

The True Complete Gospel (Good News)

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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

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Summary: *Are you believing and proclaiming the one TRUE complete gospel – good news? Is The “Gospel” just the gospel of the kingdom, or just the gospel of Christ, or something else? The one correct complete gospel is so exciting, and in part 1 here we define it, using “the whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27), all the scriptures on it, rather than just what a group or booklet teach. Don’t be under a double curse for proclaiming or believing a wrong gospel (Gal.1:6-9). I’m hoping this teaching will start to reignite the flame for zeal for God within you. Spread the word. Also the true gospel of grace, salvation, peace, and more, which all make up the one true gospel together.*

*** * (My notes are not word for word, but pretty close. I suggest listen to the audio as well as following along with the printed notes to get the complete sermon.)*

Greetings family of God, children of the Highest.

My very first sermon ever on this website, March 7, 2004, was “What is the true complete Gospel?” because so many groups were preaching a partial, incomplete gospel message. Almost all Christians know the word – “gospel” – and would claim to believe the gospel, **but I wonder how many really could define it fully or really believe the true, complete gospel?** And I believe the complete, true gospel is much broader than people realize. I will back everything up by scripture – “the whole counsel of God”.

I think most of you know that the Greek word translated as “gospel” **means “GOOD NEWS”**. When fully understood, people DIED for this good news.

Are you and I still totally excited about the Good News and willing to die for it? Maybe because we really don’t fully grasp what makes it such good news!

Church groups have even split up because of disagreeing on what exactly should be in their Statement of Beliefs defining exactly what they believe the Gospel is.

Some are adamant that the gospel is

- JUST about the **Gospel of the Kingdom of God**, not about Jesus.
- Others insist it’s what it says: “the **Good News of Christ**”. They believe it’s just about the Christ and all he is, all he did, and does now, but nothing else. **So they**

don't preach or focus on God's kingdom – or if they do, they think “the kingdom of God’ is about going to heaven when you die.

- **Others insist it's both** the kingdom – but also about the Jesus the king, and the need to accept him, Jesus the Christ, as my Savior, King and who is totally Lord of my life. That means total unconditional surrender. He's in charge of my life.

*But I ask all of you: **WHAT makes it Good NEWS?** What about Christ, what about the kingdom of God, **make it good news?** And how is the gospel good news for YOU? We're usually excited about good news – IF – if we're a part of whatever the good news is. IF we can get a piece of the action, if we're involved in it, if we receive it too – now that's good news!*

*But I don't feel or see the church being **EXCITED** nowadays – so what's missing? Is there a way we can be a part of this Good News?*

*What we'll do today is not just preach the scriptures that support any particular viewpoint, or from what you'd find in a church's booklet or what you'd see on Google--but is what Paul called “**the whole counsel of God**”, mentioning everything God says about this subject (**Acts 20:27**).*

Plus, this is so important, that I wanted to have an updated video version of “What is the TRUE Complete Gospel”.

And you could even ask “so what”? Do we really have to get the gospel exactly right?

WHY do we need to know accurately about the gospel? Paul said there's a **double curse on anyone** who preaches a different one to what he taught. But a double curse? We'd better that it right! We don't want the curse.

The DOUBLE CURSE for a different Gospel

A gospel that is only partially correct, or not complete, is not what we want.

Paul twice pronounced a double curse on anyone who preaches a wrong or different gospel than what he preached. You might be surprised.

Galatians 1:2b-9

“...and all the brethren who are with me, to the churches of Galatia:

3 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord **Jesus Christ, 4 who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us** from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the GRACE of Christ, to a different gospel, [analyze that!]

7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel (good news) 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.”

Galatians 1:15-16

“But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and **called me through His GRACE, 16 to reveal His SON in me, that I might preach HIM among the Gentiles**, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood.”

In this case, he **speaks of the GRACE of Christ**, several times, as being *the* gospel. We'll see clearly what he defines as the good news in 1 Corinthians.

