

Philippians Series

Lesson #026

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Philippians

What is the Gospel? – Part 3

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.

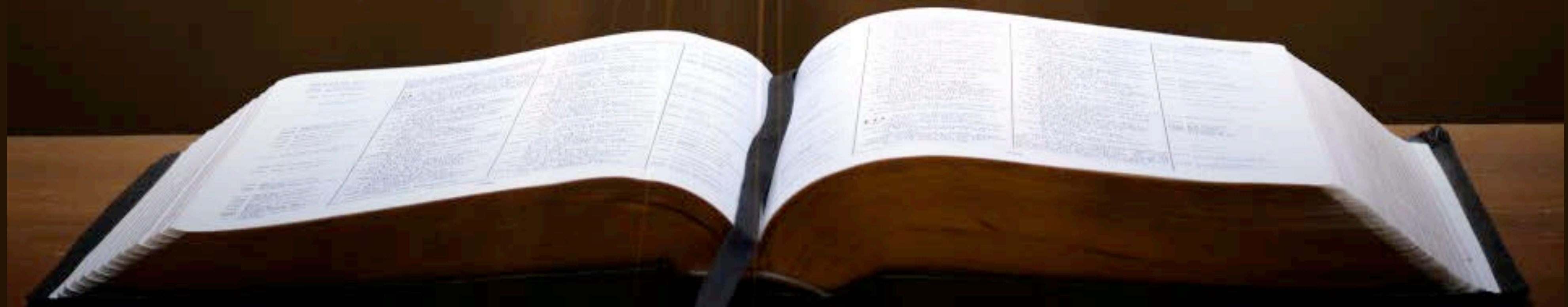
11. Dispensationally, in terms of different periods of God's administration of history, there are different emphases: in the Old Testament there was an anticipation of God's provision of deliverance and eternal life in some future event; in the ministries of John the Baptist and the first part of Jesus' 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**



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.”

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- 1. Object of belief is Jesus Christ.**
- 2. His person is defined as divine, “Son of God.”**
- 3. His essence as the God-man is emphasized by “His name.”**

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

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”**

Acts 5:42 Context

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

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Acts 5:20, [An angel of the Lord said] “ ‘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

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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”**

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6 Elements Emphasized in This Expression of *evangelizo*.

- 1. The angel described the message as the message of life (Acts 5:20), “all the words of this life.”**
- 2. The resurrection and ascension are stated in Acts 5:30–31.**
- 3. Repentance for Israel is mentioned, but not repentance from sin, Deut. 30:1–3 “turn to God.”**
- 4. Forgiveness of sins is emphasized in Acts 5:31.**
- 5. All grounded on His death: “whom you murdered by hanging on a tree,” Acts 5:30.**
- 6. Acts 5:42: Proclaiming the good news of Jesus as the Messiah.**

b. Acts 8—The death of Stephen and the aftermath of Philip the evangelist.

Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. [εὐαγγελιζόμενοι τὸν λόγον. *Evangelizomenoi ton logon*] “proclaiming the good news of the word,” Acts 8:4

Acts 8:5, “Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached [*kerusso*] Christ to them.” ~NKJV

Acts 8:12, “But when they believed Philip as he preached good news [*evangelizo—proclaimed good news*] about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”

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Samaritans had a different Bible than the Jews. They only had the Pentateuch, and rejected the rest of the Hebrew Scripture. So, they needed to also learn about the future kingdom of the Messiah.

Acts 8:12, “But when they believed Philip as he preached good news [*evangelizo—proclaimed good news*] about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”

The object of belief is the message about the person of Jesus Christ.

Acts 8:19, “saying, ‘Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.’

Acts 8:20, “But Peter said to him, ‘Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!

Acts 8:21, “You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God.

Acts 8:22, “Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.” ~NKJV

**μετανοέω *metanoēō* 2 sing aor
act impera
to change the mind ~NIDNTT**

Acts 8:25, “Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord (*laleo—to speak*), they returned to Jerusalem, preaching [proclaiming the good news] the gospel [*evangelizo*] to many villages of the Samaritans.”

Acts 8:35, “Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news [*evangelizo*] about Jesus.”

Acts 8:40, “But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel [*evangelized*] to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.”

Peter and Cornelius, Acts 10