

The Indivisible Gospel of Jesus Christ

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J. Dan Gill

I. Definition - “euangelion” “a good message” / shortened to “good news”

- The Good Message = God’s thoughts and plans for humanity.
- Take a fresh look at "the gospel"

II. One Author – One Gospel

1. There has never been more than one true gospel.

Because it originates with one author – God

He imparted it to Jesus Christ - His son (Luke 4:18).

Who imparted it to his disciples (John 17:8).

Who then imparted it to the world (Mark 16:15).

2. All of this is seen in Romans Chapters 1 & 2

1:1 Paul...set apart for the **gospel of God**

1:9a ...announcing the **gospel of his son**

2:16 ...on the day when, according to **my gospel** God will judge

3. In terms of “origin” it is God’s alone. John 7:16 / 1 Timothy 1:11

4. It is “the” gospel (with definite article) around 80x +- in the NT

No references in the Bible to “gospels” - plural

5. Variously then it is the:

gospel of God (Ro.1:1),

of Jesus Christ (Mk. 1:1),

of Paul (Ro. 2:16),

of the kingdom (Mk. 4:23),

or just “the gospel” (Mark 1:15).

Those are all interchangeable terms

The idea of “different gospels” is confusion and is not scriptural.

III. A Plan Revealed - Faith That Moves

1. God “kept” his own plans from the beginning (Isa. 14:24).

2. He revealed his plans gradually over time - to chosen people.

3. Hence, “the gospel was preached beforehand” to Abraham (Gal. 3:8).

Abraham believed it - but how much did he know?

Abrahamic Faith is a faith that MOVES!!

As the plan of God unfolded to Abraham he walked in it.

Not a mental cognition only – It is a decision to "trust" to "follow."

FIWFD

4. It was proclaimed to his prophets of old. - Yet somewhat “veiled”

They saw from afar / (Matthew 13:17, etc.)

Not sure they always fully understood what they saw

But they believed in the message of God –

as much as they knew.

5. The “law” was **not** the gospel - **not** that plan. It was a “stand-in.”

I will raise up for them a prophet like you [Moses] from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. (Deut. 18:18, cf. Acts 3:20-26).

The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ (John 1:17).

The law was good ! But – the Law was “not of this faith” (Gal. 3:12).

John 3:16 was not given in the law of Moses.

Paul insists that we are not under the law - Gal. 3:23-25.

6. John the Baptist proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom –

All that he knew

He did not know who the Messiah would be. - John 1:33

He says nothing of a death / burial or resurrection of the Messiah.

7. Jesus’ disciples heard & proclaimed the gospel / Mat. 10 / Luke 10.

They knew nothing of a death /burial /resurrection – in the beginning.

They were not proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah.

Mat. 16:15-22

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Then he sternly ordered the disciples **not** to tell **anyone** that he was the Messiah. v 20

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.
v 21

And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." v 22 - also Jn. 20:9

They did not know God had matters of "righteousness" to deal with.

Luke 24: 45-47

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, v 45

and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, v 46

and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. v 47

IV. Now We See It All -

Luke's "Proto-Message": Acts 2

22 "Men of Israel, listen to this: **Jesus of Nazareth was a man** accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

23 This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, **put him to death by nailing him to the cross.**

24 But **God raised him from the dead**, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

33 **Exalted to the right hand of God**, he has received from the Father the promised holy spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

34 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, "The LORD said to my lord: "Sit at my right hand 35 **until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.**"

36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, **both Lord and Christ.**"

37 ¶ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, **what shall we do?**"

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness of your sins.** And you will receive the gift of the holy spirit. (cf. Luke 24:47)

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

What part of this message is dispensable???

V. Comparing Acts 2 with Ephesians 4 / Paul's "seven ones."

Eph. 4:4 One Body - Acts 2:41 / Continued in apostles teaching and fellowship.

One spirit - Acts 2:33 / He has poured out this which you now see...

One hope - Acts 2:38 / Forgiveness - entrance into the kingdom.

Eph. 4:5 One Lord - Acts 2:36 / God made him lord / Active head by the spirit.

- Poured out this you see & hear - Acts 2:33 (Also Mark 1:8)

- At the death of Stephen - Acts 7:55

- Paul on the road to Damascus - Acts 9:5

- Jesus walking among the churches - Rev. 2 & 3

One Faith - Acts 2 / The one faith is being declared in Acts 2:22-41.

(One faith requires that there be one message / one gospel.)

One Baptism - Acts 2:38 A baptism in the name of Jesus the Messiah

Baptism & repentance - inseparable (Mark 1:4, Luke 3:3)

Eph. 4:6 One God above all - Acts 2:22, 24, 33, 34, 36

Peter did not teach the "Trinity" on the day of Pentecost!

Peter did not teach "Oneness" on that day!

V. Indivisible!!

Review

1. **One** Wonderful Gospel!

2. Revealed over time. - Believed as it was revealed.

True faith moved as God moved.

3. No part of it is dispensable!

Not, the God of this Gospel - He is "Above all"

Neither the message of his kingdom

Or, its wonderful king - Jesus

Or, how people became partakers

in this enterprise (Acts 2:38).

4. Only in a day of religious fragmentation & confusion would we divide it!

5. Let us seek to understand it rightly. / It is important! - All of it!

How much can we change the Gospel - before we have a "different" gospel?

6. Never let "blessings" keep us from "blessings"!

If God has blessed us already – Great!

But those blessings are not a reason for assuming that God is entirely pleased with us!

People in the Bible who were blessed by God –

kept moving as God moved and

and as he made his will better known to them.

7. What is YOUR Gospel?

What do you live by – trust in?

What do you hold forth to the world?