



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!
 (#47)
 The New Testament "Good News"
 OR
 today's "new good news"?

WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT IS AT WORK... what happens?

[SCENE AFTER MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE]

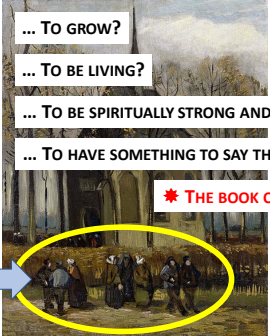


I LOVE TO HEAR UPLIFTING MUSIC AND POWERFUL SERMONS! IT MAKES ME FEEL SO-O-O SPIRITUAL!

I WAS SO DEEPLY CONVICTED OF MY SINFULNESS, THAT ALL I COULD DO WAS BEG JESUS TO HAVE MERCY AND CHANGE ME!

Changed feelings? Changed hearts?

WHAT CAUSES A CHURCH... (REFERRING TO THE PEOPLE)



- ... TO GROW?
- ... TO BE LIVING?
- ... TO BE SPIRITUALLY STRONG AND POWERFUL?
- ... TO HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY THAT'S WORTH SAYING?

* THE BOOK OF ACTS TELLS US! *

HERE IS THE CHURCH!

What causes a church to become

GROWING, LIVING, STRONG, POWERFUL, AND READY TO SPEAK UP?

- It **BEGINS** with → **A FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD** – Submission to it.
- CONTINUES** with → **A FOCUS ON PRAYER** – Not a "grocery list," I WANT YOU TO DO THIS & THAT... but an expression of love for God and neighbor. EXPRESSING WORSHIP, PRAISE, ADORATION TO GOD... PRAYER TO BUILD UP, ENCOURAGE, EMPOWER OTHERS...
- And **RESULTS** in → **POWER FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT** – To obey, grow, love as God loves...

When these things happen...

A FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD
 A FOCUS ON PRAYER
 THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER

↓

THE CHURCH IS GOING TO HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY!
 ... SOMETHING WORTH LISTENING TO!

What is it? How do we know? → THE ANSWER IS IN * THE BOOK OF ACTS! *

WHAT WE HAVE OBSERVED SO FAR

- The world's hopelessly lost condition; its need for the Good News.
- The Good News must be accurately proclaimed.
- Certain foundational facts must be understood before the Good News can be understood – about God, sin, judgment, etc.
- God's sovereignty and human responsibility work together in salvation.
- God's people have a moral obligation to tell others the Good News (in whatever way God enables).
- The book of Acts shows us why the early church was so successful.
- Many (including some claiming to be "Bible believers") will hate the Good News, and may cause persecution.

NEXT ✓ WE NEED TO FIND OUT SPECIFICALLY WHAT THE "GOOD NEWS" IS – ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF ACTS.

BUT FIRST ✓ WE NEED TO ASK...

What if our "good news" doesn't match the "Good News" described in the Bible...

DOES IT MATTER? SHOULD WE CARE?

IF IT DOESN'T MATTER, WE MIGHT AS WELL STOP HERE!

What if...

OUR "GOOD NEWS" is not the same as THE BIBLE'S "GOOD NEWS"?

DOES IT MATTER?

- ✓ Are we smarter than the apostles? Was God wrong?
- ✓ Do we claim that each generation can rewrite its own version of the "good news"?
- ✓ Is truth relative... so we can decide for ourselves?
- ✓ Is it all just a matter of opinion?

DOES IT MATTER?

✓ Do all those warnings and condemnations in the Bible have no relevance to us?

[EXAMPLE]

But even if we (or an angel from heaven) should preach a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be condemned to hell!

As we have said before, and now I say again, if any one is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, let him be condemned to hell!

Galatians 1:8-9 (NET)

★ If it was sinful for people to modify the Good News back then... is it OK for us to do so now? ★

THINK THROUGH THIS ISSUE CAREFULLY!

IF: This issue really matters... → **THEN:** Many of us are in deep trouble.

BECAUSE: The "good news" presented by most "Bible believers" today does NOT match what we find in the Bible.

- ✓ Because of what it **ADDS**.
- ✓ Because of what it **SUBTRACTS**.

THINK THROUGH THIS ISSUE CAREFULLY!

IF: You discover that this applies to you... → **THEN:** How do you plan to respond?

BECAUSE: If you tell others the "good news" that has been promoted in the past ~70 years, it is highly probable that you are doing something that Pau! says deserves eternal punishment.

(IF THIS DESCRIBES YOU...)

WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT IT?

IF: You are promoting this "new good news"... → **THEN:** You most likely believe that you are doing something good!

BECAUSE: ✓ It sounds good to you,
 ✓ Your friends are doing it, and
 ✓ You see other "Bible believers" doing it!

I SEE NOTHING WRONG WITH IT!

(IF THIS DESCRIBES YOU...)

WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT IT?

IF: You are doing this... → **THEN:** You will have to make a choice.

BECAUSE: You can't do both!

[PAUL] "If you preach a gospel contrary to the one I preached, may you be condemned to hell!"

[CHOICE #1] THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH WHAT I'M DOING. I HAVE NO NEED TO CHANGE.

[CHOICE #2] WHAT PAUL SAID IS TRUE. I MUST CHANGE!

(IF THIS DESCRIBES YOU...)

WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT IT?

IF: Paul is right (and you don't change) → **THEN:** The outcome will not be good... for you or for the hearer.

BECAUSE: What matters is NOT "getting them to make a decision," but the eternal outcome.

You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are.

Matthew 23:15b (NIV)

(BEGINNING IN FUTURE WEEKS.)

☞ We haven't gone into details yet...
But as we do so...
We should ask some questions.

WE SHOULD QUESTION THE "NEW GOOD NEWS"!

"WHY???"

"WHY???"

WHY were the changes made?

WHY are we so zealous to do things the way God didn't tell us to do them?

WHY does Scripture contain so many warnings against making changes?

WHY do we expect the same results with a different message?

SUGGESTED MISSION FOR THIS WEEK:

READ THE BOOK OF ACTS!

COMPARE

⇒

THE EMPHASIS OF THE "NEW GOOD NEWS"

TO

⇒

THE ORIGINAL GOOD NEWS

- ✓ **THE "NEW GOOD NEWS"** tends to be centered around the word **"LOVE."**
- ✓ **FIND OUT** the extent that **"LOVE"** was the focus of the original Good News ...
– **THE NEWS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD!**

Credits

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