

Sharing the Gospel

It is still Powerful and it is still Good News!

The meaning of the word “gospel,” like many other words, has changed in time. Initially it referred to a reward given in exchange for good news. Later it came to mean the good news itself. Today, in the minds of many, gospel denotes a particular type religious music of American origin.

Writers of the New Testament sometimes use the word gospel to refer to some encouraging information (1 Thes 3:6) but usually it is used in connection with the historical facts and meaning of the Christian message. The word “gospel” is used about 100 times in the NT, and mainly by the apostle Paul. Matthew, Mark and Luke used it occasionally. Surprisingly, John does not use it in his gospel neither in his 3 letters. Peter explained that it is God’s will that people should “hear... the message of the gospel and believe” (Acts 15:7), in other words, on hearing, understanding and accepting the gospel, he expected them to “obey the gospel of God” (1 Pet 4:17). For this to happen, Peter knew that the gospel message had to be delivered in the power of the “Holy Spirit sent from heaven” (1 Pet. 1:12).

The apostle Paul was a gifted teacher and church planter, and yet the gospel was central to everything he did. He viewed himself as “set apart for the gospel of God” (Rom 1:1) and described his life’s task as “testifying to the gospel of God’s grace” (Acts 20:24). “Christ Jesus,” Paul explains, “has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (2 Tim 1:10). This energetic apostle believed with all his heart that God’s gospel was really “good news.” With passion he writes: “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes” (Rom 1:16). With joy and wonder Paul describes what he sees: “All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God’s grace in all its truth.” (Col 1:5-6). He considered it an honor and a privilege to be a gospel carrier and a gospel promoter. Do we?

God's gospel has not changed, it is still good news. God still brings new life and immortality through His gospel. God still works in hearts with power as they hear the gospel message. God still uses available normal Christians like you and me to transmit this gospel to others. Do you also feel privileged and honored to be called to participate in this noble task? Have you had the opportunity to share God's good news with someone recently? Tools such as radio, television, videos, websites and printed material may assist us in our task. But nothing can replace interpersonal relationships. Our life will speak to others if we "conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ" (Phil 1:27). The Holy Spirit desires to work through you. Let's make ourselves available. Our way of life and our words are still the main and most effective communication tools to show and share the good news.

Philip Nunn
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Eindhoven, NL

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