

Why The Gospel Is Good News

By Bill Denton

INTRODUCTION

A. Illustrations

1. Euangelion (which we call gospel) is a Greek word, and signifies good, merry, glad, and joyful tidings, that makes a mans heart glad, and makes him sing, dance, and leap for joy. -- William Tyndale
2. The gospel is like a fresh, mild, and cool air in the extreme heat of summer, a solace and comfort in the anguish of the conscience. -- Martin Luther

B. Most of us know that the word "gospel" means good news

1. It is good news that concerns some vitally important spiritual matters
2. A few of the basic idea connected to "gospel"
 - a. it is good news that relates to the kingdom of God (which concerns the rule of God)
 - b. it is good news that relates to Jesus Christ (specifically his death, burial and resurrection)
 - c. it is good news that relates to the forgiveness of sins
 - d. it is good news that relationship and fellowship is restored with the Father
 - e. it is good news that we have been redeemed and bear no condemnation in the eyes of the Father

C. The Bible contains statements that reveal the importance of the gospel

1. Acts 20:24 -- "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God. NASU
2. 2 Tim 1:8-10 -- Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, NASU
3. 1 Peter 4:17 -- For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? NASU
4. In recent times, the gospel has come to be viewed with less interest, recognized as less important, and more people are losing sight of why the gospel is good news

D. Today, I want us to think together about the gospel, and understand why it is good news, and Still important and applicable to us today

I. THE GOSPEL IS GOOD NEWS BECAUSE IT SAYS WE HAVE A PROBLEM THAT CAN BE SOLVED

A. One writer has an interesting view of the problem of sin

1. Illustration

Sin is the best news there is, the best news there could be in our predicament. Because with sin, there's a way out. There's the possibility of repentance. You can't repent of confusion or psychological flaws inflicted by your parents--you're stuck with them. But you can repent of sin. Sin and repentance are the only grounds for hope and joy. The grounds for reconciled, joyful relationships. You can be born again. -- John Alexander in *The Other Side* (Jan.-Feb. 1993). *Christianity Today*, Vol. 39, no. 1

2. Now, it's not that sin is actually good new in itself, but there is good news compared to what we often hear are our problems – a plethora of things that we cannot solve

- a. we are told we have mental diseases – (there are some physical diseases that affect our ability to function) but if we're at the mercy of disease, then it seems we're unaware of a cure
- b. we're told that we have chemical imbalances (and there are some), but even with medication, we find that basic human problems persist – no pill ever resolved the problem of evil
- c. we are told our problems are the result of our parents' bad job at raising us, or the result of societies inequities, or a host of shifted blame impossible to sort out or undo
- d. we're told that our problems are caused by a lack of education (which can be true), yet we keep pouring money, time, effort, resources, people, etc., into teaching and we have ever-increasing rates of human problems.

B. I've got some good news for you

1. In the gospel of Jesus Christ, there is exactly what the world needs to resolve the root problem

- a. sin can be forgiven, the burden of guilt lifted, fear relieved, depression eased
- b. with sin forgiven, the gospel brings us a new life in Christ, we are not the same kind of persons any longer, but we are new creatures, with a new life, and a new source for life
- c. the gospel is designed to change us, replace evil with good, and teach us how to live as a people conformed to the image of Jesus Christ

2. Col 2:13 -- When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, NASU

3. 1 John 2:12-14 -- I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. NASU

II. THE GOSPEL IS GOOD NEWS BECAUSE WE CANNOT SOLVE OUR PROBLEM OF SIN

A. Illustration

1. Abide with me-fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens: Lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
Henry Francis Lyte
2. The difference between faith and works is just this: In the case of faith, God does it; in the case of works, we try to do it ourselves; and the difference is measured simply by the distance between the infinite and the finite, the Almighty God and a helpless worm. -- Albert Benjamin Simpson

B. Here is the truth that makes the fact of sin so terrible – we cannot undo what sin does

1. Here's the power of sin
 - a. Romans 3:23 -- for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, NASU
 - b. James 2:10 -- For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all. NASU
 - c. Isaiah 59:2 -- But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear. NASU
2. No amount of effort on your part can resolve the problem
 - a. Rom 3:19-20 -- Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. NASU
 - b. you can't keep God's law to make up for sin – living perfectly is simply the expectation of the law, otherwise all it does it declare our guilt

C. But, there is good news -- God does the saving for us

1. Acts 4:10-12 -- let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead -- by this name this man stands here before you in good health. He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone. And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." NASU
2. Rom 5:8-11 -- But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. NASU

3. Eph 2:4-7 -- But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. NASU
4. 2 Tim 1:8-10 -- Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, NASU
5. Heb 7:24-25 -- but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. NASU

CONCLUSION

A. The world has enough bad news, sorrow, trouble and misery

1. We need to remember that our mission to the world is to proclaim good news
2. We have a solution to sin, the antidote for evil, the answer to the problem of the ages
3. Why the church was ever convinced to get off message is a mystery, but it's one we can fix

B. Are you lost in sin today

1. Is your life a mess?
2. Are you burdened with guilt, fear, and the trouble of a disordered life?
3. You need to know that God has an answer

C. We issue an invitation to respond in faith to Jesus Christ

1. Believe in him, trust him to do the saving
2. Repent of your sins, changing your mind and turning from a life of sin
3. Confess Jesus as the Son of God and Lord of your life, making him and his life the most important thing in yours
4. Be baptized in water, yielding yourself in obedient faith, being buried into his death, and then as he was raised from the dead, you be raised to live a new life

D. Eternal promises of God including salvation, God's indwelling Spirit, and the abiding help Of the Lord's divine presence will become the best things possible for you