

What is the Gospel?

For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.”

- Romans 1:16

1. The word “gospel” (εὐαγγέλιον) in the New Testament

“Gospel” in the Gospels (including Acts)

- Matthew 4:23, 9:35, 24:14; Mark 1:1, 1:14-15, 14:9
- Acts 2:22-41, 17:22-31

“Gospel” in the wider New Testament

- Romans 1:1-4, 15-16
- 1 Cor 1:17-18, 15:1-8
- Galatians 1:6-9, 3:8
- 1 Timothy 1:11; 2 Tim 2:8

Key components?

2. The response to the gospel in the New Testament

- Repentance (*Mt 3:2; Mk 1:15; Lk 13:3-5; Acts 2:38*)
- Belief (*Mt 9:28; Mk 1:15; Luke 24:25; John 20:31; Acts 4:4*)
- Speech: εὐαγγελιζῶ, “to gospel;” proclaim, announce, speak, testify

3. Dangers in talking about the gospel

“So we repudiate **false** gospels which deny human sin, divine judgment, the deity and incarnation of Jesus Christ, and the necessity of the cross and resurrection. We also reject **half-gospels**, which minimize sin and confuse God’s grace with human self-effort. We confess that we ourselves have sometimes **trivialized** the gospel. But we determine in our evangelism to remember God’s radical diagnosis and his equally radical remedy.”

- *The Manila Manifesto, 1989, A.I*

- False gospels
- Half-gospels
- Trivialised gospels

Solution? We must hold the content of the gospel and the implications of the gospel in their right relationship, and reflect this order in our own discipleship.

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- Matthew 28:18-20