

## PREACHING THE GOSPEL TO THE CHURCH

John Edwards

In an attempt to teach that a preacher cannot be located, it has been affirmed that the gospel is only the good news of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. It has been contended, that once this good news has been preached to an individual, it is no longer news and therefore it is impossible to preach the gospel to someone who has already heard the gospel. Does the gospel include more than the death, burial and resurrection of Christ? Is it possible to preach the gospel to the church?

**THE WORD "GOSPEL" IN THE BOOK OF GALATIANS.** The apostle Paul had established several churches in Galatia, after which Judaizing teachers came teaching that it was necessary to bind fleshly circumcision to be justified. Hearing of this situation, Paul wrote to those churches to show them the truth of the gospel. *"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel; Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ"* (Gal. 1:6-7). Were those Judaizing teachers perverting the death,

burial and resurrection of Christ? No. Yet, Paul says they perverted the gospel (Gal. 1:7).

**PAUL'S DEFINITION OF THE GOSPEL.** In 1 Corinthians 15:1, Paul states, *"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand."* (By the way, was he preaching the gospel to the church when he declared these words to the church at Corinth?) Throughout verses three to eight, the apostle lists a number of things included in the gospel. Verse 3, Christ died; verse 4, He was buried, and arose; Verse 5, He was seen. Some say the gospel is only the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Paul does not stop there. He says that Christ was seen. Yet, in verse 1, he stated, *"I declare unto you the gospel."* So, to preach the appearance of Christ is to preach the gospel.

**CAN ONE PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE CHURCH?** Paul did. As he addressed his letter to the Roman brethren, he wrote to saints, members of the church of Christ (Rom. 1:7). Then he said, *"I am ready to preach the gospel to YOU that are at Rome also"* (Rom. 1:15). Paul said he was ready to preach the gospel to saints, to the church at Rome. How then can this be, if one cannot preach the gospel to the church? Those

who teach that the gospel cannot be preached to the church are wrong on this count.

The Bible plainly emphasizes that the gospel includes more than the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. The gospel embodies the entire system of faith. Throughout the pages of the New Testament, it can be clearly seen that the gospel was preached to sinners and saints alike.

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## THE WORLD'S GREATEST AUTHOR

John Edwards

Many great and beloved authors have lived and died. But the Lord God is the world's greatest author! Consider three things which make Him the greatest author:

**THE LORD IS NOT THE AUTHOR OF CONFUSION.** Even great and notable authors are sometimes authors of confusion. But not the Lord God! Paul wrote, *"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints"* (1 Cor. 14:33). The word "author" has undergone a change in meaning. Today, the word "author" is used in reference to a writer of a book, an article, or a piece of literature. In Bible days, there

were two words for our one English word “author”. One of those words denoted that which causes something. The other word signified one who is a leader in. Here, in 1 Corinthians 14:33, the writer refers to that which causes something. The Lord is not the cause of confusion; and that is one thing which makes Him the world’s greatest author.

**THE LORD IS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH.** Speaking of “*the race that is set before us,*” the Hebrew writer said that we must run the race “*looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...*” (Heb. 12:1-2). Here Christ is signified as being the leader of faith. When He walked this earth, He undeviatingly trod the path of faith. Notice the words of the apostle as he spoke of the world’s greatest author: “*who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God*” (Heb. 12:2). Not only did Christ talk about faith and demand it of others, but He also lived it and became the perfect example of it. We must look unto Jesus, the leader and

perfecter of faith, for the true example of loyal faith. “*For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps*” (1 Pet. 2:21).

**THE LORD IS THE AUTHOR OF ETERNAL SALVATION.** Hebrews 5:8-9 records, “*Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.*” Christ, the Son of God, is the mediating cause of eternal salvation. Obedience has to be learned. Sometimes the school of suffering is man’s greatest place for learning obedience. Christ learned obedience by the things which He suffered. “*And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross*” (Phil. 2:8). If Christ had not learned obedience and become obedient unto the death of the cross, then eternal salvation would not be available. Yet, the Scripture hath concluded, that Christ did become obedient unto the death

of the cross and thus “*salvation hath appeared unto all men*” (Titus 2:11). Nevertheless, that salvation is conditioned upon one’s obedience to Him. If man does not obey Christ, then He “*became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross*” in vain!

Perhaps, you haven’t obeyed the world’s greatest author. He died on a tree all for you and me! Why don’t you believe Him (Jn. 8:24), turn from your sin in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Him before men (Mt. 10:32), be buried with Him in baptism for the remission of your past sins (Col. 2:12; Rom. 3:25), and be faithful unto Him (Rev. 2:10)?

## GOSPEL MEETING

**October 23-29**

with  
**Ron Halbrook**  
(The Book of Revelation)

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