

Communicating the Gospel

(that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel)

Eph 6:19

What is the "gospel"? εὐαγγέλιον (euaggelion) - *good news*

By looking at Matt:4:23, 9:35, 24:14, 26:13, Mark 1:14-15, Acts 15:7, Rom 10:16, Gal 2:14, Php 2:22 & Rev 14:6 we see that the word "gospel" is used to mean something exciting, dynamic, good. It's a message that Jesus knows people need to hear. It appears 77 times in the New Testament, in nearly all the books.

John Wesley says: The Gospel, that is, the joyous message, is the proper name of our religion.

Albert Barnes says: The good news respecting the kingdom he was about to set up; or the good news respecting the coming of the Messiah and the nature of his kingdom.

Adam Clarke says: Proclaiming the glad tidings of the kingdom.

The International Standard Bible Encyc. says: gos´pel (τὸ εὐαγγέλιον, *to´ euagge´lion*): The word gospel is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word which meant "the story concerning God." In the New Testament the Greek word *euaggelion*, means "good news." It proclaims tidings of deliverance. The word sometimes stands for the record of the life of our Lord (Mar 1:1), embracing all His teachings, as in Act 20:24. But the word "gospel" now has a peculiar use, and describes primarily the message, which Christianity announces. "Good news" is its significance. It means a gift from God. It is the proclamation of the forgiveness of sins and sonship with God restored through Christ. It means remission of sins and reconciliation with God. The gospel is not only a message of salvation, but also the instrument through which the Holy Spirit works (Rom 1:16)

Apostle Paul says: foreseeing that God would justify the nations through faith, preached the gospel before to Abraham, *saying*, "In you shall all nations be blessed. (Gal 3:8)

The gospel is such a broad topic. It would take a very long time to go into all its usages and meanings within the Bible. I want us to focus on its primary function - Salvation. The Good News about God/Jesus.

Q) How do you communicate this message/gospel?

Sometimes we think we are making sense when in fact the person is confused.

A little girl was feeling ill in a church service. She says to her mum, "mummy I'm going to throw up!"

Mum says, "go out the back quickly and go behind a bush"

The girl runs off and within 30 seconds is back. The Mum says " did you throw up?" "Yes mummy"

"The mum shocked says "How did you get out of the church, throw up and back so quickly?" The little girl said "I didn't have to go behind a bush, they have a box at the back of the church which says "For the Sick".

Religious Language - A Game pt. 1:

Define these words as if speaking to a person foreign to these words:

1. Sin - The bad things we do, thinking we know better than God and doing what we want, pride, selfishness
2. Righteousness - stand clean and right before God, not ashamed or guilty. Pure & clean heart.
3. Salvation - Being saved from an eternity of pain and loneliness without God, from great danger.
4. Repentance - Sadness felt for wrong things done, turning away from bad things towards God & good.
5. Faith - to trust, to believe, It's our handle on what we can't see (MSG), being certain of what we hope for.
6. Grace - God's Riches At Christ Expense, getting what we don't deserve, a free gift, no strings attached.
7. GOSPEL - Jesus paid the price we should pay for the bad things we do, so that God would forgive us and be our friend and live with Him forever.

Pt. 2:

Act them out in pairs for someone who doesn't speak English using anything you want:

What does the Bible say about unbelievers?

Twice God says in Ezekial that He wants them to live.

Eze 18:23 Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his ways and live?

Eze 18:32 For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."

To the Ninevites, evil people, God saw their hearts:

Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish." When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

(Jonah 3:9-10)

Jesus wept because the Jews and Gentiles of Jerusalem wouldn't except Him:

And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within

you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."
(Luk 19:41-44)

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
(Joh 3:16)

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
(Mat 28:19)

As it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." "Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known.", "There is no fear of God before their eyes."
(Rom 3:10-18)

Rom 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

2 Cor 4:4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'
(Mat 7:21-23)

Overall, this is why we have the gospel. This is God's wish and plan that the gospel may carry out:

Rev 21:3-5 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be

mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."
And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new.

Therefore let us make it our prayer that we look to communicate the whole gospel, boldly, clearly, relevantly to anyone, whenever possible, knowing that God wants us to preach his gospel to the poor:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Rom 1:16

HOW?

I was once taught the gospel like this on my hand:

1. **Grace** - God's free gift of salvation - Eph 2:8-9
2. **Man** - Man is a sinner and cannot save himself - Rom 3:23
3. **God** - God is Loving and doesn't want to punish us but must because He is Just - Rom 6:23
4. **Jesus** - He came from heaven to earth to show the way, died in our place, rose again and is alive - Rom 10:9-11, John 3:16
5. **Faith** - Believing and having trust in what Christ did and who He is - 1 John 5:13

MEMORISE

There are many other ways. Can we using paper and pens draw visual ways of communicating the gospel?

Illustrations:

- God reaching down like a helicopter winch does to a stranded swimmer
- A judge sentencing someone and then serving the time himself
- Neo dying sacrificing himself so that Agent Smith doesn't win and humanity survives
- Jesus acting as a bridge between us and God

Ideas & Vision.....