

The Best News

The Gospel Really Is Good News

Romans 1:16

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

“Jesus came as a missionary from heaven that he might make us missionaries for heaven.” **James Merritt**

- **Key Questions:**
- **Bad News:**
- **Worst News:**
- **Good News:**
- **Best News:**
- **Invitation:**

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” **Romans 1:16**

Gospel: English *Gospel* comes from an Anglo-Saxon term: *Godspell* (glad tidings).

Greek word *Gospel* (*evangelion*): good news of salvation made possible through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Main Idea: Confidence in the Good News is Essential to Sharing it with Others.

I. Confidence in the Greatness of the Good News - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel...” **Romans 1:16a**

Ashamed: disgraced, personally humiliated

“If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more; circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.”

Philippians 3:4b-8

“If I say, ‘I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,’ there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.” **Jeremiah 20:9**

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II. Confidence in the Power of the Good News – “...for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...” **Romans 1:16b.**

“To say that the gospel is ‘power’ is to acknowledge the dynamic quality of the message. In the proclamation of the gospel God is actively at work in reaching out to the hearts of people. The gospel is God telling of his love to wayward people. It is not a lifeless message but a vibrant encounter for everyone who responds in faith.”

Robert H. Mounce

“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience – among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” **Ephesians 2:1-10**

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III. Confidence in Other’s Need for the Good News – “...to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” **Romans 1:16c**

“The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

John 1:9-12

Main Idea: Confidence in the Good News is Essential to Sharing it with Others.

“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’” **Matthew 9:37-38**

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *CSB Study Bible* – Trevin Wax, Ed. (2017)
- *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (2007)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- *Swindoll’s Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes* – Charles R. Swindoll (1998)
- *Tony Evans Book of Illustrations* – Tony Evans (2009)
- *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology* – Walter A. Elwell (2001)
- *A Theology for the Church, Revised Edition* – Daniel L. Akin (2014)
- *The New American Commentary: Romans* – Robert H. Mounce (2002)
- *The Best News* – James Merritt (2018)