

Philippians Series

Lesson #025

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Philippians

What is the Gospel? – Part 2

Philippians 1:12–14



What is the Gospel?

“I never realized stating what the gospel is could be so difficult until I read these three articles. Macquarrie and Davies never did get around to stating what the gospel is. They spent their entire articles explaining what the gospel is not and why it is not what it is not.”

~John A. Witmer

“Review of What is the Gospel?—I by John Macquarrie, What is the Gospel?—II by J. G. Davies and What is the Gospel?—III by David H. C. Read,” *Bibliotheca Sacra* 128 (1971): 70.

What the Bible Teaches About the “Gospel”



8. Most frequently, among many who might be Lordship as well as most so-called “free grace” gospel advocates, the issue is what must be believed in order to have eternal life or the basics that must be explained in evangelism. However, most often, in the context of evangelism much more than the bare essentials are communicated.

9. This word group is used with only rare exceptions in the New Testament to include the life, substitutionary payment for our sins, and the resurrection of Christ as well as the implications of those events for the one who believes.

10. Just as the sin problem is complex, involving the violation of God's perfect righteousness, the sin penalty of spiritual death, our worthless righteousness, our position in Adam, the work of Christ on our behalf also expresses the solution through various aspects of Christ's work—we receive the imputation of Christ's righteousness, we are regenerated (born again), we receive eternal life, we are redeemed, we are justified, we are forgiven—so each one of these may be the focus of any one passage or any specific presentation of the good news of eternal life, forgiveness of sins, justification, redemption, etc. Different facets are not different gospels, but expressions of different aspects of the one gospel.

11. Dispensationally, in terms of different periods of God's administration of history, there are different emphases: in the Old Testament there was an anticipation of God's provision of deliverance and eternal life in some future event; in the ministries of John the Baptist and the first part of Jesus' ministry the emphasis was on the gospel of the Kingdom as in Matt. (4:23; 9:35; 24:14) and early Mark, where he is going to tell the "good news" about Jesus Christ in 1:1, but then calls it the gospel of [the Kingdom of] God in 1:14 preached by John the Baptist, which is the gospel of the Kingdom in parallel passages.

12. What is the focus of the gospel?

1 Cor. 2:2, “For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”

What the Bible Teaches About

**the “Gospel” in
the Old Testament**



1. The Old Testament word translated as “good news” or “glad tidings” is:

בְּשֵׂרָה (*bās'ar*) publish, bear (good) tidings, preach, show forth. HALOT: piel. To bring news, to bring good news, to announce.

The Philistines announce their victory over Saul

1 Sam. 31:9, “And they cut off his head and stripped off his armor, and sent word throughout the land of the Philistines, to proclaim it in the temple of their idols and among the people.”

David, regarding his receiving news of Saul's death

2 Sam. 4:10, “when someone told me, saying, ‘Look, Saul is dead,’ thinking to have brought good news, I arrested him and had him executed in Ziklag—the one who thought I would give him a reward for his news.”

Spiritual “good news”

Psa. 40:9, “I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness in the great assembly; Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O Lord, You Yourself know.” ~NKJV

εὐαγγελίζω *evangelizo* to preach or proclaim glad tidings/good news

Spiritual “good news”

Isa. 52:7, “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’ ” ~NKJV

εὐαγγελίζω *evangelizo* aor mid infin *to preach or proclaim glad tidings/good news*

Spiritual “good news”

Nah. 1:15, “Behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings good tidings, who proclaims peace! O Judah, keep your appointed feasts, perform your vows. For the wicked one shall no more pass through you; He is utterly cut off.”

***εὐαγγελίζω evangelizo* pres mid part masc sing gen
*to preach or proclaim glad tidings/good news***

Spiritual “good news”

Rom. 10:15, “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!’ ”

***εὐαγγελίζω evangelizo pres mid part masc plural gen
to preach or proclaim glad tidings/good news***

Spiritual “good news”

Isa. 61:1, “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

Isa. 61:2, “To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,

Isa. 61:3, “To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.” ~NKJV

Quoted in Luke

Luke 4:18, “ ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed;

Luke 4:19, “ ‘To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.’

Luke 4:20, “Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.” ~NKJV

**What the Bible Teaches
About
the “Gospel” in the Acts–Jude**



1. Key gospel statements during the incarnation.

John 3:16, “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.

John 3:17, “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

John 3:18, “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

John 20:30, “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

John 20:31, “but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

2. Statements related to either the noun *evangelium* or the verb *evangelizo*.

Acts 5:42

Acts 5:14, “And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,” ~NKJV

Acts 5:42

Acts 5:20, “ ‘Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.’

Acts 5:21, “And when they heard that, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught. But the high priest and those with him came and called the council together, with all the elders of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.” ~NKJV

Acts 5:30, “ ‘The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.

Acts 5:31, “ ‘Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 5:32, “ ‘And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.’ ” ~NKJV

Repentance, *metanoia* is not repentance from sin, but should be understood in terms of *turning to God*.

BDAG states that primarily this means “a change of mind.”

- **“in our lit. With focus on the need of change in view of responsibility to deity”**

Acts 5:42, “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and proclaiming the good news about Jesus as the Christ.” ~RD

Acts 5:42, “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” ~NKJV

**εὐαγγελίζω *euaggelizō* pres mid part
masc plur nom “to proclaim good
news”**