

Cheltenham  
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## **GETTING THINGS STRAIGHT (1)**

### **WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?**

#### **Message Notes**

This series is based on "The plumb line" prophecy in Amos 7:7-9 to make sure we are "straight" on the simple & non-negotiable truths of the Gospel...

#### **What is the gospel?**

Text: 2 Tim 2:8-14

There are over 100 references to gospel and good news in the New Testament. The gospel has been described as a pool in which a toddler can wade and yet an elephant can swim. It has both the simplicity that a child can understand but is also deep enough for the greatest minds to explore...

<sup>8</sup> Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my **gospel**, <sup>9</sup> for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

<sup>11</sup> Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; <sup>12</sup> if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; <sup>13</sup> if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself. <sup>14</sup> Keep reminding God's people of these things.

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Verse 8 encapsulates the simplicity of the gospel:

1. Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah, the divine Son of God who came to earth in human form (God + Man)
2. Jesus died and rose again as payment to declare us fully pardoned and secure our eternal freedom.

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

Romans 1:3-4, "regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord."

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### **What does "gospel" mean?**

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Greek noun euangelion = "good news"

Greek verb euangelizo = "to bring or announce good news"

In classical Greek, an euangelos was one who brought a message of victory or other political or personal news that caused joy!

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Summary: Augustus was seen as a god in human form who ushered in a new era of peace. He was called the Son of God and the Saviour. His birth changed the calendar and his deeds were celebrated as good news or gospel that brought joy to people.

In the midst of this the real Saviour is born...

Luke 1:35; 2:10-14

1:35, "The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

2:10-14, "But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

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### **What difference does the gospel make?**

The gospel of Jesus is not just about "me." Many times when the word "gospel" is used we also find reference to the impact on others:

Luke 4:18-22

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, **19** to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." <sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." <sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips."

Emphasizing only the internal aspect of the gospel has raised a generation of selfish Christians!

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Living the gospel message means that Christians will bring:

1. Good news to the poor

The poor are those who lack the comforts of life.

2. Freedom for the prisoners

I.e. to bring freedom to those who are held captive in literal or habitual prisons

3. Sight for the blind

I.e. a blanket term for healing and miracles that are always to accompany the preaching of the gospel

4. Set the oppressed free

Bringing comfort to those who are pressed down by what life has dished up.

5. To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor

Luke 4:19-20, "...to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him..."

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All of us who have been changed by the gospel are carriers of good news that brings joy to others!