

A Word from Our Preaching Pastor:

Sunday, February 15, 2009

And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. Mark 8:31

Why did Jesus come? Was it just to be a teacher or a healer – someone who shows people how to have their best life now? No, according to the Bible, Jesus came to suffer and die in the place of His people under His Father's righteous wrath against their sin, that He might save them from sin and bring them into the joy of an eternal life with Him! That's the good news of the Gospel! *God has done something in Christ!* And because of what God has done, we who hear and repent and believe *that message* will be saved.

But here is the question: **What is that message? What has God done? What exactly is it we must believe?**

There's a lot of confusion about that today. I was listening to a message by Mark Dever that was recorded last week at the Bethlehem Pastor's Conference in Minneapolis. He was talking about a council he served some time ago that represented the various evangelical denominations in the US. As they were talking about strategies and methods for "*reaching people for Christ,*" it began to bother him that very little was being said about the gospel itself. So he raised his hand and asked if they could take five minutes to talk about what the Gospel really is. To his disappointment, that suggestion was met with great reluctance. He soon found out why. These leaders of evangelical churches could not agree as to what the message of the Gospel really is.

Dear church, I hope you understand that *we have got to get the Gospel right* or we might as well just close up shop. Because it is the Gospel that is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. My prayer this morning is that God would open our eyes and help us see truth as Jesus begins to nail down for us why He has come and what His Gospel really is here in Mark 8:27-33!

Resting in Him Through the Gospel!

Pastor Scott