

1. Define the word “gospel”?

“**Gospel**” – euaggelion (yoo-ang-ghel'-ee-on); a good message, i.e. the gospel:

What is contained in the gospel?

Facts (1 Cor 15:1-9 – would we have a gospel without witnesses? Consider all the many facts presented in the gospel presentations in the book of Acts. Each speech perfectly suited to the audience.)

Promises (Acts 2:38; 3:19 – forgiveness & times of refreshing, Col 1:5 hope of heaven)

Commands (we sometimes think only of initial obedience: faith, repentance, confession, & baptism, but the commands of the gospel are far reaching & all people are amenable to them cf. (1 Tim 1:8-11; Gal 1:6-8; 2:14)

a. Where does the word first appear in the Bible? (Explain context)

Mark 1:1, 15; 8:35; 10:29; 13:10; 14:9; 16:15

Matthew 4:23; 9:35; 11:5; 24:14; 26:13

Luke 4:18; 9:6; 20:1

Acts 8:25; 15:7

2. What do we learn of Jesus in these verses (Matt 4:23; 9:35; Mark 1:14)?

He preached the gospel of the kingdom of God, “saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, & the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, & believe in the gospel’” (Mark 1:15).

He confirmed His message with miraculous signs ([Matt 4:23](#); [9:35](#)).

In ([Mark 9:35-37](#)) Jesus gave His disciple a real good indicator of what kind of kingdom citizen His gospel would produce.

3. Check a concordance to find out how many N.T. books do NOT contain the word “gospel”.

Gospel of John, Titus, James, 2 Peter, 1, 2, 3, John

- a. Does this mean that the gospel is not contained in those books?

The apostles were commissioned to preach the gospel everywhere; their writings contain facts relating to the gospel.

Gospel of John – John features Christ, the main character of the gospel, which does not mean that John meant to “emphasize the man & not the plan”. John’s gospel gives substance to the gospel message that would be preached later by emphasizing the deity of Christ, which we may only learn by the written account ([Jn 20:30-31](#)). *That’s good news!*

Titus – “adorning the doctrine of God our Savior in all things” ([Ti 2:11](#)). As pointed out earlier, the doctrine of God & the gospel of Christ are one in the same thing. Also, the same promises are made ([Ti 1:2](#)), by the same means ([1:3](#)), & the same commands ([Ti 3:5-8](#)). *That’s good news!*

James – Much of this book contains teaching from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. The entire body of information about Christ – James calls, “the perfect law of liberty”, which if one continues in it will be blessed in what he does. *That’s good news!*

2 Peter – This epistle emphasizes judgment & the end of all things. But in the first chapter Peter shows us how to prepare for that day. *That’s good news!*

1, 2, 3, John – Note [1 Jn 1:3](#); [2 Jn 9](#); [3 Jn 3-4](#). *That’s good news!*

4. Why is the gospel important (Mark 16:15-16; Rom 1:16-17)?

God's power to salvation

Reveals the righteousness of (which comes from) God "from faith to faith" (received by faith, perpetuated by faith).

5. What do the following verses tell us about the importance of the gospel to early Christians (Col 1:23; Acts 8:4; 1 Cor 1:18, 21; 2:4-5; 9:14)?

Col 1:23 – To maintain the hope of the gospel is contingent upon "continuing in the faith", being "grounded (to lay a basis for) & stedfast (settled, sedentary, immovable)".

"Preached to every creature under heaven" – Does this legitimize infant membership in the kingdom, including infant sprinkling? (**Jn 6:45**).

Acts 8:4 – Christians carried it everywhere they traveled

1 Cor 1:18, 21 – Those who consider it to be foolish will perish; it will save those who receive it

1 Cor 2:4-5 – To put one's faith in the gospel is to put one's faith in the power of God instead of the wisdom of men.

1 Cor 9:14 – Preaching the gospel is a serious enough matter, that the Lord commands the support of a gospel preacher by the church.

6. The characteristics of effective gospel preaching:

a. What is preached must be the “gospel” (1:5; 1 Pet 1:22-25).

Start with **1 Peter 1:25** & work backwards to verse **22** – When the gospel is faithfully preached, it causes a new birth in those who obey it.

What is the difference between gospel preaching & speech making using the Bible as a text?

Can someone talk about Noah & not preach the gospel of Christ?

Can someone use the Scripture as the basis of a speech about marriage, parent child relationships, overcoming addictions, getting along with people at work, etc. & not preach the gospel of Christ?

To effectively preach the gospel of Christ, what topics must be included? God’s love, God’s Son, God’s Plan (church, faith, repentance, baptism, righteous living), God’s Judgment, God’s Punishment, God’s hope.

Do we include these topics in every gospel lesson? If we are preaching to non-members we should. However, when we preach & teach among members, we are usually building on those elementary principles (**Heb 6:1-3**)

b. It must be “heard” (1:5; Rom 10:1, 14-15).

The messenger’s task is to make it heard.

The Roman’s passage refers to the inspired messengers.

We today who preach that message do not ask to be heard on our own merits, but we point back to the original messengers sent.

c. It must be the “word of truth” (1:5; 1 Thess 2:13).

The apostles’ message effectively works in those who believe.

d. It will “bear fruit” (1:6; Isa 55:8-11).

What fruit did it bear in the Colossians?

e. It magnifies the “grace of God”, but it does not exclude **man’s obedient response by faith** (1:6; Eph 2:5-8; Titus 2:11-13)?

The gospel is good news pertaining to “the grace of God” (Acts 20:24).

“The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us...” (Ti 2:11-12).

f. Those who preach it must be _____ (1:7; 1 Tim 4:12)?

“Faithful” (trustworthy), having been committed with a trust.

1 Tim 6:20 – O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your **trust**, avoiding the profane & idle babblings & contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge

1 Tim 4:12 – Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in **faith**, in purity.