The Gospel is really about God's plan – and the WAY -- to invite and call people into His family so they can be a part of the true Kingdom of God. A kingdom is initially at least, a family grown large. *But that PROCESS involves repentance, accepting and believing in the risen Son of God, who is the Way. Did you know there are verses that say we **must OBEY the Gospel?** (2 Thess. 1:8; 1 Peter 4:17).* The Gospel also includes a lot of teaching of the way we should live. There's a lot more to the gospel – the good news – than people realize.

If we could really absorb and understand how wonderful the true gospel is, *as it pertains especially to you and me, we'd be so excited that we wouldn't be able to fall asleep at night!* And I will do all I can – led by God's SPIRIT in me – to do just that today! Something's missing in our understanding of “gospel” if we're not feeling excited about it.

So in Part 1 today we'll DEFINE “gospel” – using so many scriptures and put them together. You'll see which descriptions of the good news were used the most. You'll be in for some surprises too.

Then Part 2, next time, I'll mostly focus on how the true complete gospel was preached from the very beginning, in the Garden of Eden, even to Abraham and all through the Old Testament. It's so exciting. And you'll see the focus was always on the WAY to forgiveness, salvation and reconciliation and that was through Christ, as you'll clearly see. There's no kingdom or anything without first accepting Jesus Christ.

Jesus said: “**Abraham REJOICED to see my day. He saw it and was glad**” (John 8:56).

Now look at the most often used phrases about the gospel. This will surprise many of you. And I'll show **how YOU are also a part of that exciting gospel/good news.**

THE MOST OFTEN USED PHRASES ABOUT The GOSPEL

Remember, the disciples/apostles were told to “preach the gospel”.

Mark 16:15-16

And He said to them, “**Go into all the world and preach the gospel** to every creature. 16 **He who believes and is baptized** will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

In this command, the gospel is not defined. They're just told to preach it. But right after that, Jesus also speaks of believing and being baptized. Elsewhere that “believing” is defined by Jesus as believing in HIM.

Now let's look at how Luke describes this commission:

Luke 24:44-49

Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, **that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms CONCERNING ME**". 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

46 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the **Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.** 48 And *you are witnesses of these things.* 49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

The MOST OFTEN used phrases defining the GOOD NEWS

1. When you look up the phrase "the gospel of", **the MOST frequently used phrase, 10 times, is "the Gospel of Christ"**. Eleven times if you include "the gospel of Jesus Christ" (Mark 1:1). Add "the gospel of the GLORY of Christ" – and "gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" -- and now **the total of the Gospel of Christ is 13 times**. This is **FAR** more than ANY other description. (The last two are 2 Thess. 1:8; 2 Cor. 4:4b)

Some **interpret "good news OF Christ" to mean that was about what he preached, but not at all ABOUT him**. Some claim Christ never preached about himself! HUH? I will show how that is so Biblically wrong. Can they be reading the same Bible the rest of us do? Some groups are so adamant that the good news is strictly about the coming Kingdom of God that they don't even read some of these verses I'm about to – about the gospel also being about Jesus and his mission.

But first, is it true that Jesus never spoke about himself, as some groups teach?

I just showed you in Luke 24's version of the great commission that the **prophets all prophesied about HIM. "Concerning ME" – Luke 24:44**. The "**Seven I am's**" in John – I am the bread of life, I am the Door, I am the Light, the true vine, the Good shepherd, the way, the truth and the life, I'm the resurrection and the life, and simply "I AM" a couple times. And so on. He said, "Believe in me and you have everlasting life" (**John 6:47; 11:25**). Carry your cross and follow after ME. One cannot read John and the other gospels and not realize that it's very much about repenting and believing in Jesus Christ! Of course He spoke about himself.

To Nicodemus -John 3 – being born from above. To the woman at the well in John 4 – he identified himself as the Messiah. To the Jews he even said he's come from the father, and therefore he is the Son of God. All through the Last Supper – **John 13-17** – he spoke often about himself and what he would do. He told Caiphas that they would see him coming in the clouds of heaven in glory (Mark 13:26). To the men on the **road to Emmaus** after the resurrection (Luke 24:13-35): what did Jesus speak of?

