

I Believe, Therefore I Speak

Sunday, July 22nd, 1984

2 Corinthians 4:13

“We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak.”

Perhaps it is providential; I do not know, but I have prepared this message and I want you to listen carefully. I pray that the Holy Spirit of God will be pleased to bless this message to your heart.

It really doesn't mean anything who the preacher is; God Almighty can use any man to preach His Gospel; the truth is here and that is important. We must have the Spirit of the living God to preach the gospel; *“the flesh profiteth nothing; it is the spirit that quickeneth.”* It is the Spirit of God that gives life.

I want to speak to you today on this subject: **“I DO BELIEVE, AND THEREFORE I SPEAK.”** Here is our text: I am reading from 2nd Corinthians chapter 4:13. Paul writes here, *“we having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed and therefore have I spoken; we also believe and therefore we speak.”*

Several years ago I preached a message but I don't remember where it was. After the service I was standing back by the door and the people were leaving the church building.

A man came by and took me by the hand and in all seriousness, he looked me in the eye and said; *“Do you really believe what you are preaching?”* I hesitated a moment and then with the same seriousness and with the same strength of purpose I said to him; *“yes sir, I do; I believe what I am preaching.”*

This is what Paul is saying here right in our text; he is quoting David from Psalm 116:10. David said, *“I believe and therefore have I spoken.”* Paul is saying the same thing, he said; *“I believe.”*

That is what the man was asking me, he said; *“Do you really believe what you are preaching, do you really believe it?”* I said, *“Yes sir; I do; I really believe it; “I believe and therefore have I spoken.”*

I quote from David and Paul both from the Old Testament; Psalm 116:10. David said, *“I believe and therefore have I spoken.”* The apostle Paul in 2nd Corinthians 4:13 says; *“we*

having the same spirit of faith (according as David wrote); I believe and therefore have I spoken; I also believe and therefore I speak.”

Actually, a man who does not believe God in his own heart, a man who does not believe the Word of God in his own heart has no right or reason to speak on spiritual matters. He has no right to speak, no cause to speak, or no reason to speak.

He should be silent for the Scripture says; *“The things of God knoweth no man, (no natural man), but the spirit of God. Now, we have received the spirit which is of God that we may know the things which are freely given to us of God, which things also, we speak.”* These things, we believe them, but we believe them not because of natural wisdom, because *“the natural man receiveth not the things of God; they are foolishness to him, neither can he know them; they are spiritually understood.”*

“The things of God knoweth no man but the spirit of God.” We have received the Spirit of God and He has taught us the things that are freely given to us of God, *“which things also we speak. I believe, therefore I speak.”*

You might say, “What do you believe?” I don’t want to frighten you by telling you how many points I have today. I want you to listen to each of them as they unfold.

First of all: I believe that the Bible is the Word of God.

I will tell you how strongly I believe that. I believe that the Bible is infallible and I know the meaning of the word. The Bible is inerrant, (without error). It is unbroken and it is verbally the inspired Word of Almighty God.

“Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit and all Scripture, (Old and New Testament, Genesis to Revelation); all Scripture is given by inspiration of God.” In other words, it is God breathed. I believe that and *“therefore I speak.”*

The Bible is the Word of God. I have heard men say, “The Bible contains the Word of God.” The Bible does contain direct quotations from God, direct commandments from God. God Himself is speaking and Christ our Lord is speaking.

The Bible is the Word of God; it is the inspired Word of God. Furthermore, the Bible is our only rule of faith and practice. Every man must bow and submit his wisdom to the Word of God and I mean in all things.

Isaiah wrote in Chapter 8:20; *“If any speak not according to this word (the Scriptures) it is because there is no light in him.”* If any man declares and contends for anything that does not appear in the Word of God, it is because there is no light in them.

“The heavens (and the creation) declare the glory of God, (the power of God and the majesty of God).” Listen to me; but only the Scriptures, only the Word of God, and only through the Word of God, can any man know the redemptive character of God.

You can't know who God is. You can't know God's will. You cannot know God's character, purpose and decrees. You can only know God as they are revealed in His Word. The Word is imperative, absolutely essential. Apart from the Word of God, *“no man knows God.”* I believe that the Bible is the Word of God, *“therefore I speak.”*

Second: Then, I believe my friend, that God created the heavens and the earth.

