

Written on the 26th of October 2020

The message (The Gospel)

Definition

The word Gospel, comes from the root words “Good News”. This root word connotes, plainly, a news that is meant to freshen the hearer. Meaning, every one that hears this message should be able to have some form of sign of relief from whatever may stress.

If this news therefore, brings relief to man, it has got to solve some basic problems of a man’s life. For instance, Jesus, when asked “Are you He that is to come or do we expect another?” He responded, “God tell him what you see

Matthew 11:4&5 **Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,**

And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:

The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

Jesus Christ Himself Identified Himself by His works.

Jesus’ Gospel (Assignment)

His Gospel can be viewed from the perspective of His job description as given to Him by His Father, Our Lord Almighty. Luke 4:18, 19:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Here, the full assignment of Jesus Christ has been itemized. In other words, Jesus had specific goals as set by Heaven for Him to achieve here on earth. Remember, **“For this cause, the Son of God was made manifest, that He might destroy the works of the enemy”**

This is the same assignment, Jesus Christ, our Savior committed into our hands when He said, **“As the Father has sent me, even so send I you”**.

We must then look at His instruction to us as believers, in order to understand the Message and the Assignment we are meant to carry out.

Christ's Instruction to His disciples:

Jesus Christ sent His first set of Evangelists out in Luke 9:1,2&6;

Verse 1: **Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.**

Verse 2: **And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.**

Verse 6: **And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.**

Verse 11: **And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.**

In chapter 10, Our Lord Jesus sent out another seventy Evangelists and in Verse 9 He instructed them saying:

⁹And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS COME NIGH UNTO YOU.

Notice that Jesus told them exactly what to say. He was also showing them in practical sense, what the good news is and how the good news should be transmitted. In other words, this news is expected to relieve man from the consequences of sin which the actions of Adam and Eve plunged humanity into. These consequences could include, failing Health, physical disorders, Confusion, Indecision, Lack and want, demonic Oppressions of all kinds and any other disease that may have caused man discomfort. Also not forgetting that freedom from any of these consequences can only mean that the kingdom of God is near, as Jesus said in scriptures.

As stated earlier, Jesus told the disciples exactly what they should say. Yes, the instruction of what to preach was clear, **“Preach the Kingdom, tell them that the kingdom of God has come”**, Paraphrased.

However, Jesus gave this instruction when He was physically here on earth, and the message was specific to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. He clearly instructed that the disciples should not go to Samaria or to the Gentiles. My understanding is that, the Gospel wouldn't

have made any sense to the Gentiles as of that time. Man had been reduced to believing only things he could see and relate to. The kingdom of God isn't a physically manifesting reality, hence, anyone outside Israel would not understand that Gospel.

Prophets and individuals in the land of Israel had been looking forward and praying to see the day of the Lord, so, it is safe to say that Israel was fully aware that a day of refreshing was approaching.

Luke 10:24 For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

This wasn't the case with the gentile nations, they scarcely even understood who God was, let alone, understand the need for a kingdom. As a matter of fact, introducing a new kingdom in a gentile nation as of the days of Jesus Christ, was seen as a territorial offence and was regarded as a treasonable felony punishable by death. Hence Jesus Christ commanded that the disciples should not go to the gentiles with that Gospel.

Matthew 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

Hope this explains the reason, the kingdom of God can be considered good news in the Israeli territory but not outside.

Gentile Nation Gospel

This ministry of the Gospel to the gentiles was reserved to be engaged during the administration of the Holy Spirit. Hence Jesus said:

Matthew 10:18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

¹⁹ But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

²⁰ For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you

Notice that Jesus included the gentiles in the scope of evangelism and a mouth piece (The Holy Spirit) is provided to tell the believer what he or she must say. The gentiles were not expecting a savior. They never believed in the God of Heaven since after the fall of man, therefore, it will take more than the Good News to get them into the kingdom mindset. This

explains why it's so difficult to convince Muslims and other religious forms of worshippers. The minds of these ones must first be transformed, before they can understand the link between the sins of our father's, the Good news and their immediate needs,

Hence, Jesus instructed the disciples to tarry in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came. Because this ministry to the gentiles and the world at large could only be transmitted via the spirit of man (The flesh of man had been compromised). Only the Holy Spirit can reach that deep into a man.

The words of Peter in Acts 2:14-39 is anything but mere words. It is the Holy Spirit speaking. The lips of Peter were just moving, but the entire being of Peter had been hijacked (of course, with his consent) for that ministration. If another individual without the Holy Spirit, was to try to scream at the elders of the land like that, the individual would either return without a positive result or be lynched like the seven sons of sceva.

We must understand that, by default, man has been under the control of demonic forces. Your words of wisdom or understanding of the scriptures cant change man. It has to be the work of the Holy Spirit.

The question then, is, what is the message to the gentile nation today?

Who can send this message to them?

Well, from the scriptures, the message is the Kingdom of God being preached to the lost. Salvation (Change of mind) is preached to the gentiles. True change of mind (Heart), is the exclusive preserve of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, any evangelist or great commissionists who desire to preach the gospel in this administration of the Holy Spirit must rely on the Holy Spirit in order to make an impact and return with souls.

The Gospel is therefore, whatever the Holy Spirit reveals Jesus as, to you.

To the Samaritan woman, Jesus is a revealer of secrets (Prophet)

To the blind man, Jesus is a healer

To the bound, Jesus is a deliverer

To the bruised, Jesus is their liberty

This means that every true Gospel of Christ should point anyone to Christ. In the end, after the individual believes in the personality of Jesus, through the ministration of the Holy Spirit, the person has to confess Jesus as His lord and Savior, in order to enjoy the privileges that the Kingdom of God provides us. Romans 10:10

Who can preach the Gospel?

Every believer

However, your effectiveness on the field increases with the increase in the measure of the Holy Spirit that is at work in you.

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