

BY-PRODUCTS OF THE GOSPEL

Int.

1. Aim: To show that the gospel has other advantages in addition to eternal salvation.

2. The gospel is the powerful means that God has given to save our souls. - **"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."** Rom. 1:16

a. The purpose of Christ coming to the earth was to save us from our sins

b. Matt. 1:21 **"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."**

c. The gospel removes the guilt of sin - Acts 2:38 "remission" **"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."**

d. The gospel also helps us in turning away from the practice of sin - Acts 3:26 **"Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities."**

e. A person in love with God is out of love with the world.

3. There is also another benefit of the gospel and that is the by-products

a. By-product "Something produced in the making of something else. A secondary result; side effect" - American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language

b. "A secondary and sometimes unexpected or unintended result" © 2001 by Merriam-Webster,

Incorporated

4. The religious world generally emphasizes the social and moral aspects of the gospel. These are only by-products or secondary benefits. But they are good and we need to know about these by-products of the gospel

Discussion

I. HAPPINESS

- A. The primary purpose of the gospel is not to make people happy in this life. But happiness does come as a by-product of the gospel !
- B. Phil. 4:6,7 **"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."**
1. A person whose heart is ruled by worry, fear and frustration cannot be happy !
 2. "Work won't kill you, but worry will."
 3. Paul is teaching us how to overcome worry
 4. Then we will have real peace - the peace of God that passeth understanding
 5. The peace of mind which allowed the early Christians to sing hymns as they were about to be devoured by lions has never been understood by the world, for it comes only through a deep dedication to God and a clear trust in His word. ¹
 6. Jn. 14:27 **"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."**
- C. The gospel will not necessarily keep you from the hardships and heartaches of life that make people unhappy, but will give you a different view of these and help you bear them. Phil. 1:21-24

¹ P. 276 The Book of Philippians - Elkins, Warren Getwell Lectures 1987

- D. Heb. 11:13 **"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of [them], and embraced [them], and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."**

II. PEACE WITH OTHERS

- A. Rom. 12:18 **"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."**
1. Context in Rom. 12:14-21
 2. Christians should strive especially to be at peace among themselves.
 3. And do our best to be at peace with all men.
 4. But when we preach the truth there will be some men who will not like it.
- B. And sometimes it is not possible to be at peace - Matt. 10:34-36 **"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36 And a man's foes [shall be] they of his own household."**
- C. But the principles of the gospel will make one the kind of person who will generally have a good relation with others
1. Honesty, fairness, concern
 2. Practice of the gospel rule - Matt 7:12 **"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."**
- D. Fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters - Eph. 5 & 6

III. SELF - ESTEEM

A. Not talking about haughtiness or pride

1. Pro. 16:18 **"Pride [goeth] before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."**
2. Jas. 4:6 **"But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."**
3. Jas. 4:10 **"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."**

B. But to know that

1. We have obeyed the gospel & He has forgiven us of all our sins
2. That we are His Children
3. That he will hear our prayers
4.This gives us a feeling of self-esteem
5. We are a child of God !

C. On the other hand, if one is not living as he should, the gospel will make him have guilt

feelings - Heb . 4:12 **"For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."**

IV. BETTER HEALTH

A. Not referring to what is called "Christian Science" by Mary Baker Eddy - nor to the idea that Jesus died to heal our physical bodies, as some teach

B. But it is a fact that the principles of the gospel are those that make for good health

1. I Cor. 6:19,20 **"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."**
2. Exodus. 15:26 **"And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee."** None of These Diseases - Worry, anger STD, Stress
3. Refrain from drunkenness and all other sins and you will be healthier.
 - a. When applying for insurance they ask a number of questions
 - b. If you do not drink or smoke then you get a better rate
4. Attitudes help our health
5. Christians normally have a healthier body because they do not harm the body by practicing the sins of the flesh.
 - a. This is not meant to say that if we have a disease or sickness that it is caused by sin - because anyone can get sick and sin is not always the cause - Job is an example
 - b. But certain sins do have an effect on the health of our body.
 - c. By avoiding those sins we are going to have better physical health

Conclusion

1. Gospel is the powerful means that God has given for salvation - Rm. 1:16
 - a. There are certain other benefits or by-products that come from being a Christian
 - b. John 10:10 **"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly."**
2. But the gospel will not do any of these things for those who will not submit to it.
3. The gospel is great !!!
4. The By-Products are not bad
 - (1) Happiness
 - (2) Peace with others
 - (3) Self - esteem
 - (4) Better health

Source - Bobby Duncans Sermons - By-Products of the Gospel p. 41

Sermon by Arthur Pigman -
Evans Church of Christ
515 Gibbs Road
Evans, Ga. 30809
706-855-1249
arthurpigman@cybrtyme.com