I have no doubt in my mind about that. I believe that God created all things. In Hebrews 11:3 it says; *“through faith we understand the worlds were framed by the Word of God. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*

You are welcome to the many theories of evolution or whatever you want to believe. I will tell you this; it is impossible for you to believe evolution and believe God; you can't do it.

I use to say that you can't believe evolution and believe the Bible. I will be a little stronger than that today. I thought this through carefully; you can't believe evolution and believe God; you have made God a liar if you believe that man came from an animal.

God says plainly *“He created them, male and female. He created them in His own image.”* He said, *“All things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made.”* That is the Word of God; *“I believe that, and therefore, I have spoken.”*

Third: I believe that God created man in His own image, *“holy and upright.”*

The Scripture says *“God formed man from the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and he became a living soul. He created them male and female and he made them upright and holy and they sought out many inventions.”*

God made Adam, not an infant, but a full-grown man. He was not an imbecile or a caveman. Adam was a genius created in the image of God. God brought Adam the

animals and had him name each one of them. The name he gave them is the name that they bear right now.

God gave man great power, great wisdom, and great dominion, *“dominion over the whole earth. He gave man power over the fowls of the air, the fish of the sea, and the beasts of the forest.”*

He made a covenant with man; He made a law with man and said, *“Multiply and replenish the earth.”* He said, *“Subdue the earth, have dominion over the earth but there is one tree in the midst of the garden; do not eat of it lest you die.”*

I asked my Bible school class this morning what kind of tree it was. A little boy said it was an apple tree. I asked him where he learned that. He said that he didn't know. It is not in the Scripture; we don't know what kind of tree it was.

We do know this and must understand that man was great but God was greater. We must understand that man was a king but God is King of kings. We have to know that man has power, dominion, and wisdom, but God is greater.

Man is in subjection to God. That covenant was made with man to test his willingness to remain in subjection to the living God. That tree was symbolic; though a man was great, God is greater.

Though man is powerful, God is more powerful and almighty. Though man is a king, he is still in subjection to God. God made a covenant with him; He said, *“do not eat thereof, lest you die. I believe, therefore, I have spoken.”*

I believe that man fell, that he did not abide long in that perfect state. But like Satan of old, his heart was lifted up with pride. Somehow, he was tempted and tested by Satan. He listened to the voice of Satan and he listened to the voice of Eve.

Here was the proposition of Satan; *“you will be like God.”* Satan said, *“I will exalt my throne above the stars of God. I will exalt my throne into the sides of the north. I will be like God.”* That is how he appealed to Adam and Eve; he said, *“You will be like God.”*

“When man saw that the tree was pleasing to the eye, to the taste, and desired to make one wise,” he took the forbidden fruit and he fell from his holy state. He fell into death, darkness, and sin. He died spiritually. Although Adam continued to live over 800 years physically, he still died, nevertheless, spiritually.

Adam knew fear. He never knew fear before. A holy, perfect, man knows no fear. *“Perfect love casteth out fear.”* He ran from God.

He knew shame; a perfect man knows no shame. A holy man knows no shame. Adam knew shame; he was naked.

Adam knew hate. A perfect, holy, man, knows no hate; he is perfect love as his God is. Adam said, *“The woman you gave me, it is her fault.”* The king is now a slave of sin. The prince is now a pauper. The holy man is now unholy. The living man is a dead man spiritually and a dying man physically. Adam fell, that is what the Scripture teaches.

The evolutionist teaches that man was created low and is climbing up. The Bible teaches and God says that man was created in perfection and came down. By the redeemer, by the purpose of God and the grace of God, man is restored to perfection in redemption and in salvation.

Fourth: I believe that Adam was not only an individual person or private person but he was a representative of all men. This is what the Scripture teaches (his story is my story). What happened to him happened to me.

You see, God only created one man and He created all men in that one man. Even Eve was not taken from the dust; she was taken from the side of Adam. Adam was a representative of all men. When he stood the whole human race stood. That is what the Scripture teaches.

When Adam sinned, the whole race sinned. When Adam fell the whole race fell. When Adam died the whole race died. Listen to these words in Roman 5 and 1 Corinthians 15; *“by one man sin entered the world and death by sin, so death passed upon all men for all sinned.”* When Adam sinned, we sinned. *“By one man’s disobedience, many were made sinners. In Adam all died. By man came death.”*

You see, there are two Adam’s, two representative persons. There is the first Adam and the second Adam. The word Adam means man, red earth, and one taken from the red earth. It means man. *“The first Adam is of the earth, earthy. The second Adam (man) is the Lord from heaven.”* In Adam we die and in Christ we are made alive.