Luke 24:27

"And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, **He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.**"

So Of COURSE Jesus spoke endlessly about himself and his mission! If you're part of a church that teaches Jesus never spoke about himself – wake up! It's all through the gospel books.

So the good news of Christ – is yes, what he brought but also was very much about himself and his mission, as we'll continue to see.

2 Corinthians 4:3-5

“But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, **lest the light of the GOSPEL (GOOD NEWS) of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God**, should shine on them. 5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.”

So many sermons I checked out never even mentioned that verse – the “good news of the *glory of Christ*”. To claim “OF” has to mean belonging to” and not about the person is just ignoring the facts. The “good news of the glory of Christ” is about that glory of Christ.

The good news of Jesus shows the way into God's kingdom. No Jesus, no kingdom. No Christ and what he did and is doing – and no WAY into the Kingdom of God. No Jesus Christ – no good news. At least not for you.

There's no good news unless we all discover how WE can be a PART of it! We need the WAY into salvation, eternal life in the Kingdom of God. Jesus is that good news – or we have no WAY into the kingdom. It's not good news for YOU if you're left out of it. The good news is how YOU can be a part of all this great Kingdom of God.

Are you getting it? **It's also about the GOOD NEWS of the GRACE of God.** That's the gospel too! And also involves Jesus! Here's another verse that did not get mentioned in some sermons. But no grace = no kingdom = no good news for you and me.

Story of how I was corrected by one minister who told me there is no verse that speaks of the gospel of grace...So here's the verse.

Acts 20:23-24

“...that chains and tribulations await me. 24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to **the GOSPEL (good news) of the GRACE of God.**”

That phrase “gospel of the grace” is obviously about God's grace.
If there's no grace, there's no kingdom of God possible. No favor of God, no eternal life. So the good news has to include that we all can come under God's forgiving Grace and favor and have everlasting life in God's kingdom.

So some of you preach the true gospel is ONLY about Jesus. You go into the other ditch. That is also an incomplete message. We have to preach the “whole counsel of God” -- so keep listening. There's much more. What was Jesus saving us for?

But then again, some of you are so insistent the good news is NOT ABOUT Jesus, that I must give this WARNING: as we discuss “the Gospel of Christ”, we must be absolutely

certain we don't end up DENYING The Anointed one (Christ) and how He is such good news, making salvation possible! When we minimize what He himself taught about himself, his role, his mission, his purpose, we may be on thin ice, denying Jesus!

Luke 12:8-9

"Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. 9 But **he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.**"

Remember, we're using all the *scriptures* that define "the gospel", OK? We'll come back to this definition and learn more about – the gospel of Christ.

Now, Paul's description of HIS GOSPEL. *What I'm about to read is by the same apostle who pronounced a double curse on anyone preaching a different gospel (Gal. 1:6-9).* He put it all together. Here's Paul's summary of what he called his gospel – and these scriptures are seldom preached by those who insist the gospel is ONLY about the kingdom of God and not about Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

"Moreover, brethren, ***I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you,*** which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain."

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: **that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.** 6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. 8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time."

This was Apostle Paul's gospel. It was about Jesus and His resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:12

"Now **if Christ is preached** that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?"

Paul then goes on through 1 Cor. 15 to speak of the resurrection to immortality and the kingdom of God. It's all -inclusive. But Christ MUST be preached. Be SURE you don't act like you're *ashamed* to speak of Jesus. It's HIS good news that is the power for us to be saved!

Romans 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."

We're saved by grace through faith, not by works (Eph 2:8-9).

Romans 16:25

“Now to Him who is able to establish you according to **my gospel [1 Cor. 15:1-8]** **and the preaching of Jesus Christ**, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began”

So the #1 most often used phrase to define the gospel is “The good news of Christ”. Thirteen times, including “gospel of the glory of Christ”, “of Jesus Christ”, “of the Lord Jesus Christ”.

