

THE Gospel Part 2 - Definition of THE Gospel According to Jesus Christ-He Should Know – Study Guide

This study guide focuses on the scriptural definition of the "Gospel" as established by Jesus Christ and the Apostles. It aims to clarify the singular nature of the message, its historical roots, and the strategic deception used by the adversary to cause confusion within the church.

Definitions of Key Words

- **Gospel (*Euangelion*):** A Greek word meaning "**Good News**".
- **Kingdom of God / Kingdom of Heaven:** Synonymous terms referring to the **future earthly reign of Jesus Christ**.
- **Redeemed:** Those specifically **called and owned by God** to whom the scriptures are addressed.
- **Strategy:** A plan of action designed to achieve a **particular goal**; in this context, Satan's goal to redefine the Gospel and deny the redeemed their inheritance.
- **Super Apostles:** Charismatic, knowledgeable, and bold leaders who appear within the church but proclaim a **distorted message**.
- **Christ:** The Greek term for "**Messiah**" or "**Anointed One**", a title fundamentally linked to kingship and the **Kingdom**.

Expansion of Key Points

1. The Singular Definition: The One Gospel

Scripture dictates that there is **only one (O-N-E) Gospel**. While theological systems often categorise various "gospels," the sources argue that all scriptural references point to a single integrated message. According to **Galatians 1:5–7**, moving away from this singular message is defined as **deserting the Lord Jesus Christ**.

2. The Context: Addressed to the Redeemed

The Gospel is not a general message for the ungodly world; it is "**private mail**" **addressed to God's redeemed**. Understanding this audience is vital because the Gospel's context is only relevant to those who are already called by God.

3. Satanic Deception: Redefining and Dividing

Satan's primary strategy is to **redefine the Gospel** through the church's theological systems. By using "cunning" and "deceit," as warned in **2 Corinthians 11:3**, he seeks to lead the thoughts of the redeemed astray from a **pure devotion to the Messiah**. This is often achieved by dividing the Gospel into segments to create confusion, ensuring the redeemed do not know what to believe.

4. The Infiltration of "Super Apostles"

The threat to the true message comes from **within the church** rather than the ungodly world. As noted in **2 Corinthians 11:4–6**, "super apostles" will come proclaiming "**another Jesus**" and a "**different gospel**". These leaders are often bold, skilled communicators who use the name of Jesus but offer a distorted path, such as a "prosperity gospel" or a "broad path," instead of the required **striving through the narrow gate**.

5. The Gospel of the Kingdom: Jesus's Central Message

Jesus Christ's central and only message was the **Gospel of the Kingdom**. In **Matthew 4:23** and **Matthew 9:35**, He is described as going through cities and synagogues "proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom". This message is an integrated whole; one cannot separate the **birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus** from the Kingdom, as they form the structural "framing" of the message.

6. Ancient History: The Gospel Preached to Abraham

The Gospel did not begin with the New Testament; it was **preached beforehand to Abraham**. According to **Galatians 3:8**, God revealed that the nations would be blessed through the promise of **land and inheritance**. In **Genesis 13:14–15**, God instructed Abram to look "northward, southward, eastward, and westward" at the **literal land** he would be given forever—confirming the Kingdom is earthly, not heavenly.

7. Paul's Testimony and the "Whole Counsel of God"

The Apostle Paul did not teach a "different" gospel of grace. In **Acts 20:24–25**, Paul identifies "testifying to the gospel of the grace of God" as "**proclaiming the kingdom**". Paul claimed to be "innocent of the blood" of his listeners in **Acts 20:26–27** because he did not shrink from declaring the "**whole counsel of God**," which is defined as the Kingdom message.

8. The Post-Resurrection Priority

Following His resurrection, Jesus spent His final **40 days** on earth speaking exclusively about the **Kingdom of God**, as recorded in **Acts 1:2–3**. This indicates that the Kingdom message was the "crowning sermon" of His ministry and the most important truth for the Apostles to communicate.

Biblical References within this Source Excerpts

- **Genesis 13:14–15:** The land promise to Abraham.
- **Isaiah 61:1–2:** The prophecy of "Good News" and the year of the Lord's favour.
- **Matthew 4:23:** Jesus proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom.
- **Matthew 9:35:** Jesus teaching and proclaiming the Kingdom.
- **Matthew 19:23–24:** The difficulty of the rich entering the Kingdom of Heaven/God.
- **Matthew 24:14:** The Gospel of the Kingdom proclaimed to all nations.
- **Mark 1:1, 1:14:** The beginning of the Gospel; Jesus proclaiming the Gospel of God.
- **Luke 4:17–20:** Jesus quoting Isaiah and proclaiming the Lord's favour.
- **Luke 20:1:** Jesus teaching and preaching the Gospel in the temple.
- **John 14:10:** Jesus speaking the words of the Father.
- **John 17:8:** Jesus giving the Father's words to the disciples.
- **Acts 1:2–3:** Jesus teaching the Kingdom for 40 days post-resurrection.
- **Acts 20:17–27:** Paul's farewell to the Ephesian elders; the "whole counsel of God".
- **Romans 15:8:** Christ confirming the promises made to the patriarchs.
- **2 Corinthians 11:3–6:** Warnings against deception, "another Jesus," and "super apostles".
- **Galatians 1:5–7:** Deserting Christ for a "different gospel".
- **Galatians 3:8:** The Gospel preached beforehand to Abraham.

Study Questions

- What is the "Good News" (Gospel) specifically about, according to the teaching of Jesus?
- How does the source define "deserting the Lord Jesus Christ"?
- Why did Jesus stop reading the scroll of Isaiah mid-verse in Luke 4?

- According to Paul in Acts 20, what must a teacher proclaim to be "innocent of the blood" of their listeners?
- What is the "Stealth Strategy" of Satan regarding the definition of the Gospel?

Answer Key

- The specific "Good News" is the **coming earthly kingdom of Jesus Christ**.
- It is defined as **moving away from the one true Gospel** to a "different gospel".
- He was there to proclaim the **"year of the Lord's favour"** (His first coming); the "day of vengeance" is a future event reserved for His second coming.
- They must proclaim the **"whole counsel of God,"** which is identified as the message of the **Kingdom**.
- Satan "creeps" into the church to **redefine and divide** the one Gospel into multiple confusing segments to lead the redeemed astray.

Exhortations

- **Reject Confusion:** Do not allow the theological systems of the world to divide the Gospel into multiple messages. There is only **one Gospel**—the Gospel of the Kingdom.
- **Beware of Infiltration:** Understand that the primary threat to the truth is **inside the church**, coming from charismatic "super apostles" who distort the words of Christ.
- **Focus on the Earthly Reign:** Shift your focus from "going to heaven" to the **coming earthly kingdom** promised to Abraham and confirmed by Jesus.
- **Strive for Inheritance:** Recognize that your current life determines your future **inheritance** in the Kingdom; do not take this "optional" path lightly.