

This We Believe

We often refer to ourselves as full gospel people. That means the whole gospel for the whole man. The word "gospel" is derived from two Latin words which mean "good tidings." While the good tidings contained in God's Word could be considered under many headings, we are accustomed to think of only four important divisions. It is interesting to note that each of these four points attaches definitely to Christ. We have Christ the Saviour, Christ the Healer, Christ the Baptizer and Christ the coming King.

The angel told Joseph that Mary would bring forth a Son and that His name should be called Jesus for He would save His people from their sins. As Saviour, Christ went to Calvary and shed His blood to cleanse us from sin. He satisfied the just demands of a holy God and thereby prepared the way for our justification. Through His indwelling presence He gives us power over sin in our daily lives. As the song writer puts it, "He breaks the power of cancelled sin." Truly He is a Saviour in the fullest sense of the word.

Not only did the fall of Adam leave us with legal fault and moral taint, but it also left us with afflicted, dying bodies. It is only reasonable to expect that the Christ who has so fully redeemed us from legal condemnation and moral corruption should also be concerned with the healing of our mortal bodies. Throughout both the Old and New Testaments there are abundant references to God's healing power. Christ's ministry was especially characterized by his many acts of healing. The apostolic ministry very definitely included physical healing.

It was God's will that His saving, healing gospel be preached throughout the entire world. He realized it would take a special endowment of power for this to be carried out successfully. Therefore God made provision that Christ should baptize His people with the Holy Spirit. This is, indeed, good tidings. This mighty baptism transformed lowly, quarrelsome fishermen into fearless evangelists. It so fired the soul of Paul that he went forth as a mighty champion carrying the gospel to the then known world. Today this same glorious baptism has sent men and women to earth's remotest regions ablaze with the blessed tidings of redeeming grace. In a power-minded age this great infilling with the Spirit remains the mightiest force yet known to man.

It is only natural to expect that the Lord of the harvest will some day return to reckon with His laborers. It is clearly stated that this same Jesus who was taken up shall so come again in like manner. He came the first time in order that He might die for our redemption. He will come the second time to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The entire creation, including man, is groaning and travailing for His glorious advent. The Bible speaks of His coming as the hope of the church.

It is surely evident that the above four points combine to make a full gospel. What marvelous good tidings we have to present to our generation. May we be faithful stewards of the manifold grace of God.

W. H. Keeler



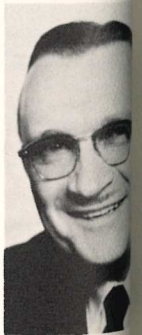
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