

Gospel Centered

Long Beach Alliance Church • June 23rd, 2013 • Pastor Chris Lankford

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

~Titus 2:11-14 (ESV)

1) The Importance Of The Gospel

- A) The central message of Jesus Christ was known as the “Gospel” (Mark 1:15). The “Gospel” means “good news,” and is captured in Jesus’ self revealing quote from Isaiah 61:1-2a (Luke 4:18).
- B) The reason Jesus’ message was such good news for the people was because it brought freedom to those stuck in oppression from sin and its effects (Luke 19:10).
- C) Jesus called His followers to spread the message of the Gospel to the whole world (Matthew 24:14; Mark 16:15).
- D) The apostles were obsessed with Gospel teaching (Acts 1:8, 2:37-40, 15:7-9; Romans 1:16-17; 1st Corinthians 1:17).

- E) Jesus Christ taught that embracing the Gospel would cause the loss of one's life, home, family, and country -- simply for the sake of Gospel teaching (Mark 8:35, 10:29).
- F) Paul noted that all he wanted to preach was the Gospel of Christ crucified (1st Corinthians 2:2). This Gospel was foolishness to those who were not Christ's followers, power for those who would follow Christ, weakness to the world, and the power of God to those who believe.
- G) It was imperative to the apostles that the Gospel be taught accurately. To do otherwise would gut it of its power. If any other Gospel was taught than that of Christ crucified, no matter who that Gospel came from (even angels!) -- it was a false gospel and to be rejected.
- H) The most common prayer of the Apostle Paul was for the clear presentation of the Gospel. He called on all of the churches to be partnered to this cause and to live the Gospel with boldness and confidence, living lives which revealed the Gospel and were worthy of the Gospel, tirelessly proclaiming the Gospel, knowing that Christ taught that this Gospel must be proclaimed to the ends of mankind before His return.
- I) The apostles were imprisoned, starved, humiliated, beaten, mocked, shipwrecked, crucified, and otherwise martyred for the sake of the Gospel. It was central to the life of Jesus Christ, the center of His apostles' lives, the center of the early church, and to all Christians since...

2) Gospel Questions

- A) Is the Gospel central in your own life?
- B) How would you respond if someone asked you about the Gospel? Would your life support your words?
- C) If our purposes (as a church) are to also win the next generation (young & old) through the Gospel, how important is this central message to each of our lives?