

Sermon Notes



Speaker: Patrick Mead

10/5/25

This Is Why It Is Called Good News – part 4

Romans 5:6-11

This is a two-part sermon all done at once. To drive home how far we have moved in our view of God from that given to us by Jesus, His Son, let's look at some things Jesus never said.

"For God was so angry at the world that He gave His one and only Son to die so that He could save only the few that got it right." I think most of us know John 3:16. Let's compare the two. This one is the legitimate saying of Jesus: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish." (BTW, the use of "shall" is important. It is an imperative, the same as found in the 10 Commandments)

"By this will all men know that you are my disciples, that you have correct theology, worshiped correctly, sang the right hymns in the right way, and were baptized exactly right." Most of us know that Jesus did not say that, nor did he teach any part of it. Why, then, do most churches teach at least part of this, requiring it as a mark of membership in their faith community? What Jesus actually said was "By this will all men know that you are my disciples, that you love one another." John 13:35

"If anyone would come after me, let him defend his church against all others." No, Jesus said, "If any man would follow me, let him take up HIS cross and follow me." We were never told to lay crosses or burdens on other people. While Christianity is a community religion, we have individual directives such as judging only ourselves, carrying our cross, sharing OUR goods, etc.

"If you love me, you will submit to the leaders of your church." There is nothing wrong with submitting to church leadership if they are not leading you away from Jesus or getting in the way of Jesus or, worse, thinking that whatever they say may as well have come from Jesus. Instead, Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." (John 14:15) And what were those commandments? Matthew 22:36-40.

"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in heaven after the earth has been burned up and destroyed." No, Jesus said, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN." (Matthew 6:10) Heaven is not a "thing that comes later over there" but a kingdom that is to be here, now, and grow until it covers the earth. Heaven IS there, but it is also being grown here. (Physics tells us there is room for both)

"You have heard it said, love your neighbor, which means the people whose culture and politics match yours." No, He said to love not only our neighbors, but also our enemies and that love was an active love, not some general, fuzzy philosophy. (Matthew 5:43-48)

"In my Father's house are many rooms, but not nearly as many rooms as there will be in hell." Jesus said he had room for us. (John 14:1-6) In fact, he said not to worry about heaven running out of room.

"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you a checklist of things to do and not to do in order to remain in God's favor." No, Jesus never said that, either. He said (Matthew 11:28-30).

The Bible also never said, "He appeared to his disciples over a period of 40 days and spoke about how to incorporate his life and teaching into a 501(c)3, and go into all the earth building megachurches in His name." We are a 501(c)3 because the law requires it, and we follow the law to the letter. It also allows you to deduct your contributions to us. We did not start OSHC to be a denomination that would spread its name and put it on buildings all over the world. We started here and said from the earliest days that we are not your brain, we are merely a heart pumping out Jesus. What you do with Jesus is up to you and Him.

Let's switch the subject entirely and do a case study. We will stay mainly in that strangest NT book, Revelation. (There would be an interesting contest to pick the strangest one in the OT. My vote would be for Ezekiel.)

Revelation 1:4-5. These "kings of the earth" will appear another seven times in this book. We see the kings of the earth hiding in the caves and rocks of the mountains (Rev. 6:15), kings of the earth who commit terrible acts of immorality (Rev. 17:2), kings of the earth who are controlled by a great and evil city (Rev. 17:18; 18:3; 18:9), and kings of the earth who form an army against God (Rev. 19:19). If anyone is going to face hell, it would have to be these kings of the earth!

It looks like they get what they deserve in Revelation 19:21 when they are killed with the sword which proceeds from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, aka, Jesus.

It seems that's that. The bad guys got their punishment. But...wait...Revelation will mention them one more time. In Revelation 21:22-24. Wait...what? The kings of the earth, after being punished, after being killed, are there in the city of God, bringing their gifts and splendor into it.

The Psalmist told us this would happen – twice! Psalm 72:11 and 138:4.

Jesus said, in Revelation 21:5, I am making everything new. Write this down for these words are trustworthy and true.

He has already made all things new and will continue to do so after our lives end. Let us listen to Paul and rejoice. Romans 5:6-11