



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved
WORLD!

(#53)
Good News!

GOOD NEWS

(also translated as "gospel")

It's about JESUS, not ME!

| New Testament Greek word | English translation |
|-----------------------------|---|
| εὐαγγέλιον (euaggelion) | = good news |
| εὐαγγελίζω (euaggelizō) | = to proclaim good news |
| εὐαγγελιστής (euaggelistēs) | = one who brings good news, an evangelist |

In the book of ACTS, what did they do with the Good News?

✓ They told others the Good News... at any time, in any place.

| WHO? | WHERE? |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| JEW | IN THE TEMPLE AND IN HOMES |
| SAMARITANS (HALF-JEWS) | EVERYWHERE |
| | THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGES |

And every day both in the temple courts and from house to house, they did not stop teaching and proclaiming the good news...
Acts 5:42a (NET)

But the believers who had fled Jerusalem [because of persecution] went everywhere preaching the Good News about Jesus.
Acts 8:4 (NLT)

... they spread the Good News in many Samaritan villages ...
Acts 8:25b (GW)

| WHO? | WHERE? |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| GREEKS (GENTILES) (NON-JEWS) | WHEREVER THEY WENT |
| | IN SYNAGOGUES (v. 44) |
| | IN THE MARKET PLACE (v. 17b) |

... men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to [Syrian] Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, proclaiming the good news...
Acts 11:20b (CSB)

[At Pisidian Antioch] We are telling you the Good News...
Acts 13:32a (GW)

They spread the Good News there [= at Lystra and Derbe].
Acts 14:7 (GW)

[Paul] was telling the good news...
Acts 17:18b (CSB)

... Philip the evangelist... [= "good news proclaimer"]
Acts 21:8b (NASB)

✓ The Good News demanded a response from the hearer. (⇒ More about this at a future time.)

THE PROPER RESPONSE WAS :

... TO **ACCEPT IT AS TRUE**...
... so that they could hear the Good News and **believe**.
Acts 15:7b (NLT)

... AND TO **CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK AND LIVE**.
We are bringing you good news, telling you to **turn** from these worthless things to the living God, ...
Acts 14:15b (NIV)

[People who refused to respond this way often persecuted those who proclaimed it.]

WHAT is the Good News about?

✓ The general focus is on the **GOD** of the Bible.

| EXAMPLES: | HIS KINGDOM | HIS UNDESERVED KINDNESS | WHAT HE ACCOMPLISHED |
|-----------|--|--|--|
| | ... the good news about the kingdom of God ... Acts 8:12b (NET) | ... the good news of God's grace. Acts 20:24b (NET) | He did what he promised he would do. ... the good news: What God promised our [Jewish] ancestors he has fulfilled for us, their descendants, by raising Jesus. Acts 13:32b-33a (ISV) |
| | God's rule over creation and people – now and in eternity. | "Grace" = <i>undeserved</i> kindness toward sinners; an aspect of God's sovereign purpose. | |

✓ **The #1 emphasis is JESUS CHRIST!**

WHO HE IS

... the good news about Jesus.

Acts 8:35b (ISV)

... the good news about ... the name of Jesus Christ, ...

Acts 8:12b (NET)

In the Bible, one's "name" represents the person and who he is – his significance.

EXAMPLES:

CHOSEN FOR A SPECIAL PURPOSE

... the Good News that Jesus is the Messiah.

Acts 5:42b (GW)

"Messiah" = "Christ" = "the anointed one," consecrated or chosen [by God] for a special purpose.

RULER AND MASTER OVER ALL

... the good news of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 11:20b (NET)

... the Good News ... Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

Acts 10:36b (NLT)

"Lord" = "ruler" or "master"; in this relationship, we are his servants or slaves.

EXAMPLES:

[HIS WORDS ARE GOOD NEWS, AND SHOULD BE PROCLAIMED!]

... proclaiming* the word of the Lord.

Acts 15:35b (CSB)

Focusing on the message ("word") that comes from the Lord. It has God's authority and must be heeded.

* [= "good-news-proclaiming"]

WHAT HE DID... CAME BACK TO LIFE FROM THE DEAD

... the good news about Jesus and **the resurrection**.

Acts 17:18b (CSB)

Jesus' resurrection; perhaps also the resurrection of all people at the future Day of Judgment. (Their resurrection is *guaranteed* by Jesus' resurrection.)

EXAMPLES:

WHAT HE ACCOMPLISHED... PEACE WITH GOD

... the Good News ... that there is **peace with God** through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

Acts 10:36b (NLT)

In salvation, Jesus removes the barrier between people and God. (As ruler over all, he also removes barriers between his people.)

When proclaiming the Good News, where do we start?

Some time ago, we pointed out that **we need to start where the people's understanding stops.**

- ✓ **The Jews** normally understood the foundational issues. The Good News focus could go directly to Jesus. (The apostles often began with Old Testament themes that pointed to Jesus.)
- ✓ **The non-Jews** normally had little or no comprehension of Bible basics. We would have to begin with the Bible basics.

