



2: Big News

Last week we concluded that the essential heart of the gospel can be summed up in four points:

- God: there is a God and we are accountable to Him.
- Man: we have sinned against God and deserve His judgement.
- Jesus: we can be saved by Jesus.
- Response: that way of salvation is open to anyone who trusts Him.

But, of course, there is much more to our good news than that. This time we are going to expand our understanding of the gospel by gathering together some of the descriptions of it we find in the Bible.¹

Good News — There Is A Living God

Preaching the gospel in Lystra, Paul began:

“...we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”

Acts 14:15 – 17²

What does this tell us about the good news?

How was Paul's message good news for the people of Lystra?

Good News — Our God Reigns

In Romans 10:15 Paul quotes Isaiah 52:7.

“How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

Isaiah 52:7

Compare that with Mark 1:14.

How is the announcement of God's reign good news?

¹ The following notes are based on chapter 2 of John Piper's book “God Is The Gospel” published by IVP: The Gospel — The Biblical Scope of its Meaning.

² Scripture quotations are from the ESV.

Good News – A Saviour

In the New Testament it is clear that the coming of God's kingdom is bound up with the coming of Jesus. With His coming the King had arrived.

"...the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10 – 1

What is the significance of the title the angel gives to Jesus?

Good News – Jesus Died

"Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you— unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures..."

1 Corinthians 15:1 – 3

Good News – Jesus Lives

"...that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day."

1 Corinthians 15:4

Compare 1 Corinthians 15:17

Why is Jesus resurrection an important part of the good news?

Good News – The Spirit Has Come

"[John said], "I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming... He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire"... So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people."

Luke 3:16-18

What does the coming of the Holy Spirit add to the gospel?

Good News – Salvation For All

One of the most important words used to describe the good news of what God does for us is "salvation". For example, Paul refers to "the gospel of your salvation" in Ephesians 1:13. He says in Romans 1:

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes."

Romans 1:16

Is salvation part of the good news or a result of it being proclaimed?

What do you think is meant by salvation?

Who is it available to, according to Paul?

Good News – Peace

In Ephesians 6:15, describing the armour God gives us, Paul calls the gospel, “the gospel of peace.”

What kind of peace do you think Paul had in mind?

Good News – Eternal Life

“...our Saviour Christ Jesus... abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”

2 Timothy 1:10

What is meant by the gospel brings life and immortality to light?

Good News – Blessing For All The Nations

“Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.”

Galatians 3:8

John Piper says, “If the gospel were parochial it would not be the gospel.” Do you agree?

Good News – God Abounds In Grace

More than once the gospel is called “the gospel of His grace.”

“I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”

Acts 20:24

Compare Ephesians 1:4 and 6.

What does this tell us about the purpose of the gospel?

Good News – God Is Just

In explaining the gospel, in the earlier chapters of Romans, Paul makes clear that the gospel reveals not only the grace of God but also His righteousness.

“[We have been] justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness... so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

Romans 3:24 – 26

Would the gospel be good news if justice was compromised by it?

Big News

I hope this has given you some appreciation of the extent of the good news we have to proclaim but even with this we are merely scratching the surface. As you meditate on these things over the coming week see if you can think of some other aspects of the gospel that we have not yet touched upon.