

Our declaration of the Gospel is the truth that Jesus is Lord. We are sinners and need a Savior. We must continue to share the Gospel, not to struggle or hesitate in sharing the Biblical Gospel. We have been given the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:17-21) to share that the world can be reconciled through faith in Christ.

- **2 Cor. 4:1:** "Therefore, since we have this ministry," (diakonian or service), "as we received mercy, we do not lose heart." We are not to be discouraged, weary, or fainthearted. Paul uses the same phrase in V16. We labor being faithful to proclaim the truth of the Gospel.
 - Paul details his motivation to prove (commend) themselves as ministers of God as they suffered and were persecuted. Paul details those sufferings in 2 Cor. 6:3-10, 11:24-27.

What are our motivations for Gospel Proclamation?

1. **The Ministry of the Gospel:** V1, the ministry Paul has received he declares with sincerity, 2 Cor. 2:17, not peddling the word of God for dishonest gain but as from God, in the sight of God. 2 Cor. 3:6, the Gospel proclaims a New Covenant that gives life in the Spirit of God. 2 Cor. 3:12, also with the hope of a glory that surpasses the Law, they proclaimed the word of God with boldness.
 - a. **Paul was sent to declare the Gospel to the Gentiles:** Acts 26:17-28, Paul appearing before King Agrippa, proclaimed his conversion to Christ and burden for the Gentiles.
 - b. **Paul was given strength and put into the ministry:** 1 Tim. 1:12-13, Jesus counted Paul faithful giving him this ministry. The Lord considered Paul's previous life who was violent, blaspheming, and persecuting the church, as done in ignorance. Forgiving him and proving him faithful for the ministry (2 Cor. 4:1).
 - c. **Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God, Rom. 10:17:** We are commissioned to share the Gospel truth so that others might hear.
 - d. **We are to be a light to the world:** Matt. 5:1-16, we are to be a light and salt in this world declaring Christ, even in persecution.
 - e. **We have been reconciled to God:** Rom. 5:1-11, no longer enemies of God having been justified by faith in Jesus Christ, we have this message to share with others.
2. **The Message of the Gospel:** V2-6. V2, it is the word of God. V4, the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ. V6, the Light that comes to us in the knowledge of the glory of God.
 - a. **The Message Relies on the Power of the Gospel:** V2, not relying on craftiness or adulterating or perverting the Gospel to make it appealing but speaking truth.
 - i. **The Full Gospel:** The love and wrath of God. The mercy and justice of God. The reality of heaven and hell. The holiness of God and the sin and wickedness of Man. Rom. 1:16, the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation.
 - b. **The Message Recognizes the Opposition:** V3-4, it is veiled to those who are perishing and who have had their minds blinded by the god of this world, Satan (also Jn. 12:31, 1 Jn. 5:19). Satan offers the world temporary pleasure. Their minds have been deceived by doctrines of demons (1 Tim. 4:1) and false teachers (2 Cor. 11:13-15).
 - i. **We don't change the message because unbelievers aren't turning to Christ.** The Spirit of God saves those He wills (Jn. 3:8; Titus 3:5).
 - c. **The Message Focuses on the Person of the Gospel, the Mediator Christ:** 1 Cor. 2:2, Paul preached Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 1 Cor. 15:3-4, Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried and rose again, according to the Scriptures.

Further Discussion and Application

Getting the message right is of the utmost importance. What is the message of Romans 10:9-10? What must be believed? What must be confessed? What does it mean that Jesus is Lord?

What is the message of Hebrews 9:24-28? Why did Christ have to die? Why was His sacrifice necessary for sin? What judgement is coming upon man? What reward is Christ bringing with Him when He returns?

Read John 12:47-50. What are the words of Christ that will judge man? Who is Jesus from John 1? Why must we be born again, John 3:3? Why does the unbeliever remain in darkness, John 3:17-21?

As we have received the ministry of reconciliation to God, we now share the ministry of reconciliation to others. Do we feel we have enough preparation to be effective? If we are older saints, what is the Gospel message we share with others? What passages do you use to share the Gospel?

The Romans Road is one method of sharing the Gospel:

- For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, Rom. 3:23.
- There is none righteous, Rom. 3:9-18.
- The wages of sin is death, Rom. 6:23.
- Christ died for us while we were still in sin, showing God's love, Rom. 5:8.
- We receive salvation by confessing Jesus as Lord and believing God raised Him from the dead, Rom. 10:9-10.
- There is no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus, Rom. 8:1.
- We have been justified (declared righteous) by faith in Christ, Rom. 5:1-2.
- Nothing can separate us from the love of God, Rom. 8:38-39.

Practice and memorize these Scriptures as one method of sharing the Gospel. How can we be the herald of Rom. 10:17? Rom. 1:16 tells us the power of God unto salvation. How was faith birthed in you by hearing the word of God?