

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

IDENTIFYING THE TRUE GOSPEL

TRUE GOSPEL, REAL DISCIPLES

THE GOSPEL TEST: TRUE OR FALSE

- ▶ The love of God is a key emphasis in the Gospels. *X*
- ▶ The "Acts of the Apostles" is the story of the spread of the gospel. ✓
- ▶ The "good news" is the message of God's love. *X*
- ▶ Jesus frequently spoke about God's love for everyone. *X*
- ▶ Because God loves me, He accepts me. *X*
- ▶ The term "accept Christ into your heart" is an important gospel statement in the Bible. *X*
- ▶ A disciple is one who believes in Christ. *X*

IDENTIFYING THE TRUE GOSPEL

The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

THE GOSPEL RECORDED BY MARK, 1.1

- ▶ The origin of the gospel—
 - ▶ “beginning” (*arche*) - first in terms of origin or principle
 - ▶ from *archomai* - precedence; to commence

All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, 13.8

- ▶ The focus of the gospel–
 - ▶ “gospel” (*euangelion*) - good news
 - ▶ *Euangelion* was commonly used in OT and Greek literature in reference to reports of victory from the battlefield.
 - ▶ In the Greco-Roman context, *euangelion* always appears in its plural form—one good report among others.
 - ▶ But, in the NT, *euangelion* only appears in its singular form—Jesus Christ *is* the good news.

The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

THE GOSPEL RECORDED BY MARK, 1.1

- ▶ This concise sentence identifies two key aspects of the gospel—
 - (1) Jesus Christ is the subject and the content of the gospel.
 - (2) Jesus Christ (the promised Messiah) is the **Son of God**—that is, he is eternally and fully divine in his nature (John 1.1), the fullness of Deity in human form (Colossians 2.9), and therefore, the exclusive representative of God and His eternal purposes (John 1.14, 18).

WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS?

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord.

THE GOSPEL RECORDED BY LUKE, 2.10-11

► *euangelizo*: to address with good news, to proclaim

Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come. Worship Him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, 14.6-7

▶ What is the good news?

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord.

▶ “Today a Savior has been born to you”

▶ *soter: a deliverer (from sozo: to save, deliver; to heal, make whole)*

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

▶ The need of a Savior—

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

FIRST TIMOTHY, 1.15

▶ The promised Savior—

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

THE PROPHECY OF ISAIAH, 53.6

▶ The exclusive Savior—

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, 4.12

IS THERE BAD NEWS?

From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

THE GOSPEL RECORDED BY MATTHEW, 4.17

▶ The gospel provides a Savior but requires our repentance.

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, 2.38-40

- ▶ The good news of John 3.16 also contains bad news: the outcome of not believing in Jesus Christ as Savior will be: “perish”—

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from His presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.