

Good News For Everyone

1 Corinthians, Vol. 32

HBC 4/29/20

1 Corinthians 15:12

On Sunday we visited the definitive paragraph in the New Testament concerning what it means that we preach **the gospel**. This message is a shotgun approach to all the ways “gospel” is used in the New Testament, and how it connects to “the Scriptures.” How would a first-century reader of the New Testament understand the word “gospel?”

The Greek word is *euaggelion* (noun) and *euaggelizomai* (verb). The noun literally means **good news** or **good announcement** and the verb literally means **proclaim good news**. By the time Paul wrote to the believers in Corinth, the word **gospel** was well-understood as the **good news of what King Jesus accomplished**. The content of the **gospel** we preach is that Christ died and He was raised. But don't skim past the phrase **according to the Scriptures**.

How do **the Scriptures** describe **the gospel** prior to when Jesus rose from the dead? The New Testament uses the word 100 times. The majority of the uses are from the Apostle Paul, because he was the one whom God used to most thoroughly reveal the gospel and defend it against attacks.

Luke 3:18: John the Baptist preached the Gospel **of God**.

Luke 16:16: *The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since that time **the gospel of the kingdom of God** has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.*

We know from our recent studies in Mark and 1 Corinthians, that Israel rejected their Messiah and crucified Him. Jesus told them that the kingdom was being taken from them. See Matthew 21:43.

Isaiah 52:7: *How lovely on the mountains
Are the feet of him who brings **good news**,
Who announces **peace**
And brings good news of **happiness**,
Who announces **salvation**,
And says to Zion, “Your **God reigns!**”*

The LXX translation of **brings good news** there is *euaggelizomai*. **Hang on to that** thought for later, when you see how the Apostle Paul uses that text.

There is only one gospel, but it is all these things at once (can you find the references?):

The gospel **of Jesus Christ**

The gospel **of Christ** is the same thing

The gospel **of God**

The gospel **to all nations**

The gospel **of the Kingdom of God**

The gospel **to the Samaritans**

The gospel **to the Gentiles**

The gospel **of the grace of God**

The gospel **of His Son**

The gospel which is **the power of God to salvation**

The gospel is **the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ**

The gospel is antithetical to any **different gospel**

The gospel is **not according to man**

It is **the truth of the gospel.**

It is the gospel **of your salvation**

The gospel is **the word of truth**

The good news is the gospel **of our Lord Jesus**

It is **the glorious gospel of the blessed God** with which we are entrusted

It is ***the gospel to the circumcised*** and ***to the uncircumcised***.

Paul calls it ***my gospel***, in contrast to the false versions of the Judaizers.

Romans 16:25–27: *Now to Him who is able to establish you according to **my gospel** and **the preaching of Jesus Christ**, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and **by the Scriptures** of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.*

It is ***the gospel to Abraham***, long before Moses and long before there was a nation of Israel, according to Galatians 3:8.

Galatians 3:8: *The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, **preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham**, saying, “ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU.”*

Genesis 15:6: *Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.*

James 2:23: *. . . and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,” and he was called the friend of God.*

The gospel is what grafts Gentiles into the fellowship of believers begun among the Jews who embraced Christ. This ties together God's plan for Jews and Gentiles:

Ephesians 3:1–6: *For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you; that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; to be specific, that the **Gentiles** are **fellow heirs** and **fellow members** of the body, and **fellow partakers** of the promise in Christ Jesus **through the gospel**, . . .*

The gospel **connects through David** as well:

2 Timothy 2:8: *Remember Jesus Christ, **risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel**, . . .*

Revelation 14:6: *And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having [an] **eternal gospel** to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people;*

There is one gospel, one way of salvation, the same way for every nation and tribe and tongue and people of all time. The prototype of all believers is Abraham, whose testimony in Genesis 15:6 and it echoes through every generation.

Genesis 15:6: *Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.*

Romans 3:20: . . . *because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.*

Acts 13:38–39: *Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that **through Him** [the Son] forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, **from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses**.*

Through the Law, including all those sacrifices for all those varieties of sin, **comes the knowledge of sin**. Repeating the sacrifices over and over reinforced the point day in and day out. And yet, none of those sacrifices prescribed in the Law of Moses ever set anyone free from sin. They only showed faith that God would one day bring the sacrifice which **does** set you free.

Galatians 2:16: . . . *nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.*

Everything that was promised in the Scriptures of the Old Testament, is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. The good news has always been the promise of salvation as a gift from God.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4: *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures**, and that He was buried, and that **He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures**, . . .*

The Good News—the Gospel—has always been the promise of God that He would save those who accept His free gift by faith. The gospel began as the germ of a promise to Adam, it was expanded to Abraham, expanded more through Moses, expanded through David to include an earthly kingdom, offered to Israel through John the Baptist and Jesus, and finally completed with His death and resurrection. Look how Paul connects it all:

Isaiah 52:7: *How lovely on the mountains
Are the feet of him who brings **good news**,
Who announces **peace**
And brings good news of **happiness**,
Who announces **salvation**,
And says to Zion, “Your **God reigns!**”*

Romans 10:11–15: *For the Scripture says, “**WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.**” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for “**WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.**” How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, [ISAIAH 52:7] “**HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!**”*

Conclusion: The Gospel is always the good news that God will save you by His grace. It is always the universal offer to turn to Him in faith, and by so doing, turn away from your sin. Knowing He would be rejected, God sent His Son to make the once for all offering that brings complete salvation from sin and its penalty. It's all consummated in the gospel of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It is the . . .

Gospel **of God** because God is its author
Gospel **of the Kingdom** because Jesus is the King
Gospel **of the grace of God** because God is gracious
Gospel **of His Son** because Jesus is the propitiation
Gospel **of Christ**, because He is the Messiah
Gospel **of the glory of Christ**, because He is glorious
Gospel **of peace**, because it brings peace with God

Gospel ***of your salvation***, because it is the only way
Gospel ***to the circumcision***, because it's for Jews
Gospel ***to the uncircumcision***, because it's for Gentiles
Gospel ***not according to man***, because God did it
Gospel ***which is the word of truth***
Gospel ***which gives hope***
Gospel ***of the glory of the blessed God***
The Gospel we preached to you . . .

Mark 1:14–15: *Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."*

Do you believe in the Gospel?