“By man came death and by man came the resurrection. As we bore the image of the earthy, (the first Adam) we shall bear the image of the heavenly (the second Adam).” That is what the Scripture teaches. This is representation, imputation, and substitution.

When Adam fell the whole race fell. Therefore sin, death, judgment, and condemnation, (as you read Romans 5), passed upon all men from father to son, from father to son, and on down the line. All darkness, disease, death, and damnation were brought into the world and upon the sons of Adam by Adam's fall.

Being born of Adam, we were born in sin. *"I believe, therefore, I have spoken."* That is what the Scripture teaches. You cannot reject imputed guilt and have imputed righteousness. The Scripture says in Romans 5:19; *"by one man's disobedience the many were made sinners. So, by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."*

Here is the good news, *"but God."* We have a black picture; we have a race plunged into darkness. We have a race plunged into death. We have a race plunged into a broken will in bondage. We have a race plunged into helplessness without hope, without God.

"But God;" here is the good news. The good news is eternal life in Christ Jesus. *"This is the record; God hath given us eternal life and this life is in His Son."* *"But God!"* We were wretched sinners, rebels, traitors, and were shaking our fists in the face of God.

We were lifting our hands against God and seeking to dethrone God, *"but God who is rich in mercy for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sin, hath quickened us together with Christ."*

In Romans 5:8, *"But God commended His love toward us that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* The good news is not found in us it is found in God. We didn't do anything but remain in our dead state, remain in our darkness, and lie in our spiritual grave.

"But God;" He did something. We didn't love Him, He loved us. We didn't choose Him, He chose us. We didn't come to Him, He came to us. We didn't call on Him, He called on us.

We didn't purpose a plan, God purposed it. *"He determined to have a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness."* It will be, He said; *"I purposed it and it will be."*

God has purposed to redeem a people from this fallen race *"out of every tribe, kindred, and nation, under heaven."* He is going to populate glory with the people who are just like His Son. Every one of them is going to be like Christ.

All of this work is going to be done in a way that will glorify God and give Him all the praise and will be in keeping with His holiness, His justice, His mercy, and His love. *“I believe that, and therefore, I have spoken.”*

There is no need to apologize for God; God doesn't need my apology nor does He need my defense; I need His defense. *“I believe, therefore I speak.”*

I want you to listen to me; I believe that this purpose to redeem and this covenant of grace, actually preceded that covenant of works. This purpose to redeem, actually, was planned and purposed before man ever fell, before God ever created the old heavens, He purposed to have a new heaven and a new earth.

Before He created Adam, He purposed to redeem a people out of that fallen race. You see; this salvation in Jesus Christ was in the heart and will of God before He made the world and before man fell.

That is what the Scripture says; listen while you are wondering where I got this; *“Jesus Christ is the lamb slain before the foundation of the world,”* before the foundations of the world were ever laid. Christ was the Lamb slain in the mind and purpose of God.

Listen; *“God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation.”* God chose us in Christ before the foundations of the world were ever laid. Again, He said; *“Known unto God are all His works from the beginning.”*

Again God says, *“I will declare the end from the beginning and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying my council will stand; I will do all my pleasure.”*

Adam fell; nothing takes God by surprise. Adam sinned; nothing takes God by surprise. Before man stood on this earth and before he was ever tried and tested as some say “on probation before he lifted his hand against God, before he fell,” God ordained to save a people out of Adam's race.

“He took not on himself the nature of angels but He took on himself the seed of Abraham” or the nature of the sons of Adam. I believe that and the Scripture teaches that. There is no need to apologize for God.

We are not in the business of apologizing; we are in the business of proclaiming. We are not in the business of explaining God either. You might want me to explain that; God didn't send me to explain Him, He sent me to proclaim Him and preach Him.

I believe that Adam fell and Almighty God made the first announcement of redemption that very day, that very day that Adam was wallowing in his sins. He ran and hid from God and covered his nakedness with a fig-leaf apron of self-righteousness.

God made an announcement. He didn't have to call a council meeting in heaven. The council had already met. God said, "*The seed of woman is going to bruise the serpent's head.*" The seed of woman is the virgin born son of God.

Then God slew an animal and covered Adam with coats of skin. The innocent had to die to cover the guilty. That is a picture of Christ dying for our sins.

