

Don't Miss the Point! - Romans 1:1-6

When Orville and Wilbur Wright finally flew their homemade airplane in the air for 59 seconds, outside of Kitty Hawk, NC on December 17, 1903, they immediately sent a telegram to their sister in Dayton, Ohio. It read, "*First sustained flight today, 59 seconds. Hope to be home by Christmas.*" Their sister was so excited; she rushed to the local newspaper office and gave the telegram to the editor. The next morning, the headline read, "*Popular bicycle merchants to be home for the holidays.*"

That editor missed the point didn't he? He missed the great news story that was right under his nose. The same thing often happens with the Gospel. The word "*Gospel*" means "*Good News.*" It is the message of salvation that God has for us in Jesus Christ. But so many times, people read it, or hear it and they miss the point. They might hear it in Sunday School or VBS, or hear a preacher preach it from the pulpit, or children can even go through a whole year of Awana club, where the Bible is read and memorized, and miss the point. They've heard the Gospel, but might not have a clue why it is Good News. Now that would be a shame don't you think?

But the Gospel is the best news that anyone could ever hear.

When Paul wrote his letter to the Romans, he didn't want them to miss the point. He wanted them to understand and experience that Good News. Let's talk about it for a few minutes. First:

1. Where does the Good News come from? (1)

Paul says in vs. 1 that it is "*the gospel of God.*" It is not my gospel or this church's gospel, but it is God's gospel. The good news is from God Himself! I, as a preacher of the gospel, am simply a messenger boy. Your Awana teachers are messengers of the Lord who have been called to share the good news with you.

That is an awesome responsibility – to tell others the Good News. And we do it through sharing the Word of God, which contains the Good News of the salvation Jesus offers through His death and resurrection. Now that is not something we have made up, it's not some church tradition we are passing down, it is the truth God has revealed to us through His Word.

Our purpose as Christians here at Sonoraville is to share that good news. Don't miss that point! Yes, we like to do other things like play games and do crafts, and go on fun outings, but we do all that so we can better share the good news. We share the good

news through programs like Awana, Sunday School, Children's Church, Youth Groups, Choirs, Missions and Worship.

When you think of Sonoraville Baptist Church, we don't want you to only think of us as a friendly church, or a church that likes to have a lot of dinners, we want you to think of us as a church that takes the Bible seriously, and lives the Bible seriously. We want to treat this Book as the very Words of God, because it is. Secondly,

2. What is the Good News? (3-4)

Well, the good news is more of a "*who*" than a "*what*." The Good News is about Jesus Christ. **READ 3-4**

It's about the man born in Bethlehem, but grew up in Nazareth where He worked as a carpenter. It's about the man who for 3 years dedicated His life to minister to people, to preach the truth of God, and teach a small band of disciples. It's about a man, who at age 33 was crucified by the Roman government. Those are the facts about Jesus, but there is more to Jesus than that.

Jesus of Nazareth was really Jesus the Messiah, Jesus the Christ; the Son of David, and the Son of God. The only begotten of God the Father. The Savior and the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Because of who Jesus is, and because of His death on the cross, people could be set free from the bondage and penalty of sin. Jesus came to offer people a hope and joy greater than anyone could ever imagine. Jesus is Good News! But there's more!

Vs. 4 says that Jesus "*was declared the Son of God with power by His resurrection from the dead.*" The fact that Jesus rose from death and is alive today, makes Him unique among all the other religious leaders. The resurrection of Jesus is Good News because it lets us know that when you choose to follow Jesus, you are making the right choice.

Jesus is the Gospel. Of all the other topics I could preach about, nothing would be any more important than the death and resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Why? Because, no matter what problem people are facing, whether it is terrorist threats, sickness, family problems, or financial problems, Jesus Christ is the Good News who can help the most. He might not solve all your problems, but He will sure make life worth living even in the midst of them. Jesus Christ is Good News.

3. What does the Good News do? (5-6)

Vs. 5 talks about the obedience of faith. That means, as people put their faith in Jesus or trust and obey Jesus, the gospel brings glory to God. You see, although the gospel is for people, it is all about God. And He is honored, as people become part of His family. The Bible says, “*Whosoever will may come.*” That includes everybody, no matter what color your skin is, how much money you have, how old, how young, how pretty, how ugly, how rich or how poor you are, everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be accepted into God’s forever family. And being in God’s family means your life is changed forever. It means that as long as your alive on earth, you can live in peace and joy. But more importantly, it means after you die or leave this earth, you will live forever with God in a place called heaven.

Conclusion: The Gospel of Jesus Christ is Good News from God because it’s about Jesus Christ. It’s Good News because as people trust Him, their lives, and their eternities, are changed.

So, don’t miss the point tonight. Kids, all these Bible verses you’ve been learning – they all point to the good news. And I believe that there are some of you here who need to respond to the Good News by receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. You

realize that there’s something you need, something missing in your life. Maybe you’ve done some things you’re not proud of, and you feel miserable inside, and you know you need Jesus. It doesn’t matter who you are or what you have done; it doesn’t matter how old you are or where you live; it doesn’t matter if you have been coming to this church for years or if this is your first time, if you have not accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you need to do that tonight. And we want to give you the opportunity right now.