What is the gospel? It is the story of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible.

1 Corinthians 15:1-5 (ESV) Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

The true gospel involves us as missionaries sharing Christ with others faithfully and taking care of those in need compassionately.

"Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter." -Spurgeon

1. As missionaries we must proclaim the true gospel faithfully.

   • Preservation - We must protect the purity of Gospel as we reach different cultures.

   A. Jerusalem: A Historical Meeting

   Galatians 2:1-2 (ESV) Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain.

   B. Titus: A Test Case on Preservation

   Galatians 2:3 (ESV) But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek.

   C. What about Timothy? - Adaptation

   The issue is that it is ok to adapt to culture, so long as we 1) don’t sin, and 2) the Gospel message is not changed.

   1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (ESV) To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

   1 Corinthians 9:27 (ESV) But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.
D. False Brothers: Changing the Message

Galatians 2:4-5 (ESV) Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

Matthew 23:15 (ESV) Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.

- Stewardship - Deliver the True Gospel

Galatians 2:6-7 (ESV) And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me. On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised

- Empowerment – Rely on God’s power

- Partnership – Unite with others in spreading the Gospel

Galatians 2:9 (ESV) and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

2. As missionaries, we must take care of those in need compassionately.

Galatians 2:10 (ESV) Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

- Unity – The Apostles agreed on the need to care for the poor

Galatians 6:10 (ESV) So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

- Priority – The Apostles placed care for the poor right after the purity of the Gospel!

“Next to the proclamation of the Gospel it is the task of a good pastor to be mindful of the poor.”

- Martin Luther

Proverbs 31:8-9 (ESV) Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously,

Proverbs 31:20 (ESV) She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.

Proverbs 3:27 (ESV) Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.

Proverbs 21:13 (ESV) Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered.
• **Eagerness** – Paul said that this was not a burden, but something that he was thrilled to do!

• **Motive** – The Apostles were motivated by their observance of the life of Jesus, and their understanding of the gospel itself.

  A. Compassion flows from one who understands the life and ministry of Jesus.

  B. Compassion flows from one who has been changed by the Gospel of grace.

**Matthew 5:3 (ESV)** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**2 Corinthians 8:9 (ESV)** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

**What motivates a love for the poor?** An understanding of grace.

“Only if you see that you have been saved graciously by someone who owes you the opposite will you go out into the world looking to help absolutely anyone in need.” - Tim Keller