All through the Old Testament God illustrated the person and work of Christ the Lamb of God. When those two boys (Cain and Abel) came to bring their sacrifices or sin-offerings before God, one of them brought the works of the flesh; he brought the efforts and merits of his accomplishments.

The other brought the blood of the lamb, the firstling of the flock. He slew it and put the blood on the altar. This was picturing the Lamb of God dying on Calvary's cross.

God delivered Israel out of Egypt and told them to "*kill a lamb, put the blood on the door, and when I see the blood I will pass over you.*"

Through the Book of Leviticus God gave the tabernacle where He met man and where man met Him. He gave the atonement as the great, old, high priest, took the blood of the lamb. He went under the veil, into the holy of holies, and put the blood on the mercy seat of glory covering the broken law. That is a picture of Christ!

All the way through the Old Testament He lifted up a Brazen Serpent, smote a rock, sent a David, and sent a Melchisedek. He did all of these things picturing to us the person and work of His dear Son, our great substitute and Saviour Jesus Christ, who was ordained of God to be our Saviour before the world ever began.

Before there was a sinner there was a substitute; before there was a covenant of works there was a covenant of grace; before there was a fall there was a Saviour designated and ordained to restore men's souls. Yes sir; I believe that, and that is what God's Word teaches.

I believe this also; "*In the fullness of time, at the exact time on God's clock, God sent forth into this world His beloved Son, "made of a woman."* Jesus Christ is God

Almighty.; *“He is the express image of God.”* He is the revelation of God, the Word of God and is equal with God.

He came into this world, He who made woman, was made of a woman. It was under His law in which He was made *“to redeem them that were born under the law.”*

He was born lowly and earned His living by the sweat of His brow. He fulfilled every jot and tittle of God’s law, the Levitical law, the moral law, the civil law, the law of the home and every other law that God Almighty has in His Word, *“in every jot and tittle.”* He said, *“I didn’t come to destroy the law; I came to fulfill it.”*

You see, this salvation, this restoration for men of Adam’s race, purposed and planned by God, has to be in keeping with God’s holy character. The law was given to man and to be accepted of God, man has to keep it.

We can’t keep it. I don’t have the ability to keep it. We do not have the strength or power to keep it. We do not have the life to keep it but Christ can and did. As a man, He fulfilled it and then in the body He went to the cross and all of our sins were laid on Him. He died as our sin-offering, sacrifice, and our substitute.

He paid all the debt that I owe. He honored God’s holy law and He fully and completely satisfied God Almighty’s justice. That is what He came to do. He said, *“Thou shalt call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sin.”* He did this effectually, sufficiently, in keeping with, and in honoring of God’s holy law and justice.

Now; *“I believe this, therefore I speak;”* I believe that salvation from sin for any man, whether you are a drunk, gambler, blasphemer, harlot, or whatever you are; salvation from sin and eternal life is yours by faith in Jesus Christ.

It is not by religion and not by works but by looking to Christ. That is what the Scripture teaches. *“He that believeth on the Son hath life and He that believeth not the Son shall not see life but the wrath of God abideth on him.”*

“Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord, (out of distress, out of need, shall call on His name), shall be saved.” *“How are they going to call on Him in whom they have not believed and how are they going to believe in Him of whom they have not heard? How are they going to hear unless someone tells the truth; “I believe and therefore I have spoken.”*

I believe that Christ died for our sins. He was buried and rose again. His resurrection is the receipt that God gave to this whole world and this whole universe that He accepted what Christ paid.

Christ paid it and He was buried as our scapegoat and He arose again as our justifier. That resurrection says, (God's name is stamped on the receipt); paid in full and I am satisfied. "Come up here and sit down." He said to His Son, "*Sit down on my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.*"

"He is the only Mediator between God and men. All that the Father hath given him shall come to Him." God is going to have a people. He is going to save them out of a sinful race, folks like me and you. Why not you and why not me?

Christ is coming again. "*There's going to be a new heaven and a new earth and unto them who look for Him will He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*" Every believer in Christ can stand and challenge heaven, earth, and hell.

"Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect; it is God who justifieth? Who is He that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God who also maketh intercession for us. If God be for us who can be against us? Who can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord?"

We can have confidence in that Gospel; that is good news. It is not some thing that you are doing for God. God doesn't need anything you can do; "*in the flesh no man can please God.*" It is something that God does for you!