

The Good News

Introduction. The term "gospel" generally means "glad tidings" or "good news." In the New Testament it means the good tidings of the kingdom of God and of salvation through Christ, to be received by faith, on the basis of His death, burial, and resurrection.

The so-called "health and wealth" gospel that has swept through religious groups today is not offensive to the world because it offers what the world wants. The true good news is sadly unattractive, intimidating, and repulsive to the ungodly person, but the removal of the offense of the cross always renders the message ineffective. An inoffensive gospel is also an inoperative gospel. It has been said that the gospel is wounded most in the house of its friends. So we need to fearlessly investigate and proclaim the true gospel of Christ.

I. *Scriptural Designations Of The Gospel*

A. "The gospel of God."

1. References in scripture (Romans 1:1; 15:16; 2 Corinthians 11:7; 1 Thessalonians 2:2, 8-9; 1 Timothy 1:11; 1 Peter 4:17).
2. It was a proper designation because God is the ultimate source of the gospel.
 - a) It was prepared by God (1 Corinthians 2:9).
 - b) It was promised by God through the prophets (Romans 1:2).
 - c) It was once a mystery but now is revealed (Ephesians 6:19; cf. 3:1-5; Acts 5:29).

B. "The gospel of Christ."

1. References in scripture (Romans 1:9; 15:19, 29; 1 Corinthians 9:12, 18; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 9:13; 10:14; Galatians 1:7; Philippians 1:27; 1 Thessalonians 3:2).
2. It was a proper designation because Christ is the subject and life of the gospel).
 - a) "Jesus" means "Savior" so the good news concerns salvation (Matthew 1:21).
 - b) Everything Jesus did was for our salvation (Matthew 20:28; Luke 19:10).

C. "The gospel of the grace of God."

1. Reference in scripture (Acts 20:24).
2. It was a proper designation because the gospel is the medium of God's grace to man.
 - a) Grace makes salvation possible (Ephesians 2:8-9).
 - b) Grace is revealed in the word, not instilled directly in the heart (Titus 2:11-12).

- D. "The gospel of peace."
 - 1. References in scripture (Romans 10:15; Ephesians 6:15).
 - 2. It was a proper designation because it is through the gospel that man makes peace.
 - a) Peace with God (Romans 5:1).
 - b) Peace with other men (Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 2:15-18).
 - c) Peace with self (John 14:27; Colossians 3:15).
- E. "The gospel of your salvation."
 - 1. Reference in scripture (Ephesians 1:13).
 - 2. It is a proper designation because the gospel brings salvation to mankind.
 - a) It contains the "power of God to salvation" (Romans 1:16).
 - b) It generates faith essential to salvation (John 8:24; Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6).
 - c) It consists of facts, commands, and promises.
 - (1) Facts to be believed (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
 - (2) Commands to be obeyed (John 8:24; Luke 13:3; Romans 10:9; Acts 2:38).
 - (3) Promises to be enjoyed (Mark 16:16; Ephesians 1:3; Revelation 2:10).

II. **An Analysis Of Romans 1:16-17**

- A. These verses are the core of the Roman epistle, and they are the most life-transforming truths God has put into the hands of men.
- B. A summary of the book of Romans.
 - 1. The proposition stated in 1:16-17.
 - 2. The proposition argued.
 - a) The guilt of the Gentile world.
 - b) The guilt of the Jewish nation.
 - c) The guilt of all mankind and God's provision to save them.
 - d) The Old Testament proves the proposition.
 - e) A comparison and contrast of Adam and Christ.
 - f) A Christian is dead to sin and alive to Christ.
 - g) Freedom in Christ versus the bondage of the Old Law.
 - h) Walking by the flesh versus walking by the Spirit.
 - i) God has not rejected His people Israel.
 - j) Rejection due to unbelief, acceptance is upon the basis of faith.
 - k) God's plan is subject to universal application.
 - l) Practical application of God's plan in one's life.
- C. The following facts can be learned about the gospel from an analysis of the text.
 - 1. The source of the gospel.
 - a) The gospel is from God (1 Corinthians 14:37).

- (1) It was His desire that all be saved (2 Peter 3:9). Man probably would not come to that decision on his own.
- (2) He revealed His will to man to bring about man's salvation (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3).
 - (a) The source of the gospel preached by Paul and the other apostles was divine (Galatians 1:11-12).
 - (b) The Holy Spirit searched out the mind of God and revealed His will to men who then wrote it down (1 Corinthians 2:10-13; 1 Peter 1:12).
- b) Having heaven as its source sets the gospel apart (Matthew 21:23-27).
2. The nature of the gospel.
 - a) It is the "power of God."
 - (1) Power is the very essence of its quality and character (Hebrews 4:12).
 - (2) The power is from God (Psalm 29:3-9; 1 Corinthians 1:18; Hebrews 1:1-2).
 - b) For centuries the gospel has cut into the depths of the human heart.
 - (1) Those present on Pentecost are an example (Acts 2:36-37).
 - (a) They were "pricked in their heart," meaning acute emotional distress.
 - (b) This implies concern, regret, and miserable sorrow (cf. Genesis 34:7).
 - (2) The power still accomplishes the purpose of God (1 Peter 1:24-25).
3. The purpose of the gospel.
 - a) The phrase "to salvation" expresses the gospel's purpose: deliverance or rescue.
 - (1) Life and immortality have been brought to light through the gospel (2 Timothy 1:10).
 - (2) Since it is from God it can accomplish its purpose (Isaiah 55:10-11).
 - (3) The words of the Bible produce salvation (Acts 11:13-14).
 - b) Only Jesus has the words that leads to eternal life (John 6:68; Hebrews 1:1-2).
4. The scope of the gospel.
 - a) The gospel is for everyone (Acts 10:34-35; 1 Timothy 2:4).
 - b) Disciples should carry it all over the world (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15).
5. The requirements of the gospel.
 - a) Belief is the central requirement (Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:8-9). God does not first ask men to behave but to believe.

- b) Obedient faith is necessary (Romans 1:5; 16:26).
 - (1) Faith is more than a simple trust or mental acceptance.
 - (2) Commitment to Christ is displayed by obedience (John 14:15).
 - (a) How do you commit to a civic club?
 - (b) You do so by joining it and participating in its activities.
- 6. The accomplishment of the gospel.
 - a) The gospel reveals "the righteousness of God."
 - (1) It reveals God's way to justify the sinner.
 - (2) It shows God's plan for making men and women as they ought to be.
 - b) Those who accept the gospel are made righteous (Romans 6:16-18; 1 John 3:7).
- 7. The result of the gospel.
 - a) All must obey the plan of God, living by it through faith.
 - (1) No other gospel has been given or will be given.
 - (2) The one that has been given is sufficient to take away the sins of man.
 - (a) As there is one God, there is one gospel (Ephesians 4:4-6).
 - (b) When one preaches another gospel he is accursed (Galatians 1:6-8).
 - b) The vengeance of the Lord will come to people who choose to reject it (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).
 - c) After being baptized, a Christian has to seek God's righteousness first and be steadfast and immovable (Matthew 6:33; 1 Corinthians 15:58).

Conclusion. The premise of all advertising is that people want to change in some way or another, and the job of the advertiser is to convince them that his product or service will add a desired dimension to their lives. Many man-made religions succeed in making people feel better about themselves, but the ideas promoted have no power to remove the sin that produces the feelings of guilt and discontent.

The good news, when preached and obeyed brings glory to God and Christ, and salvation to man. If you desire to be at peace with God and be a recipient of His grace, you must obey the gospel. There is no hope for one who rejects it, so do not make that decision!