

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2006

Speaker: Mr George Meikle (Falkirk)

Readings: Mark 16 v.9-16, Romans 1v.1-4,v.14-17

Subject: The Gospel and what it is.

The chapter before us in Mark 16 deals with the last words of the Lord Jesus before going to heaven. The cross was empty and the tomb was empty. The commission was given to the disciples to go and preach the Gospel to the whole world. It was a message of a Saviour who is “able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him” (Heb. 7:25).

The gospel is easier described by what it is not. It is not a religion, it is not a cult, it is not a secret society. The gospel has nothing to do with buildings, be it chapels or gospel halls. The gospel, salvation and forgiveness of sins are all centred around Christ, the man who died on Calvary. By dying on calvary He proved that “God is love” (1 John 4:16). The only hope for heaven is because of Calvary, “We preach Christ crucified”(1 Cor.1:23).

The only way to heaven is by making the Man on the centre tree at Calvary your Saviour. Why not trust the Saviour?

“Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11).

“The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world” (1 John 4:14).

It is a great moment in the life of any one when they come into the good of the words of John 3v16, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”.

The source of the Gospel is God. It is good news from Heaven, which is not affected by the opinions of men or of parliament and can meet men in their need. It gives a person something to live for and something to die for. Do you know where you are going?

Tomorrows sun may never rise to meet thy long deluded eyes.

Tomorrow is eternity hid from our view.

“Today if you will hear His voice harden not your hearts” (Heb. 4:7).

A couple who were Christians yet sadly lost four children who drowned at sea could pen the words of the hymn “When peace like a river”. They could put their trust in God for the future.

Can you remember a time when you were saved? The speaker can remember when he was saved and is thankful to the God that has kept him since that day. Once a person is saved the surest thing in their life is that they are going to Heaven.

“I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father” (John 16:28).

We read in the Bible of a man named Saul who came from Tarsus and came into the good of God's salvation. Many may have thought it a miracle that one such as Saul could be saved. He had been a blasphemer, he hated Christians and had put some in prison and murdered others yet, God intervened in his life and he was changed. His name was also changed and then as Paul the apostle he went on to preach the Gospel because he wanted others to come into the good of what he had got.

The subject of the Gospel is Christ and Paul would say that he was [“not ashamed of the gospel of Christ”](#)(Romans 1:16) and neither should we be. He knew it was true because it had worked in his life. As he was dying, he could say that he had [“a desire to depart, and be with Christ; which is far better”](#) (Phil.1:23). That is the great prospect that is laid before the believer, the fact that they know where they are going.

What He has done for Paul and many others He can do for you. Are you going to let Him? Are you going to come by faith?

Many may question what a persons greatest need is. Suggestions may be made as to what it is, some say money, others a better environment. The Bible would tell us that man's greatest need is for forgiveness of sins and to get right with God. We are reminded that [“there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth”](#) (Rev. 21:27).

In Hebrews 1 verse 2, we are told that God has spoken and men need to listen.

We may ask why? We have no answer, only that God intervenes in the life so that men and women can think intelligently about the future. Men may do lots of things but they will not take them any closer to God or to heaven.

The question has been asked by many where was God on September 11<sup>th</sup>? In an answer by Billy Graham's daughter she says that God was outside because that was where men had put Him. It has also been said that as the Titanic was sinking the merriment stopped and the band struck up “Nearer my God to thee”. At the time of crisis men will come but God asks them to come now: [“Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest”](#) (Matthew 11:28).

Have you got the vital thing? - The thing that will take you to heaven and give you peace with God. Are you in Christ?

[“There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus”](#) (Romans 8:1).

It takes courage to come to Christ and go against the world. Once in Christ it could be said that you are under new management – you serve a new master. It has also been said that life in Christ is life with a capital L.

Does any other message guarantee that we can be saved from the penalty of sin? The believer is

given power to live in an ungodly world due to the indwelling Holy Spirit of God. The Christian is not just on the winning side but on the side that has won, God “[giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ](#)” (1 Cor. 15:57).

“[And I give unto them \(“My sheep”\) eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand](#)” (John 10:28).

“[The Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me](#)” (Gal. 2:20).

When a sinner comes to Christ they are given light, life and liberty. “[If the Son shall make you free ye shall be free indeed](#)” (John 8:36). Light because mens eyes are in darkness and blind to their need. Life because it is eternal life in Christ. Liberty because free from the bondage of self and sin.

The scientist Dr Simpson who discovered Chloroform is reported to have said that his greatest discovery was that he was a sinner. “[For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God](#)” (Romans 3:23) “[While we were yet without strength in due time Christ died for the ungodly](#)”(Romans 5:6).

“[Come not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance](#)”

“[Receiveth sinners and eateth with them](#)”

“[Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners](#)”