

## The Gospel in a Postmodern World

Acts 1:2-3  
October 21, 2007

## The Exclusive Claim of the Gospel

- The missionary task
- One way

### *One Way*

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." (Jn. 14:6)

### *One Way*

"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

## The Exclusive Claim of the Gospel

- The missionary task
- One way
- The Postmodern view
- The offense of the Gospel

### *The Offense of the Gospel*

<sup>18</sup>For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And the cleverness of the clever I will set aside." <sup>20</sup>Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

### *The Offense of the Gospel*

<sup>21</sup>For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. . .

### *The Offense of the Gospel*

<sup>22</sup>For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." (1 Cor. 1:18-24)

### The Exclusive Claim of the Gospel

- The missionary task
- One way
- The Postmodern view
- The offense of the Gospel

### The Exclusive Claim of the Gospel

"Postmodernists are eager to share their beliefs with others so that people can learn from them. But as they see it, no group should attempt to convert others to their side out of a belief that they possess absolute truth. Yet this is precisely what Christians aim to do. . .

### The Exclusive Claim of the Gospel

"Therefore two questions have become important for contemporary Christians: "Why do we still hold to the uniqueness of the Christian gospel?" and, "Why do we still proclaim Christ in this pluralistic age?" [Fernando]

### The Objective Foundation of the Gospel

- Christ's death and resurrection
- The postmodern view of truth

### *The Source of Truth*

- Modernism: an objective, factual basis for belief
- Existentialism: significance in personal experience rather than objective fact
- Postmodernism: rejects any claim to absolute truth

### *Response to the Christian Faith*

- Modernism: false superstitions to be disproved
- Existentialism: Irrational, but a possible source for meaningful experiences
- Postmodernism: an arrogant claim to absolute truth

### The Objective Foundation of the Gospel

- Christ's death and resurrection
- The postmodern view of truth
- The influence of postmodernism
- Reaching postmodern people

### The Objective Foundation of the Gospel

"The challenge for us today is to find the means of proclaiming the objective truths of Christianity in ways that are relevant and attractive to postmodern society. What gives us hope is the knowledge that this postmodern quest for an authentic subjective experience can be only ultimately satisfied by God through Christ."  
[Fernando]

### The Authority of the Gospel

- The Gospel of the Kingdom

### *The Gospel of the Kingdom*

"Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming **the gospel of the kingdom**, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people."  
(Mat. 4:23)

### *The Gospel of the Kingdom*

"<sup>14</sup>Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and **the kingdom of God** is at hand; **repent and believe** in the gospel.'" (Mk. 1:14-15)

### The Authority of the Gospel

- The Gospel of the Kingdom
- The postmodern view of authority
- Sharing the Gospel with postmodern people

### *Words of Life*

"<sup>66</sup>As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus said to the twelve, 'You do not want to go away also, do you?' <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.'" (Jn. 6:66-68)

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### Additional Information

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Presented at Chinese for Christ Church in Berkeley, CA

Sermon audio can be found on the church web site at <http://cfcberkeley.org/english/> (look under Equipping Ministry/Sermons)