

Living the Gospel:

Applying the good news to our lives & the church's life

...to the End

May 26, 2013

I. The gospel is from the beginning...to the end

- A. We are first made aware of the gospel when God searches for Adam and Eve in the garden after they sin.
- B. Also, as he provides a covering for their shame.
- C. We see glimpses of the gospel throughout scripture, all the way through to the end.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." (Revelation 1:8)

II. Death and resurrection was the plan all along

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (John 19:28-30)

- A. Jesus' death was a fulfillment of a prophesied plan.
- B. "It is finished," doesn't mean "It is over." It means that all has been accomplished — fulfilled.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. (1 Corinthians 15:20-26)

- C. The good news: In Christ we are made alive. Death has been defeated!

III. Again, the gospel is from the beginning...to the end

"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." (Revelation 22:12-13)

IV. This has implications for us!

- A. Are you made alive in Christ?
- B. Are you living a life as one who is alive, or as one who fears death?
- C. Are you living as if Jesus is coming soon?
- D. How does that effect your witness?