The Gospel Is the Good News

Theme: Why God? | Text: Romans 1:1-16 (NIV) Speaker: Sis Debbie Golding | Date: November 9 2025

Introduction

What makes the gospel such good news? Because in it, we see a God who does not remain distant or indifferent, but who draws near to rescue humanity through Jesus Christ. The writer of Hebrews reminds us that God's plan of salvation was not abstract—it was personal, sacrificial, and redemptive.

Hebrews 2:10-18 reveals that Jesus, "the founder of our salvation," became fully human, suffered, and died to destroy the power of death and free all who were enslaved by fear. He became our merciful and faithful High Priest, able to help those who are tempted. Through His humanity, we are brought into God's family.

Purpose

To show that the gospel is personal, transforming, and the hope of the world. From Romans 1:1-16, Paul highlights three truths:

- The Gospel is God's Plan.
- The Gospel is God's Power to Save.
- The Gospel is the Hope of the World.

1. The Gospel Is God's Plan

The Greek word *euangelion* means "good message" or "good news." It is the announcement of salvation through Jesus Christ. God's plan (*schedio* in Greek) was hidden in His wisdom and revealed through His Son.

Romans 5:8 declares, "God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

This shows that your eternal life is personal to God—therefore, it must be personal to you.

2. The Gospel Is God's Power to Save

Paul boldly proclaims in Romans 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes." Through the gospel, the righteousness of God is revealed.

Salvation requires faith—from the Greek word $pisteu\bar{o}$, meaning "to trust." It also calls us to recognize and flee from the coming wrath of God, His righteous judgment against sin.

Romans 1:17-19 contrasts God's righteousness and wrath: humanity suppresses truth, yet God's power and divine nature are clearly seen—leaving no excuse. The blood of Jesus justifies, shields, and rescues believers from judgment, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 53:5, "The punishment that brought us peace was on Him."

The gospel calls believers to live lives of holiness—to walk in obedience, gratitude, and transformed purpose.

3. The Gospel Is the Hope of the World

When sin separated humanity from God and plunged the world into darkness, no moral system or human effort could bridge the divide. Jesus became the light for a darkened world—transforming despair into direction and restoring relationship with the Father.

Through His death and resurrection, forgiveness was made possible, and God's kingdom of justice, peace, and relationship was restored. Jesus defeated the powers of death, guilt, fear, and evil—and offers a living hope that is eternal, unshakable, and anchored in love.

As the hope of the world, the gospel calls believers to:

- "Count it all joy... when you face trials" (James 1:2-4).
- Become witnesses who preach repentance and make disciples of all nations.
- Be unashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:16).
- Be examples and imitators of what we have been taught, remaining confident in our hope and giving glory to God (Hebrews 3:6).
- Await the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior (Titus 2:13).

And to the unbeliever, the gospel offers a divine invitation:

- Believe: "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).
- Know: "Salvation is found in no one else..." (Acts 4:12).
- Embrace: the reconciliation offered through Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

In Romans 1:16, Paul declares, "The gospel is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes." Through the gospel, God reveals His righteousness and invites the world into a relationship grounded in grace, not guilt; in power, not weakness; in hope, not despair.

The gospel is truly the good news — for it is God's plan, God's power, and the world's only hope.