2. The SECOND most common descriptor of the Gospel – is “the gospel of GOD”. God’s good news! That phrase is USED SEVEN times. If we include “the gospel of the blessed God” – then it’s **8 times (1 Tim. 1:11)**.

Let’s read the first time “gospel of God” is used in Romans 1.

Romans 1:1-4

“Paul, a bondservant [*doulos in Greek*, slave] of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, **separated to the GOSPEL of God** 2 which He promised before **through His prophets** in the Holy Scriptures, 3 **CONCERNING HIS SON Jesus Christ** our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”

So here Paul says the **Gospel of God** is about, is concerning, His SON, Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. *That’s what the Bible says. Let that sink in.*

We might come back to those concepts, but notice Paul says the gospel of God was known by and **promised through the Old Testament prophets**. Other verses speak of the gospel of God being something that must be OBEYED (**1 Peter 4:17; 2 Thess 1:8** – Christ is coming in fire to “destroy those who would not OBEY the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ”.)

And of course Jesus so often spoke of himself. “This is my body, broken for you”. “This cup is my blood shed for you in the new covenant”. And on and on.

So be aware, the good news is also **news that has to be obeyed**.

So far, #1 usage is – the gospel of Christ or Jesus Christ or the glory of Christ. #2 – “The Gospel of God”. God’s good news about his Son.

FINALLY, #3 of the most commonly used descriptions of “The Gospel of..” – is “Gospel of the KINGDOM”. It’s used FOUR times. ONLY four times. The “gospel of God” – 8x, is twice more; gospel of Jesus Christ is used 13 times, which is 3x more frequent than the 4 times Gospel of the kingdom. The phrase “gospel of the kingdom” is actually never again used anywhere else in the New Testament. It’s not in any epistles or Acts.

The phrase “Kingdom of God” is mentioned 70 times, but as being the gospel – only four times. Probably many of you are surprised by that.

- The words “Kingdom of **HEAVEN**” **is mentioned 32 times**. *But not* ever as being “the GOSPEL of the kingdom of heaven”, which term is not even in the Bible a single time.

Here are the 4 times “gospel of the kingdom” is used:

Several times we are told Jesus came preaching the gospel of the kingdom.

Matthew 4:23; 9:35; and Mark 1:14.

And perhaps the most famous statement of the 4 statements of “the gospel of the kingdom” is this statement from Savior Jesus:

Matthew 24:14

“And **this gospel of the KINGDOM** will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come”.

So the gospel of the kingdom is an extremely important part of the true gospel.

Once the gospel of the kingdom has been preached everywhere – including N Korea, Russia, China, Iran, etc. etc. – the end will come. Of course I don’t know how much of that will be done by **the final 2 Witnesses of Revelation 11** and the angel with the everlasting gospel in **Rev. 14:6-7**, who commands everyone on earth to fear God, worship Him for the time of his judgment has come. No words about kingdom – but about fearing and worshipping God. But this is also part of the message of the kingdom of God.\

Revelation 14:6-7

Then I saw **another angel** flying in the midst of heaven, **having the everlasting gospel** to preach to those who dwell on the earth – to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people –

7 saying with a loud voice, **"Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."**

Now this might SURPRISE some of you: the words “gospel of the kingdom” are NEVER AGAIN repeated in any of the epistles of Paul, John, Peter, Jude – it’s never mentioned that way ever again.

So there’s got to be more to the good news than just the kingdom of God.

And remember again: the Kingdom of God is not good news to you or ME unless you tell me how I can be a part of it! That’s where the other definitions come in.

JEWS BELIEVED the “gospel of the kingdom” was about RESTORING the kingdom of Israel – and booting out the Romans!

- Yes, they could read about King David coming back to rule Israel again (Hosea 3:5; Ezek 37:24-25).
- They could read about the lion and the lamb.
- They could read about how all nations would go up to Jerusalem to learn the way of God, and how spears and swords will be turned into plowshares, and each man sit under his own fig tree... **See Isaiah 2:1-4; Micah 4:1-5.**
- **But Jesus seemed in no hurry to set up His Kingdom of God.**

This made even John the Baptist wonder. He was not miraculously freed by Jesus. Nor had the Romans been kicked out of Israel.

