

ZOOM STUDY: IMPORTANT BIBLICAL TERMS

GOSPEL

1.) In its most basic sense, what does the word “gospel” mean? What does this term most often refer to in the Biblical context? What is all included?

Luke 2:10-11 “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”

Mark 1:14-15 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Romans 1:2-4 The gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Acts 10:36 “You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.”

1 Corinthians 15:1-8 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

2.) Why are the following among the chief components of the gospel?

- That Jesus Christ is both true God and true man
- Jesus’ death and resurrection

3.) Earlier in this course we learned that the word “law” can be used in a narrow and wide sense—narrowly referring to God’s commands in general and broadly it can refer to the whole word of God. Rarely the word gospel can be used in the same way. How do the following passages support this understanding?

1 Timothy 1:9-11 We ...know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious...and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

Romans 2:16 This will take place on the day when God will judge men’s secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

4.) The gospel is a message. What is its origin? Who is the author? What does that tell us about how we should handle the gospel?

Galatians 1:11-12 The gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:17 In the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed.

Galatians 1:8-9 Even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!

5.) What miracle does God effect through the gospel message?

Romans 1:16-17 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes... For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Ephesians 1:13-14 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 From the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 13:18-19, 23 "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom... the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

6.) For this reason, who needs to be exposed to the gospel?

Marks 16:15 "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

Ephesians 3:6 This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

7.) Scripture says the gospel is to be the core of the church's proclamation. How do our pastors make sure that this is true in their teaching and preaching?

8.) Evaluate this statement: "The gospel is the good news that God will forgive our sins if we believe."

9.) If the gospel is ours by the Spirit's gift of faith and not works, what do the Scriptures sometimes speak of "not obeying the gospel"? What power do sinful people have?

2 Thessalonians 1:8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

1 Peter 4:17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Hebrews 4:2,6 For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. ... It still remains that some will enter that rest, and those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their disobedience

10.) How does the sinful world naturally respond to the gospel? Why? How does this bolster our spirits when our evangelism efforts are met with a cool reception?

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

1 Corinthians 2:2,6-8 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ...We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Closing Prayer: *Jesus, Savior, it is good news indeed that you have rescued us from sin, death, and hell! Strengthen our gospel conviction and thereby motivate us to proclaim your good news to a world full of sinners for whom you also died. Amen.*