

The Gospel

Mk 1:1

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The word gospel is only found 17 times in the gospels but found 86 times in the rest of the New Testament.

The word Gospel is an old English word (God Spell) that means the story concerning God.

GOSPEL (gos'-pel) (to euaggelion): The word gospel is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word which meant "the story concerning God." In the New Testament the Greek word euaggelion, means "good news." It proclaims tidings of deliverance. ISBE

The meaning of the word soon came to mean that system of teaching concerning the life, death, burial, resurrection, ascension and return of Jesus Christ. This is why the accounts of Jesus' life given by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John came to be known as the 4 gospels.

Today there are any number of new meanings given to the word that have nothing to do with Jesus or the New Testament. Let us look at a couple of Bible dictionaries.

GOSPEL The gospel is the saving work of God in His Son Jesus Christ and a call to faith in Him (Rom 1:16-17). Jesus is more than a messenger of the gospel; He is the gospel. The good news of God was present in His life, teaching, and atoning death. Therefore, the gospel is both a historical event and a personal relationship. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright © 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

GOSPEL The good news of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ as provided by our Lord and preached by His disciples (1 Cor 15:1-4). The gospel then is full and free deliverance from sin on the basis of simple faith in Jesus Christ, the vicarious sin-Bearer (Eph 2:8-10). In this aspect the gospel has two phases: one, to the unsaved-Christ died for me (John 3:16; Acts 16:30-31); second, to the saved-I died in Christ (Rom 6:2-10), with a key to the experiential realization of this fact in the life furnished by Rom 6:11. (from The New Unger's Bible Dictionary. Originally published by Moody Press of Chicago, Illinois. Copyright © 1988.)

The Gospel is the message of the church, the Christian, the missionary, and the pastor. What does the message say or indicate.

- I. The Gospel has a message about us.
 - A. We are sinners in need of a Savior.
 1. The best that we can do is not good enough for God.
 - a. Isa 64:6 (NKJV) But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.
 - b. Ro 3:23 (NKJV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

2. Jesus came to save all kinds of people, even though we are not all equally sinful, we are all sufficiently sinful so as to need a Savior.
 - a. 1 Tim 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, NKJV
 - b. Luke 19:10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." NKJV
 - B. The good news is that although we are all sinners, we do not need to stay that way.
- II. The Gospel gives us a message about God.
- A. It tells us that God is holy and cannot overlook our sin.
 1. Ex 15:11 "Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders? NKJV
 2. Hab 1:12-13 Are You not from everlasting, O Lord my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O Lord, You have appointed them for judgment; O Rock, You have marked them for correction. 13 You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. NKJV
 3. Only the death of His Son was sufficient to make acceptable to God.
 - a. Heb 10:5-7 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come — In the volume of the book it is written of Me — To do Your will, O God.'" NKJV
 - B. It says that God loves us and is willing to go to great lengths toward our salvation.
 1. Jn 3:16 (NKJV) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
- III. The Gospel gives us a message about Jesus.
- A. He was willing to provide for our salvation.
 1. John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. NKJV
 - B. He came to earth and died in our place, for our sins, and was raised to life again.
 1. 2 Cor 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. NKJV
- IV. The Gospel tells us what we must do in order to be a part of Jesus.
- A. Jn 5:24 (NKJV) "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into

judgment, but has passed from death into life.

- B. Rom 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." NKJV

V. The Gospel tells everyone their future.

- A. The saved have everlasting life and will enjoy the presence of God forever.
 - 1. John 10:25-30 "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. 26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. NKJV
- B. The lost are eternally condemned and will be rewarded for their deeds.
 - 1. 2 Cor 4:3-4 3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. KJV

VI. It is the Gospel of Grace

- A. Essentially there are two gospels, the first of grace, the second of works.
 - 1. Paul calls the latter "another gospel"
 - 2. Gal 1:6-9 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. NKJV
- B. The real gospel is almost scandalous.
 - 1. It is scandalous that those who have sinned should get into the kingdom while those who have lived good moral lives will not.
 - 2. No one is beyond the Gospel of Grace.
 - 3. The most likely to miss it are those who are righteous among themselves.
 - a. Luke 18:9-14 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a

tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men — extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." NKJV