Luke 7:18-19

Then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all these things. 19 And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, "**Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?**"

Restoring Israel was also forefront of mind to the apostles.

Acts 1:4-6

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 Therefore, when they had come together, **they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"**

Even today, Jews say Jesus could not have been the Messiah because he did not set up a kingdom – but died, instead! But first he had to come to die for all sinners who accept him – and then to live again inside us as OUR NEW life.

So **Matthew**, who wrote to the JEWS primarily, uses a different phrase so they got their mind off a kingdom of God that was about a kingdom on earth right then and there. He taught that **the Kingdom of God is already in EXISTENCE and has ALWAYS been in existence** and will eventually be here on earth too (Revelation 21-22).

He called it, 32 times, the “Kingdom of HEAVEN”. No other book of the Bible calls it **“the kingdom of Heaven”.** **It’s always existed.** And Jesus gave many teachings about the Kingdom of heaven. *And the gospel of the Kingdom of God will be preached in all the world, and then the end comes.*

This should be so exciting to us! For the first time, it’s possible for even “a nobody” like me even to speak to anyone in the world who has internet access anywhere in the world. So this is now possible to happen! And YOU have been called to have a PART in fulfilling this prophecy by – what – by SHARING what you know with others. Proclaiming, then Discipling others to come to know Jesus Christ is returning soon to rule on the earth for 1000 years!!! SOON.

Starlink – Elon Musk is putting up thousands of satellites, with the goal that every village in the world will be able to see and use internet! There are many reasons, but one must be so the gospel of the kingdom of God can be preached in all the world! Including this site – www.LightontheRock.org

Millennium is RULED by The KINGDOM OF GOD

Daniel 2 speaks of King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the huge image – and at the end, a stone from heaven smashes it on its feet, and all man’s kingdoms are destroyed. And the stone from God was his kingdom that over time, grew and grew and filled the whole earth (**Daniel 2:31-35, 44-45**).

The coming millennium will be RULED by the Kingdom of God, but the 1000 year rule is NOT yet be the completed, fully realized Kingdom of God. It's the beginning of it, of the stone that crushed the other world empires in Daniel 2, but it takes time to fill the whole earth.

Here's why. Yes, you heard me right. **The Millennium is RULED by resurrected saints**, who are then spirit beings resurrected in the First resurrection and PART of the Kingdom of God. But the World Tomorrow 1000 years is still not quite the completed kingdom itself yet, in my opinion at least, and here's why:

Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God (1 Cor. 15:50). *The world of the Millennium will still be inhabited by flesh and blood human beings and animals. So the millennium is not fully 100% the Kingdom of God yet, though RULED by it. It took time for the Stone of Daniel 2 to fill the whole earth, remember.*

1 Corinthians 15:50-54

“Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood CANNOT inherit the kingdom of God**; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed** — 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For **the trumpet will sound**, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality”.

Those people who survive into the Millennium but who are not those in the first resurrection, those humans are still FLESH AND BLOOD. So are the lion and lamb and the little child (**Isaiah 11:6-9**) – something NEVER mentioned in the New Testament.

Plus, in the kingdom of heaven, God's will is always done. Jesus taught us to pray: “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (**Matt 6:9-10**). So the millennium is RULED by the Kingdom of God, but it's not totally yet the completed, finished, Kingdom of God.

In the kingdom of heaven, there is no rebellion, there is no war, there are no bad attitudes. But if you read **Revelation 20**, there's still, at the END of the millennium, a massive war against God and his saints (**Rev. 20:7-9**) SO how can THAT be a completed “the kingdom of God”? And it takes YEARS for the world **to rebuild from total devastation** and to finally all start coming to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles (**Zech 14:16-18**).

I hope to give a detailed sermon on just what is the Kingdom of God soon. IN a nutshell, the Kingdom of God has always existed and does already exist right now in heaven. It's made up 100% of immortal spirit beings called God, Son of God, the holy angels, and after the resurrection -- his resurrected spirit, immortal saints. Period.

