

What Good News?
Practicing Evangelism & Apologetics
Breshears & Walker

I. IN YOUR OWN WORDS, DEFINE *THE GOSPEL*:

II. *THE GOSPEL* MUST BE UNDERSTOOD CLEARLY TO BE PROCLAIMED.

A. IS *THE GOSPEL* A TECHNICAL TERM?

1. Definitions:

εὐαγγέλιον: “good news”

BAG & Abbott-Smith: 1. In classical literature: a _____ for good tidings. 2. Later: _____ tidings or _____ news.

DNTT: Originally, the _____ received by the messenger of victory, but then the message of victory that brought joy. Originally it was used primarily in the political realm to denote announcements that battles had been won, or that a ruler had been born or had ascended to the throne.

Louw & Nida: “In a number of languages, the expression, *the gospel* or *the good news* must be rendered by a phrase, for example, *news that makes one _____*, or *information that causes one _____*, or *words that bring _____*, or *a message that causes the heart to be _____*.” (i.e. word emphasizes the intended effect the news has on the listener).

εὐαγγελιζεσθαι: “to announce good news, gospel” [54x]

2. General usage:

Sometimes “good news” (gospel/εὐαγγέλιον) is used to refer to good news in general, and has no specific, technical meaning.

Luke 1:19

¹³But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. ¹⁴He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. ¹⁶ Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous — to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” ¹⁸ Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.” ¹⁹ The angel answered, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this **good news**.”

1Thess. 3:6

⁶ But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought **good news** about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. ⁷ Therefore, brothers, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. ⁸ For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. ⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

Hebrews 4:2-6

² 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. ³ Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, “So I declared on oath in my anger, “They shall never enter my rest.”” And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world. ⁴ For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: “And on the seventh day God rested from all his work.” ⁵ And again in the passage above he says, “They shall never enter my rest.” ⁶ 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.

3. Development:

The noun (“gospel”) and the corresponding verb (“evangelize”) grow increasingly specific in meaning as Christ’s work is introduced and progresses.

Luke 2:10

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you **good news** of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Luke 3:18

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. ¹⁶ John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and **preached the good news** to them.

Mark 1:1

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

Luke 9:6

¹ When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, ² and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. ³ He told them: “Take nothing for the journey — no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic. ⁴ Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. ⁵ If people do not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave their town, as a testimony against them.” ⁶ So they set out and went from village to village, **preaching the gospel** and healing people everywhere.

(Disputed: Matthew 24:14)

B. WHAT EXACTLY IS THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL?

1. Need:

The Apostolic Gospel assumes the proper _____ of the problem:

Ephesians 2:1-3

¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

S _____

A _____

D _____

2. Content:

The content of the Gospel is _____ to, _____, or partially _____ over _____ times, but is concisely explained just _____.

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

¹ 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.

REVELATION

C. RESPONSE & RESULTS:

Acts 2

³⁶ “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” ³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ 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. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call.” ⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

➤What is offered falls along two lines:

1)_____

2)_____

➤What is required also falls along two lines:

1)_____

μετανοεω: (34x)

μετανοια: (22x)

Is repentance emotional?

Matthew 3

⁴ John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?" ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

1 Cor. 7

⁸ Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it — I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while — ⁹ yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰ Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. ¹¹ See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. ¹² So even though I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong or of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. ¹³ By all this we are encouraged.

SO: Responding to the Gospel involves a change of _____, not of _____; it may be accompanied by _____, but does not require it.

2) _____

πιστις:

πιστευω:

➤ The visible expression: _____

Is baptism vital? Yes and no:

Romans 1

¹⁶ I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

¹⁷ 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.”

1Corinthians 1

¹⁴ I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so no one can say that you were baptized into my name. ¹⁶ (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don’t remember if I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel — not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Conclusion:

Summary:

RESPONSE

REVELATION

RESULTS