

## THE GOSPEL

WILLIS 1/1/12

Lk 4:14-21

For those of you who were not with us at the Vision Banquet, we announced our theme for 2012 to be **The Year of Good News**. Being repositioned from a primary focus on the responsibility of our walk to a greater focus on the benefits of that walk...we said 3 things will be true of this year:

1. **2012 Will be a Year of Amazing Grace:** With grace being the substructure of all good news, this will be a year where we see grace doing for us what we were never intended to do on our own.
2. **2012 Will be a Year of Sudden Change:** It was prophesied by Mark Moody that there is coming a shift to CCK. 2012 will be a year of "Suddenlies." CCK is at a tipping point where we will see suddenly, hear suddenly, say suddenly and do suddenly.
3. **2012 Will be a Year of the Gospel:** The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the Good News of Jesus Christ. Being the Gospel is the power of God unto Salvation, the more we know of the Gospel the more we will know of the power of God and the results of God.

Today we want to turn our focus to the Gospel and see the interplay between the Gospel and the Good News. I am going to share a little and then we are going to see a video presentation on the Gospel that captures the essence of the Gospel in a powerful way.

As important as the Gospel is to Christianity it is also somewhat misunderstood. I say "somewhat" because like most things that begin with a transcendent God it is hard to reduce them down to a concrete, all inclusive definition with just a sentence or two.

- So it's not misunderstood as much as it is difficult to reduce to a simple definition.
- Once you define the Gospel, it is that and so much more. The Gospel is the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Gospel is the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. The Gospel is the first 4 books of the N.T.
- **In its complexity the Gospel has to do with propitiation, justification, regeneration and sanctification but in its simplicity the Gospel is simply believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.**

- The Gospel is Good News because Jesus Christ did for man what man was incapable of doing for himself. Man is utterly incapable of saving himself and we are equally incapable of keeping ourselves saved.
- Understanding the Gospel then is the foundational cornerstone of our relationship to Christ.

I want us to watch a video presentation by Eric Ludy entitled The Gospel.

In light of our need God screamed into 400 years of silence with a Gospel of Good News. **This Gospel of Good News is so good, in its etymology it actually means; good news of good news. Go...spel...“Go”- God or good; “Spel”- news.**

- The Gospel of Good News is the God news of good news or the good news of good news. When it is God news you know it is good news.

In Is 61 God prophesied it and in Lk 4 Jesus fulfilled it. Let's go back to Is 61 and see what was in the heart of God when He announced His intent to pierce the 400 years of silence with the Gospel of Good News. Is. 61 is announcement and intent...in the intent we see the Good News:

Jesus was coming as the Good News of God to:

- Bind up the afflicted
- Proclaim liberty to the captives: **not punishment but liberty**
- Freedom to the prisoners: **not justice but freedom**
- Proclaim the favorable year of the Lord: **favor was the leading message after 400 years**
- Proclaim the day of God's vengeance: **vengeance on sin not on man**
- Comfort those who mourn
- Grant gladness for morning
- Praise instead of fainting: what an incredible exchange
- Rebuild the ancient ruins: **there is still hope...the ruins can be rebuilt**
- Raise up the former devastations
- Repair the ruined cities
- Heal the desolations of generations: **in an age of redemption it is never too late**
- Let strangers do our work: **it is good news because while we wait grace works**
- We will be spoken of as ministers
- Will eat the wealth of nations
- Boast in our riches
- Instead of shame we will receive a double portion: **a double portion of God's favor**
- Instead of humiliation we will shout for joy
- We will possess a double portion of land
- Everlasting joy will be ours
- The Lord will pay back what was lost

- The Lord will make an everlasting covenant with us
- Our offspring will be known among the nations
- Our descendants will be recognized as those the Lord has blessed
- We will be clothed with salvation
- Wrapped in robes of righteousness
- Adorned with jewels

And the best news of all “As the earth brings forth its sprouts and the garden causes the things sown to grow so the Lord will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all nations.”

- The Good News is; the Good News is accomplished by the grace and power of another.

No wonder it was called the good news of good news. **The Gospel of Good News was coming to grant us pardon from our past, peace for our present, purpose for our future and power for it all.** And God intended to do it all by grace through faith.

Are you trying to save yourself? Trying to somehow better yourself so you get saved? The good news is Jesus already did what we could not do...all we can do is receive what He already did.

- Well that’s too good to be true...no when it is the good news of good news it’s both good and true.

If you are here today trying to fix yourself...accept the Gospel instead.

- **Accept you are a sinner**
- **Believe Jesus did what you could not do**
- **Repent...turn and go the other way**
- **Receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord**