

"Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen."

Easter Day, BCP



Mark Two: the Good News

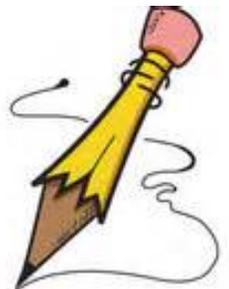
Sunday Oct. 16, 2016

Sermon Notes: "Believing the Good News"
Isaiah 53.1-12, Romans 3.21-26, Mark 1.1-15

Personal Concluding Thoughts

"But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim)."

-Romans 10.8



"Believing the Good News"

Old man Wrigley, in Brooks and Dunn's song Believe, shares his faith with a young boy. After hearing of Wrigley's wife and baby passing, the boy asks him how he keeps from going crazy. Wrigley's answer is priceless: "I raise my hands, bow my head, finding more and more truth in the words written in red." The Biblical mark of the Gospel is finding truth in the words written in red.

TOO OFTEN THE GOSPEL
BECOMES A THIN
VENEER SPREAD
LIGHTLY OVER OUR
CULTURE'S VALUES,
REVEALING CULTURE
RATHER THAN THE
TRUTH ABOUT GOD.

MARK DEVER

What came up in the sermon that you were surprised at? Did anything in the sermon speak directly to you, personally?

"TRUE CHRISTIANITY IS REALISTIC ABOUT THE DARK SIDE OF OUR WORLD, OUR LIFE, OUR NATURE, OUR HEARTS."

MARK DEVER

The Gospel is frightening, because to really understand it we have to acknowledge who we really are, what we've done and our capacity to hurt others.

Do you think a person can believe in Jesus without that faith changing his or her life? Why or why not?

"Deep down, all of us are beautiful, spiritual people. We just need to clean off the grime so that we can live by our pure, inner self." Is this the gospel? Why or why not?

Read Romans 1.21-23, 3.9-20, 3.21-26

For the Gospel to be Good News, we must first hear the Bad News.

Many people in the West today think of themselves as subject to no one, and free to do whatever they want. How does scripture confront those attitudes?

The word 'justify' means 'to declare someone to be righteous'. According to Paul, on what basis can people be justified by God? How do good works fit in to us being justified?

Below are some common misunderstandings of the gospel. What do these passages from Romans reveal about the gospel in relation to these common misunderstandings?

- 1) *The gospel is that God wants us to live better lives.*
- 2) *The gospel is that God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.*
- 3) *The gospel is that God's kingdom has come in Jesus and now he calls us to work with him to transform every aspect of human society.*

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER, WE COULD SUMMARIZE THE GOSPEL IN FOUR WORDS: GOD, MAN, CHRIST, RESPONSE.

GOD, THE CREATOR. MAN, CREATION HAS BECOME SINFUL BY NATURE. CHRIST, DIED FOR CREATION. RESPONSE, TURNING AWAY FROM SIN.

What are some things that encourage you the most as you seek to grow as a Christian? What are some things that discourage you?

Why is it important for a church to constantly remember, celebrate and center its life around the gospel - Jesus' death and resurrection?

"The gospel is not a doctrine of the tongue, but of life. It cannot be grasped by reason and memory only, but it is fully understood when it possesses the whole soul and penetrates to the inner recesses of the heart."

-John Calvin