

Good News or Fake News

March 18th & 19th, 2017

Philippians 1:3-5

Paul's letter was written to the "saints in Christ" in Philippi.

- ❖ "In Christ" occurs 10 times in this Book and is a recurring theme for the Church!
- ❖ "In Christ" is now our identity.

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come."

Christians are chosen by God to proclaim the gospel!

1 Peter 2:9-10 "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

- ❖ Paul's source of joy in jail was his focus on God's call on his life (*Philippians 1:12-13*) and his appreciation for his partnership with the church at Philippi in proclaiming the gospel!
 - Joy and Rejoicing are emphasized 16 times in these 4 chapters!
- ❖ Gospel means "Good News"!
 - In Luke 2:10 the Angel's message to the world was "... good news of a great joy..."

The Good News

- ❖ Jesus began His ministry with the call to believe the gospel!

Mark 1:14-15 "...Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'"

 - Jesus revealed His mission in Isaiah's prophecy! (*Isaiah 61*)
 - *Luke 4:16-21*
- ❖ The good news is the Gospel of the Kingdom!

Matthew 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

 - Christians are brought into the Kingdom by the power of God!

Colossians 1:13 "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,"
- ❖ The gospel is the entire Word of Truth!

Ephesians 1:13 "In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,"
- ❖ Christians are never to be ashamed of the gospel which is the power of God!

Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

- Jesus warned His followers to not be ashamed of the gospel!

Mark 8:38 “For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

- ❖ Peter gives a clear presentation of the gospel!

- Acts 10:34-43

The Fake News

- ❖ A different gospel is fake news.

- 2 Corinthians 11:3-4

- ❖ Satan’s “Fake News” to Eve was “... *You will not die ... you will be like God...*” *Genesis 3:1-5*

- To Christians, Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

- 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

- ❖ Today’s “Fake News”

* Pluralism *John 14:6*

* Universalism *Matthew 25:46*

* Ethical Relativism *John 12:47-48*

* Naturalism *1 Corinthians 12:1*

Proverbs 14:12 “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”

- ❖ In the Old Testament, two illustrations of fake news are ...

... Hezekiah and Sennacherib

- 2 Chronicles 32:9-23

... Nehemiah and Sanballat / Tobiah

- Nehemiah 4:1-5

- ❖ Other religions proclaim a different Gospel

- Galatians 1:8-9

- Mormonism – Joseph Smith claimed to be visited by the angel Moroni.

- Islam – Muhammad claimed to be visited by the angel Gabriel.

Philippians 1:3-5

JOY = **J**esus and **O**thers before **Y**ou!

Our Call by God to serve Him and our Commission to proclaim the Good News to the world, gives purpose and meaning to any situation!

Endnote:

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