something of a mystery but God revealed it to men in the fulness of time according to His will.

ITS MANIFESTATION is the second significant viewpoint in learning the nature of the Gospel. The Gospel’s manifestation is expressed in verse 26: “But now is made manifest.” Manifest means to be

made evident. Now it is no longer a mystery. Now it is unveiled, brought out into the open.

Where do you look? “By the scriptures of the prophets,” the Apostle says. There is one source of information for the Gospel and it is not a dictionary or any encyclopedia, it is the Bible, the Scriptures. That is the only source of information concerning the Gospel that we have. That is the Bible. To find out what the Gospel is we go to the Bible.

The prophets were spokesmen for God. They were the ones who wrote down what God revealed to them, what God told them, what God manifested to them. Now it is manifested. It is now revealed. Is it now made clear? Reveal means made clear, to be manifested. Anyone can now know and experience the Gospel.

Anyone can now know and experience the Gospel but the key is believe. The key is believe and obey. Paul says “obedience of faith,” in the ending of verse 26. That is a practical truth.

The nature of the Gospel is a manifestation. The Apostle Paul writing in another place spoke about how the grace of God has appeared unto all men. We are attempting by the grace of God to tell you that the Gospel is manifested. We are required to believe what the Scriptures tell us and then we know what the Gospel is, then we understand. Then we can clearly see its manifestation.

ITS MANDATE is the third significant viewpoint in learning the nature of the Gospel. The Apostle Paul uses here the word, commandment. Look at verse 26: “according to the commandment of the everlasting God.” What is the commandment of God? The commandment of God is that those who know must tell. We must tell. We must make known to all nations that the secret is no longer a secret. The mystery is no longer a mystery. It is now open, it is now clear: the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the cross of Jesus Christ, the shed blood of Jesus Christ, His Holy life, His bodily resurrection, the promise of His return. This is all open now. We know because the Bible teaches us. The Bible tells us. Now it is made known to all nations.

My friend, I am speaking to you. I don’t know where you may be but I am speaking to you and where ever you are the Gospel is an open truth. The Gospel is an open truth by the commandment of God. It reaches all nations. None is excluded, absolutely none. All nations are to know the Gospel for the obedience of faith.

I have been trying to explain to you as we have studied through the book of Romans what is the nature of the Gospel. I have explained to you the great doctrines of the Christian faith. That’s as much as I can do. The rest is up to you. What I have taught you from is the truth of God. If you receive it and obey it then you will have the benefit of that great truth. There is no other way.

My friend, I cannot be quiet. I must not be quiet because those who know are required to tell. Now, as I am ministering to you and you are learning what the Gospel is, it is now up to you to tell. As I have been telling you so you must tell someone else. We are required to tell the world.

The nature of the Gospel is its mandate. We cannot, we must not, we dare not be silent. We have a commandment of God to make known to all nations the Gospel for the obedience of faith.

Now, friend, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is exclusive. That is it bars all other messages. No other message is like it. Its nature is shown by its mystery which in the providence of God was hidden until it was manifested like it is now. Now it is revealed and we are mandated to carry that Gospel around the world.