

## SIMPLICITY OF GOSPEL

### Int.

1. Aim: To show that the gospel is simple and anyone can learn and obey.
2. II Cor. 11:3 **"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."**
  - a. Paul was concerned about the people and their being led astray
  - b. The serpent beguiled Eve
  - c. Someone may deceive you
  - d. But the Gospel is simple - he called it the simplicity that is in Christ
  - e. **Simple** = easily understood or done, plain and uncomplicated in form, nature or design
3. God is our creator or maker
  - a. He has always understood man and how we work
  - b. He knows that man will not accept something hard to understand
  - c. Therefore His law to man has always been simple and easy to understand
4. Let us notice that God's requirements have always been simple and remains so for us today.

### Discussion

#### I. **EXAMPLES OF SIMPLICITY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

##### A. ADAM AND EVE - [Gen. 3](#)

1. Two things stated:
  - a. You may eat of every tree except one
  - b. If you eat of it you will die
2. That was very simple
  - a. They knew which tree was the one called "The tree of knowledge of Good and evil".
  - b. That was the only one off limits -- they were not to touch, nor eat
  - c. The penalty was clearly stated and simple to understand. Don't eat or you'll die.

**B. NOAH TOLD TO BUILD THE ARK - Gen. 6:14ff**

1. Make thee an ark
  - a. Gopher wood
  - b. Dimensions - 300 Cubits long, 50 cubits wide, 30 cubits high
  - c. One door and one window
2. This was simple, but very effective
  - a. Ark built - flood came
  - b. 8 People and animals spared
  - c. Heb. 11:7

**C. ABRAHAM TOLD TO OFFER ISAAC - Gen. 22:2 "And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of."**

1. Simple to understand
  - a. Take thy son - offer him as a burnt offering
  - b. He only had one son
  - c. Abraham knew exactly what God said do and proceeded to do it.
2. It was easy to understand but perhaps hard to accept
  - a. He did not have to offer Isaac - but he intended to do it
  - b. Heb. 11:17-19
  - c. God provided a Ram

**D. WALLS OF JERICHO - Joshua 6:3-4**

1. They were to take the city
  - a. But it had walls
  - b. God told them to march around the city 1 time each day for 6 days and then on the seventh day march 7 times
2. This sounded almost too simple to be effective
  - a. But they decided to obey
  - b. They marched and the walls fell - They took Jericho

### E. NAAMAN - II Kings 5:1-14

1. Simple command to get rid of leprosy
  - a. He was told to dip 7 times in Jordan river
  - b. An important officer for Syria
2. Naaman almost failed by not obeying
  - a. After hearing the simple command he went away mad
  - b. He thought that God would strike his hand over the place and remove the leprosy
  - c. So simple that Naaman got mad and at first did not obey - 2 Kings 5:13-14
  - d. He later was convinced to obey and the leprosy was removed

F. These five examples from the O.T. show that God's plan is simple and easy to understand. Now notice the N.T. plan...

## II. THE GOSPEL IS SIMPLE - Rom. 1:16 Gospel = good news, glad tidings

### A. Why must the gospel be simple?

1. It is to be preached to every creature
  - a. Mk. 16:15 Mt. 28:19 - all nations
  - b. If it is for every creature it must be simple.
  - c. Same for every person in every part of the world
  - d. Economic, social, educational differences do not matter
  - e. It must be simple so everyone can understand it or it would do no good to preach
  - f. 1 Cor. 1:21 **"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."**
2. Every creature is to believe
  - a. Mark 16:15-16
  - b. Those who do not believe will be condemned - lost!!
  - c. It would not be right to condemn a man for what he cannot understand.
3. Notice the evidence of the simplicity of the gospel...

## B. The Bible can be understood by all of us

1. The idea of the world is that we cannot understand the Bible alike and that we all can be different
  - a. But Paul says we can understand - Eph. 3:1-4 "**For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, 2. If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: 3. How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery: as I wrote afore in few words. 4. Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)**" Understand = comprehend, perceive [Understand alike]
  - b. John says we can know the truth - Jn. 8:32 [know= be aware, be sure, understand]
2. Christ prayed that we all be alike - Jn. 17:21 "**That they all may be one; as thou, Father, [art] in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."**
3. The Bible is easy and simple to understand if we will accept what it says! - 2 Tim.2:15

C. The church

1. Christ said he would build his church
  - a. Mt. 16:18
  - b. Whose church is it? Christ is the owner !
  - c. Belongs to the one who purchased it - Acts 20:28
2. He built one church
  - a. One body = one church -
  - b. Eph. 4:4 Eph. 1:22,23
    - (1) That's not hard for us to understand
    - (2) But many people do not wish to understand so they make it very difficult. They believe in denominationalism.
  - c. The church in the N.T. is singular - one -that is simple and easy to understand.

D. Gospel plan of salvation is simple - Salvation is in the church

1. There is one gospel with one plan to save man
  - a. Faith or belief - Rom. 10:10 - unto salvation
  - b. Repentance unto Life - Acts 11:18
  - c. Confession unto Salvation - Rom. 10:10
  - d. Baptism into Christ
    - (1) Gal. 3:27
    - (2) 1 Cor. 12:13 baptized into the one body
  
2. There is nothing hard in any of this but man does not always want to accept what God has said:
  - a. Like Naaman they sometimes feel it is too simple
  - b. Baptism is a simple command. Burial of our body in water. It is for the remission of our sins
  - c. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved - it is not for babies
  - d. Man says sprinkling will be OK - Ark = gopher wood or Oak?
  - e. Man says we are saved before baptism - Naaman -- cleansed after washing not before. 1 Pet. 3:21
  
3. On the day of Pentecost three thousand understood this gospel that Peter was preaching to them. They obeyed!! It was simple for they were lost and now they learned what to do in order to be saved.

E. One plan of worship which is simple

1. Five avenues or approach to worship
  - a. Prayers
  - b. Teaching and preaching
  - c. Singing
  - d. Contribution
  - e. Lord's Supper
  
2. All of these are simple easy things to understand

3. But again man does not always accept the way of God
  - a. Teaching =
    - (1) Women are not allowed to preach or teach over the man - 1 Tim. 2:12
    - (2) Teaching man's doctrine rather than the truth
  - b. Singing = it is not acceptable to have instrumental music - Eph. 5:19
  - c. Contribution = lay by in store, give - not pie suppers, bingo parties, car wash, yard sale - 1 Cor. 16:1-2
  - d. Lord's supper = on the first day of the week - not once a month or a year - Acts 20:7
4. The worship is simple and easy to understand

### Conclusion

1. 11 Cor. 11:3 **"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."**
2. God has given us the rules and regulations for us today and we can understand just as the people did in the first century.
3. Mark. 12:37 **"the common people heard him gladly"**
4. Jn. 8:32 NKJV **"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."**
5. Why not accept it? It is simple and easy to understand and obey.

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