

The Gospel

“Good News!”

- Bonus?
- Clean bill of health?
- Favorite dessert?
- Baby?

Most people do not rise above this level

I. What is the gospel?

Gospel: “good news” (100x in NT)

- Glad tidings of Christ and His salvation
- The record of these glad tidings

Saxon: ‘God’s spell’

Spell < *spellian*, to tell

Gospel: “good news”

1. Secular: announce good news.

- Always in context of joy, usually over victory and peace.
- Overthrow of tyrant, recovery of liberty, winning election, birth of child...
- “They wanted to crown me for the good news” – Aristophanes.

Gospel: “good news”

2. Old Testament: 2 Sm.18:31 –

- Just then the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, “There is good news, my lord the king! For the LORD has avenged you this day of all those who rose against you.”
- Rescue from Absalom’s slaughter

Gospel: “good news”

3. New Testament: Mark 1:1 –

- “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ.”
 - Promised in Isaiah...
 - John comes baptizing...in fulfillment.

Synonyms: we preach...

1. Christ. 2 Co.4:5 –

- “For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bond-servants for Jesus’ sake.”

Synonyms: we preach...

2. Faith. Gal.1:11, 23 –

- “But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man But they were hearing only, “He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy.”

Synonyms: we preach...

3. Doctrine. 1 Tim.1:10-11 –

- “...for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God ...”
- Doctrine and gospel are the same

Gospel is “good news”

1 Th.3:6, “But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love...”

- ‘Good news’ is misunderstood
- Apostles preached gospel to sinners **and** saints – Ro.1¹, Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God ... ⁷ to all who are in Rome ... ¹⁵ I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also...

Gospel is “good news”

- Ro.16²⁵ Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ...
 - **Establish:** strengthen
 - **You:** Christians
 - **According to my gospel:** as the gospel declares

Gospel of . . .

- God
- Jesus Christ
- His Son
- Kingdom
- Grace of God
- Glory of Christ
- Peace
- Eternal gospel

Each views
gospel from
different angle
... but it's all
ONE gospel

We cannot manufacture good news

Atheists offer hope?

Nothingness has neither desire nor expectation.

Denominations pervert gospel.

...apostolic age “there was but one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, and no differing denominations existed... Now it is different”

– Hiscox, p. 22.

I. What is the gospel?

II. When is gospel in effect?

What about the thief on the cross?

What about the rich young ruler?

- Hb.9¹⁶ For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. ¹⁷ For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.
- After death, too late. Lk.16

I. What is the gospel?

II. When is gospel in effect?

III. Why is gospel necessary?

Only the gospel (God's word)
has power to save souls

Mt.4:1-11, three quotes send satan packing.

Lk.8:11, the seed is the word of God.

Natural and Supernatural law:
seed ¹reproduces ²after its kind.

Written word || spoken word

Jn.20:30-31 . . .

Jesus spoke, did signs

John wrote them that we may believe

I. What is the gospel?

II. When is gospel in effect?

III. Why is gospel necessary?

IV. What must I do with it?

1. Obey it

Ro.6¹⁷, But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

Ro.10¹⁶, But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, LORD, who has believed our report?

2. Spread it

1 Co.9¹⁶, “For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel”

Paul must preach

His sincerity is seen in preaching the gospel without charge

3. Defend it

Ph.1¹⁶, “I am appointed for the defense of the gospel”

Appointed: “I am in prison for the sake of Christ”

- We defend ourselves against injuries...
 - Chain saw...
 - Methodist creed: faith only...
 - What about music in church?

3. Defend it

Ph.1¹⁶, “I am appointed for the defense of the gospel”

- We defend ourselves against injuries ...
- We defend / take precautions for important things
- We defend ourselves against false doctrine

3. Defend it

Even those who practice religious error can state truth.

R. Catholic, Cardinal Gibbons, *Faith of our Fathers*: “This attribute or note of the Church implies that the true Church must always teach the identical doctrines once delivered by the apostles.”

3. Defend it

Liguorian tract, *How Old is Your Church?*

“If you are a Roman Catholic, you know that your religion was founded in the year 33 by Jesus Christ the Son of God, and that it has not changed since that time.” – Really??

Where in the Bible can we find . . .

- ‘Catholic Church,’ pope, Cardinal, Metropolitan, Abbott, Vicar, Mother Superior, Legate, Rector, Holy Orders, Monk, Nun, holy water, sprinkling for baptism, baptism of children . . .??

4. Suffer for it bravely

Ph.1¹⁶, “supposing to add affliction to my chains...”

Paul imprisoned because of sinister Jews / Romans . . . even worse: despised by some brethren