

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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THE BIBLE ON THE GOSPEL

Larry R. Ping II

The New Testament speaks often of the Gospel. Consider these facts about the Gospel of the Bible.

1) The Gospel's Core Is the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Paul wrote, "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (I Cor. 15:1-6). The gospel is the "good news." What better news is there than we can receive salvation from our sins, and in the end defeat death and inherit an eternal home in heaven (I Cor. 15)?

2) The Gospel Is Powerful. God breathed, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16). The word contained in the New Testament volume is powerful. There are no other words which can save a man. James penned, "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21).

3) The Gospel Requires Those to Spread It. As powerful as the gospel is, it still needs those to preach it. "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things" (Rom. 10:14-15). There is a dire need for Gospel preachers!

4) The Gospel Is to Be Preached to Everyone. Some of Jesus' final words were, "Go ye into all the all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk. 16:15). At one point, it had been preached to "every creature" (Col. 1:23). Those who have heard and obeyed the gospel must in turn teach it to others (2 Tim. 2:2). We must adopt the attitude of Paul who said, "I am ready to preach the gospel" (Rom. 1:15).

5) The Gospel Is To Be Fully Preached. Gospel teachers and preachers have the responsibility to fully preach "the gospel of Christ" (Rom. 15:19).

Fully teaching the gospel entails teaching the core of the gospel, to be followed by instruction on how to take advantage of the good news. Until one has done so, he has not fulfilled his God-given responsibility. The Holy Book has often warned us not to tamper with its contents (Deut. 4:2, Rev. 22:18-19). We would do well in heeding the warning to "speak as the oracles of God" (I Peter 4:11)! As the apostle said, "For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel" (I Cor. 9:16)!

6) The Gospel Will Serve As the Standard of Judgment. Paul addressed the Romans, "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel" (Rom. 2:16). The entirety of the New Testament constitutes the standard by which we will be judged. Jesus said "...the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (Jn. 12:48). The Apostle penned "...the things that I write unto thee are the commandments of the Lord" (I Cor. 14:37). May we learn the Gospel well in our times of study (II Tim. 2:15).

AVOID IT...

David Eldridge (Cookeville, TN)

We have all been cautioned to avoid things. Even growing up, good parents teach their children that there are places, people, and things which they ought to avoid. To avoid something is to not go near it or not do it. Did you know that the Bible tells us of a number of things to avoid? Consider our need to avoid it! Avoid...

The Wicked Path. The wise man said, “Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil. **Avoid** it, do not travel on it; turn away from it and pass on” (Prov. 4:14-15). We must avoid walking on the path of wickedness and evil at all costs. Why? Because it is the “way that leads to destruction, and many there be who go in by it” (Matt. 7:13). If you wish to avoid eternal destruction, you must avoid the path of the wicked – it will lead you to a place you do not want to go! The path of the wicked – **Avoid It!**

Fornication. Paul wrote to the church at Corinth about the need to “**avoid** fornication” (1 Cor. 7:2 KJV). We live in an overly sexualized world, yet we must strive to avoid sexual sins. Paul said, “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth

fornication sinneth against his own body” (1 Cor. 6:18 KJV). No matter how accepted fornication may become, to engage in such is a sin against our own body and a sin against God. How do we avoid fornication? By marrying (1 Cor. 7:1-2), by being careful what we look at (Matt. 5:28-29; Job 31:1), and by fleeing the things that would tempt us in this way (1 Cor. 6:18). Fornication – **Avoid It!**

Foolish Disputes. Notice Paul’s instruction to young evangelists in the Bible. To Timothy he said, “But **avoid** foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife” (2 Tim. 2:23). To Titus he wrote, “But **avoid** foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless” (Titus 3:9). There are some disputes and questions that are foolish and ignorant that we need to be avoiding. Let us learn that not every question deserves an answer. Jesus knew this. When confronted with questions about the woman taken in adultery, He did not answer their question (Jn. 8:3-6). Notice what Paul said about foolish disputes and questions – they cause strife, are unprofitable, and useless. Foolish disputes – **Avoid It!**

Divisiveness. The apostle instructed Christians, “Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and **avoid** them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple” (Rom. 16:17-18). Unity is highly prized by God – it is “good and precious” in His sight (Ps. 133). Unfortunately, you will sometimes find those who cause division among God’s people. Those who would do such are to be avoided lest they harm the unity that exists among brethren. Further, there is something spiritually wrong with divisive brethren. Paul told Titus to, “Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned” (Titus 3:10-11). We must avoid and reject (after admonitions) a divisive man lest we be divided from our brethren and suffer the same condemnation as the one causing the division. Divisiveness – **Avoid It!**

As the people of God, let us avoid these things that we might remain His faithful followers!

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm