

The Gospel — Defended

November 30, 2014

The Gospel Defined (review)

- God's good news — Jesus came to save us from sins — to do for us what we could not do for ourselves
- God's grace — we did not and cannot work for it, earn it, or deserve it
- God's gift — free gift to be believed and received

The Gospel Discovered (review)

When the gospel is genuinely experienced, it produces —
— salvation, sanctification, justification, reconciliation, identification, demonstration, intercession

The Gospel Defended (today)

The title implies that it is under attack — needing defending from all faithful followers of Jesus

1 Peter 3:15 (Peter's insight)

- always be ready to give a defense, reason for hope, with meekness and fear

2 Timothy 2:15

**If you are going to give a defense
you are going to have to study the Word
so you're not ashamed, so you can rightly divide
accurately understand the Word**

Jude 1:3-4 (Jude's insight)

- contend earnestly for the faith, because of those who creep in unnoticed, turning grace to lewdness and denying God
- "Hypergrace" teaching — sin doesn't matter, Holy Spirit doesn't convict, live how you want without condemnation

Titus 2:11-15

**grace teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts
to live soberly, righteously, godly
redeemed from godless deeds, purified
zealous for good works**

Dr. Walter Martin wrote, "It is a time of anarchy within the church, when the defense of the faith, as commanded in Jude 3, has been sacrificed upon the altar of compromise by church leaders more interested in methodology than in biblical obedience."¹

¹ Walter Martin, *Kingdom of the Occult*, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2008), 40

Philippians 1:17 (Paul's insight)

- like Peter and Jude, Paul saw need to defend gospel, because it was already under attack, from inside and outside the church

Galatians 1:6-9

- Galatians were already turning away to “another gospel” — a “perverted” gospel
- twice the verse says those who preach any other gospel, “let them be accursed”

2 Corinthians 11:3-4

- Paul marvels at the Galatians, and fears for the Corinthians, that crafty satanic deception that preaches another Jesus, another spirit, and a different gospel will actually be “put up with” by the Corinthians
 - another Jesus
 - Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Islam, New Age — which Jesus?
 - another spirit
 - not Holy Spirit, but spirit of antichrist that denies Jesus
 - different gospel
 - legalism/works to lewdness/worldliness

**we are to defend against — not put up with
another Jesus, different spirit, different gospel**

1 Timothy 4:1-2 (warnings for our times)

- if the devil cannot keep you from the gospel — he will deceive you into a FALSE GOSPEL
- beware of “it doesn't apply to today, too archaic, not relevant for our time,” or “what does that scripture really mean, I just want to create a discussion”

**with a clear warning like this
we should all be paying attention to departures from
historic, orthodox, Christian doctrine**

2 Timothy 3:13-17

- evil men and impostors will deceive more and more; the Christian must know the Scriptures
- they deceive because they have been deceived — once you agree with the deceiver, you pass the deception on

“The most devastating attacks [on the faith] originate from behind the pulpit and from theological seminaries. The slings and arrows against the faith come from those who should be out preaching the gospel and defending the faith; It is a sad but irrefutable fact that the worst enemies of the faith are often those commissioned to proclaim it.”²

- THAT'S THE KEY — KNOW THE SCRIPTURES — CONTINUE IN THEM
- all scripture is God-breathed, profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness, to make up complete and equipped

² ibid

**when men start questioning the inspiration, accuracy, and authority of scripture
“Bible contains the Word of God, but *isn't* the Word of God”
RUN**

2 Timothy 4:1-4 (continuation of preceding verses)

- preach the Word, convince, rebuke, exhort, teach with patience — DEFEND!
- the time will come when men will turn away from the truth and listen to truth-less deceptions

**there is no question that every faithful follower of Jesus
has a mandate on their lives to defend the gospel
because it is under attack from inside and outside the church**

“If I am professing with the loudest voice and clearest expression every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and that devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved, and to be steady on all the battlefields besides, is mere flight and disgrace, if he flinches at that point!” Martin Luther³

We need to defend the gospel, even and especially doctrines that men and devils are currently attacking.

**knowledge of the gospel
courage to stand for the gospel
and verbiage
to DEFEND the gospel**

Discussion Questions

1. Are you currently ready to give a defense for the gospel, a reason for hope, with meekness and fear?
2. What is the primary action you must take to become ready and not ashamed?
3. What do you understand about “hypergrace” teaching? Are you aware of friends who believe that way?
4. How does grace teach us to live in Titus 2:11-15?
5. Why do you think that the judgement on perverters of the gospel is so harsh?
6. What approach should we take in talking to someone who believes in another Jesus or a different spirit?
7. How easy is it for us to “put up with” the false doctrines, rather than confront them?
8. How do we get courage to stand for the gospel?
9. Where do we get the verbiage to defend the gospel?
10. Since iron sharpens iron (Proverbs 27:17), who can stand with you in this battle of defense?
What are some of the resources that Grace Chapel offers?

³ Frances Schaefer, *A Christian View of the Bible on Truth*, (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Publishers, 1982), 122