

# BROAD STREET

## BANNER



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### *From Where I Sit . . .*

#### **“The Gospel: Antique But Not Antiquated” – Part Two**

In our last **“Thoughts From The Bible,”** we ended by suggesting the Gospel of Christ was sufficient in the First Century to lay sin bare and perform a needed surgery on the hearts of men. It reached men of all levels, and all kinds of sins. Not a sin was missed. We want you to see that the Gospel of Christ is indeed “Antique” but that it is in no way “Antiquated.” Our next question is **“Does that Gospel meet the needs of Twenty-First Century man?”** To answer that question we must look fairly at four other questions.

First, **“Has man changed?”** The answer is a resounding “No!” Human nature has not experienced any alteration. We may be convinced that we are more sophisticated, and certainly more enlightened, but in reality, man is basically thinking the same kinds of thoughts he was thinking in the days of Plato and Socrates, and centuries before them. Our physical nature is the same. Hunger, thirst, fleshly impulses continue. No one argues that we need a new sun because our physical needs for this sun are the same as always. By the same token, man still has certain spiritual needs that he longs to have satisfied: Namely, **Peace of mind**, an answer to the problem of guilt over sins; **Assurance** in the midst of so many changes; **Purpose in living**; and **Hope in dying**. These apply to both the old and young alike, today just like yesterday!

Then we must ask, **“Has the world itself changed?”** It’s true that the veneer may have changed, but the heart of the world is still the same. Men still rob and prey upon one another for gain. Materialism has always been a problem. **1 John 2:15-17 (NKJV)** <sup>15</sup>**“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** <sup>16</sup>**For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world.** <sup>17</sup>**And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”** So, the world about many may have changed its appearance, but it is the same world at heart.

**“Perhaps the disease has changed?”** It appears that to some individuals sin is not so “sinful” today as it once was. God’s Word, however, is still relevant because sin is the same in nature. It’s just as biting, just as degrading, as ever. Paul said in **Gal. 6:7**, **“For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”** That rule is just as timely as this morning’s newspaper. Suffering and sorrowing are still the result of the wrong kind of sowing. Modern man has added no new sin to the catalog. You cannot name a moral evil which is not included in the New Testament. If you think some sins are more modern, re-read **Romans 1:18-32** and **Galatians 6:19-21**. No old sin has ceased to be practiced; No new sin has been invented. The ailment was fully developed before God prescribed the remedy. The fact that certain sins are no longer frowned on by society does not lessen the serious consequences of sin! The wages of sin is still death, **Romans 6:23**.

Last in our questions, **“Has our adversary changed?”** Ladies and gentlemen, the devil is not a creature limited to ancient times. He was extremely effective with Eve, and with Pharaoh, and Judas, and with all the ancient ones. We were well warned in **1 Pet. 5:8** to **“be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, walketh about like a roaring lion seeking who he may devour.”** But the Gospel was effective against sin in those days gone by, and it remains the only sword which can put the devil to flight today. While we think of ourselves as living in a changing world, the changes are really only on the surface, as we have seen, and therefore we do not need a new remedy. Many marvelous changes have been made in the last hundred years, and especially so in the past 1900 years; but the Gospel is still the same. We need the same facts, the same commands, the same warnings, and the same promises as did those who first heard the sweet story of salvation in that ancient world!

. . . Terry Broome