Even the CITY of Heavenly Jerusalem, its walls, gates, its streets and buildings – are in my view, **most likely all made of the real thing – spirit!** How do we know this? Because heaven is described as a place where moths can't affect anything, where there's no rust or decay (Matthew 6:19-20). This corruption puts on incorruption, remember. So there's no dust, no rust, no decay and no corruption in the spirit Kingdom of heaven.

We're supposed to seek *that* kingdom of God, and God's righteousness – and if we do, God promises to provide all our needs (**Matthew 6:33**).

So what's the more complete description of the complete message of the true gospel? It's talking about the Good news of Grace AND salvation through Jesus Christ; it's God's good news (Rom 1:1-3), which gives us entrance into the Kingdom of God and eternal life.

GREAT DESCRIPTIONS of The COMPLETE GOSPEL

Acts 20:24-25 the full description

"But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, **to testify to the gospel of the GRACE of God.**

25 "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom **I have gone preaching the kingdom of God,** will see my face no more.

The whole good news is really about the teachings of the whole Bible, the entire word of God – learning to worship and fear God and to obey him and how we should obey him, and having faith in the life of Jesus who is our new life.

Acts 28:30-31

"Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, 31 **preaching the kingdom of God AND teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ** with all confidence, no one forbidding him."

MORE DESCRIPTIONS OF The GOSPEL

Here are other descriptions of the gospel to help us understand it. It's one true, complete gospel that must **include the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27)**, meaning we must include ALL the scriptures about the true gospel, for us to be HONEST with what God's word says about it totally.

Mark 1:14-15 the gospel of Christ includes repentance + believing.

"Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,** 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, **and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."**

And we know over and over how Jesus said we must believe in HIM, and if we do, we have eternal life (John 3:16, 36; John 6:47). Yeshua/Jesus has to be a big part of the complete gospel!

Romans 10:15-16

And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

"How beautiful are the **feet of those who preach the gospel of PEACE,**
Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?"

Ephesians 1:13

“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the ***gospel of your SALVATION***; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,”

TO HAVE SALVATION, we need a SAVIOR. And we know his name. It is SAVIOR – Yeshua, Jesus. This is REAL GOOD NEWS. I was doomed to die the 2nd death but now I have a Savior, upon my repentance, who takes my penalty on himself and allows me to live forever.

HE is that good news of salvation. Jesus is the Lamb of God. He is our Passover. Jesus is our Redemption, the Redeemer. He is our Rock. He is our Hope. He is the Son of God resurrected for you and me. And part of the “Gospel of God” – Jesus is the gift of our Father for us. What good news!

Jesus IS our gospel good news that makes the Kingdom of God and Kingdom of heaven available, open and possible for each of us who accept Him upon our repentance. It's now good news for you and me too!

Ephesians 6:15

“and having shod your feet with the preparation of ***the gospel of peace;***”

And now we put that good news as shoes on our feet – so we can go out and tell the whole world about it! That wasn't just for ordained ministers to do. That's for ALL of us.

During the persecution after Stephen's martyrdom, the church BRETHREN were scattered. Those scattered BRETHREN, went out proclaiming the word (**Acts 8:1, 4**). Remember the apostles stayed in Jerusalem (v. 1) and were not scattered. These were brethren! Here's what Acts 8 says after Stephen's martyrdom.

Acts 8:1

“Now Saul was consenting to his death. *At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; **and they were all scattered** throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, **except the apostles.***

Acts 8:4

“**Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.**” (Remember the apostles stayed in Jerusalem)

Acts 11:19-21

“**Now those who were scattered** after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, **preaching the word** to no one but the Jews only. 20 But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, **preaching the Lord Jesus.** 21 **And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.**”

We're all told to preach the gospel. They preached Christ, the WAY into eternal life and the Kingdom of God – and so WHY and HOW the gospel is good news.

WHY all those descriptions?