(REVIEW) – BIBLE BASICS: THE NECESSARY FOUNDATIONAL ISSUES

THIS DOESN'T MEAN that people must know *everything* about these issues, before they can be saved.

↳ But they do need to be headed in the right direction.

THEY NEED (at least):

- ✓ A "**beginning**" **understanding** of these concepts.
- ✓ An **attitude of humility** toward the true God.
- ✓ A **teachable spirit** – willing to receive the truth of Scripture.

#1 – Facts pertaining to GOD

- ✓ There is only **ONE TRUE GOD**, who is over all other gods. This God reveals himself in the Bible.
- ✓ This God is the **MAKER** of all, and **RULER** over all.
- ✓ He **CANNOT BE REPRESENTED** by created things, or by objects that humans make.
- ✓ He has **NO NEEDS** that we must fulfil by our religious activities.

#2 – Facts pertaining to PEOPLE

- ✓ We were **MADE BY GOD**; we are not gods.
- ✓ We are **TOTALLY DEPENDENT** on God for our existence and daily living.
- ✓ We **ABANDONED** the true God and have gone our own ways.
- ✓ Even so, we are **SURROUNDED** by displays of God's glory and by his kindness toward us – testimonies of his presence.

#3 – Facts pertaining to JUDGMENT

- ✓ The day of **JUDGMENT IS COMING**. God has guaranteed it will come, by raising the judge (= Jesus) from the dead.
- ✓ God commands us to **GET READY** for this judgment. We are to turn from our false gods and repent of our sinful ways.
- ✓ This opportunity to get ready is **UNDESERVED** – something that people in the past did not have. So don't throw it away!

✓ The Good News and the FOUNDATION are interrelated!

- Good News themes are present in the Bible basics foundation.
- As people grow in their understanding of Bible basics, they grow in their ability to understand the Good News!

[On the NEXT PAGE...]

- Because they are interrelated, Paul can use the term "good news," when introducing Bible basics.

★ They weren't yet ready to focus on "Jesus,"
but they were already being introduced
to some of the basic concepts of
the Good News! ★

"TURNING" has to do
with REPENTANCE!

"We are bringing you **good news**, telling you to **turn** from these worthless things to **the living God**, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them."

Acts 14:15b (NIV)

"THE LIVING GOD" – in contrast
to the "gods" that people invent.

✓ The Good News concepts in the foundation make it easier for people to understand what Jesus did.

"For [God] has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

Acts 17:31 (NIV)

Though the name "Jesus" hasn't been mentioned, there are certain things people can conclude from the above statement:

"These things demand a response. We must decide how we are going to respond."

"If there is a judgment day, we must get ready for it!"

"We need to find out more about this coming judge!"

Do you notice anything "missing"
in this Good News focus?

YOU! ... ME! ... We are NOT part of it!

The Good News: It's about JESUS, not US!

- ✓ The apostles never preached about themselves... only about Jesus.

While I was with you, I decided to deal with only one subject—Jesus Christ, who was crucified.

1 Cor. 2:2 (GW)

(They didn't preach about doing religious activities, either.)

Did the apostles ever talk about themselves?

YES... but NOT as part of the Good News!

They talked about themselves, but only when it was necessary.

EXAMPLES FROM PAUL:

- ✓ In a court of law (several times near the end of Acts).
- ✓ When defending his calling and ministry (when false teachers were attacking him)... yet he claimed that such talk was foolish – 2 Corinthians 11:17, 21!
- ✓ When he was showing the contrast between his sinfulness and God's goodness (1 Corinthians 15:9-10).

When Paul talked about himself, he focused on things that unsaved people wouldn't want to hear... unless God was working in their hearts!

If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.
2 Cor. 11:30 (NIV)

Therefore, I accept weakness, mistreatment, hardship, persecution, and difficulties suffered for Christ.
2 Cor. 12:10a (GW)

➤ Jesus had the same focus!

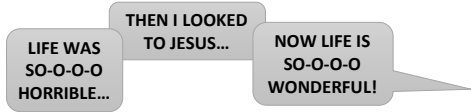
"Those who want to come with me must say no to the things they want, pick up their crosses, and follow me."
Matthew 16:24b (GW)

"Me" "You" "Us" – NOT part of the Good News!

The apostles didn't talk about themselves, when trying to get people to turn to Jesus!

People who talk about themselves tend to:

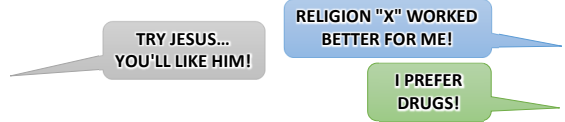
- ✓ Omit concepts such as self-denial, repentance, obedience, suffering for Jesus, etc.
- ✓ Talk about "how wonderful life is with Jesus." (It's almost like "bait"!)*



* (We examined this issue in the past.)

The real issue ISN'T...

"Jesus will give you health, happiness and prosperity."
(⇒ This is actually NOT what Jesus said would happen.)



The real issue IS...

"Jesus is returning to judge you... make peace with God while you can."



Your Mission!



IT'S GOOD NEWS!

HEAR IT!

LEARN IT!

SHARE IT!

Credits

SCRIPTURE

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