So I hope, please – let's **understand the GOOD NEWS is much broader than you might have thought. You'll REALLY see that in part 2** when I show how the gospel of the kingdom and of the Savior, and salvation and grace and forgiveness – all of that -- was preached from the Garden of Eden onwards.

Another: The gospel OF The GRACE of God (Acts 20:24) is part of the gospel of the KINGDOM! See how Paul put it together as he spoke to the Ephesian elders. I've read this already, but let's read it again.

Acts 20:24-27

"But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to **testify to the GOSPEL [good news] of the GRACE of God.**"

25 "AND indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have **gone preaching the kingdom of God**, will see my face no more. 26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you **the whole counsel of God.**"

NO teaching on the true, complete gospel would be complete without including that verse, because it's the grace of God that makes it open to all of us, and therefore Good News. Are you seeing that?

Those of you who are really good about talking about the Kingdom of God, now include in your messages, the Name above all names – Jesus Christ – in your gospel message of good news of the kingdom and the WAY into it.

WHAT The EARLY BELIEVERS PREACHED:

Remember the early believers were to preach the Gospel. Here's what they preached. It was indeed the gospel, but notice the wording.

- Peter's Pentecost sermon was all about how Jesus was the Messiah
- Acts 3 – the great healings were by done by and possible through Jesus Christ
- Acts 4:12 – no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved

Acts 8:5—Philip in Samaria "PREACHED Christ".

Acts 8:12 – "preached the Kingdom of God AND the name of Christ"

Acts 8:35 – Philip "preached Jesus to him" – to the Ethiopian Eunuch

Acts 9:20 – the FIRST thing Paul preached in the synagogues was Christ.

Acts 10:34-43 – the whole discussion to Cornelius' family is about Christ.

Again, the words "gospel of the kingdom" are never mentioned in Acts or any epistles. But the good news of Christ is all over scripture. So the true complete gospel is both. Embrace it.

1 Corinthians 2:2

"For I determined not to know anything among you **except Jesus Christ and Him crucified**"

Would you say the same thing? I hope so. In Gal. 6:14 that his only "boast" was in Christ on the cross and being a new creation in him.

Galatians 6:14-15

“But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, **but a new creation.”**

Jesus Himself is the WAY. He's our new life – as **Gal 2:20; Col 3:3-4** say. He makes us a New Creation, covered by HIMSELF (2 Cor. 5:17).

And like the early church, we can't stop talking about him, the CENTER of the GOSPEL of GOD –“concerning his Son” – Rom 1:1-3.

And it's Father's – GOD's – good news, that he loved the world so much that he gave up his only begotten son for you and me! What a staggering price he paid for you and even someone like me. Wow, now that's exciting!

And those of you who already believe, teach and know about the gospel of Christ, and his grace and his salvation – **the point for you today is this: there's a kingdom of God to also talk about**; a kingdom of love, of true joy and peace and wonders without end that is coming to replace the BAD NEWS of this world's present kingdoms. OK? Jesus came preaching the kingdom of God. So of course it's the gospel too.

Let me end part 1 here. Jesus commanded his disciples to preach the gospel.

Next time, in part 2, We'll see more of what early believers preached. Mostly I want to show how the Good News was preached from the very beginning. In the Garden of Eden all through the whole Bible – to Adam and Eve, Enoch, to Noah, to Abraham and his children and more. And you'll see how EXCITING that is!

And I'll show you how the true gospel includes you, and is good news for you.

And I hope you see the COMPLETE, TRUE gospel first and foremost is about the WAY into the Kingdom of God. That WAY is Jesus, and the good news of the GRACE of God (Acts 20:24) and the kingdom v. 25.

We must preach Him, as Good news, as Paul did, as all the apostles did as I'll absolutely show next time. But Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom, and that part of the good news has to be front and center as well of our preaching, so the end can come.

So go out sharing the gospel of the kingdom, made possible by the GOOD NEWS OF Jesus Christ, the grace of God, giving us salvation and ETERNAL life, and making us heirs of God.

One way you can share the good news is to tell others about our website and to register/subscribe on our site. God be with you.

Closing prayer

