

10 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GOSPEL

WILLIS 1/22/12

We are continuing our focus on The Gospel or coming to a working understanding of how one defines the Good News of Jesus Christ. **How we define the Gospel will determine to what extent the Gospel is free to do its work in our lives.**

- A limited understanding of the Gospel will produce a limited work. In Mk7:13 Jesus said, “The traditions of man nullify the Word of God...” As powerful as the Word of God is, wrong definitions can nullify its work or make it of no effect.

The Gospel is like a diamond, with so many facets it is difficult to define the whole but you can certainly define the individual parts. In fact, the only way to come to a thorough understanding of the whole is to fully understand the parts.

- Though the Scriptures don't give us an all inclusive definition of the whole they do an excellent job in defining the individual characteristics of the parts. The Scriptures give us at least 10 different characteristics that describe specific facets of the Gospel.

So today we want to look at these 10 characteristics of the Gospel. In understanding these specific facets we get a working definition of the whole.

1. **The Gospel of the Kingdom of God: Mt4:23 The Good News is good because it is the announcement of a new government.** Kingdom is Christ's first act of defining the Gospel. His first act of assigning a characteristic to the Good News is government.
 - The Gospel is the announcement of a new operating system. Being that the Gospel is a government if at any point we take our government back to self, it is at that point the Good News is no longer good. The Good News is tied to its source of government.
2. **The Glorious Gospel of the Blessed God: 1Tim1:11 The Good News is good because it comes from a God who is blessed, happy and in a good mood.** A Gospel that describes God as mean, uptight and exacting is another gospel not the Gospel.
 - The Gospel reveals God as blessed, happy and in love. 1Jn4:10 says, “This is love not that we love God but that He loved us and sent His Son as a propitiation for our sins.”

- To propitiate is to appease. Father is blessed and in a good mood because Jesus appeased His wrath for our sin.
3. **The Gospel of God: Rom1:1 The Good News is good because it is news of another source.** Being it is the Gospel of God, it is the Gospel by God, for God and through God. The Gospel of God means God initiated it, defined it, sustained it and enables it.
 - Being it is God's Gospel, man can't redefine it or reduce it. If we redefine it, it is no longer the Gospel of God so it is no longer Good News.
 4. **The Gospel of His Son: Rm1:9 The Good News is good because its focus is on the Son. Those who have the Son have everything.** Gal1:15-16 says Father's intent in the Gospel was to reveal His Son in us.
 - Like salt that brings out the flavor in food, the Gospel brings out the personality of Christ in man.
 5. **The Gospel of the Grace of God: Ac20:24 The Good News is good because the Gospel has no need of human effort.** Because it has no need of human effort we have every reason to remain humble and absolutely no reason to act as if it had anything to do with us.
 - Ultimately, pride is the denial of grace. Pride is the fruit of thinking the Christian walk has something to do with us. Humility comes when we agree with grace. To agree with grace to trust Good News not human effort.
 6. **The Gospel of Salvation: Ep1:13 The Good News is good because it has the inherent power to save.** By definition, to be saved is to be delivered and preserved. The Good News of the Gospel is not Jesus coming to help us cope but Jesus coming to deliver and preserve.
 - Father gave Him the name Jesus: God saves. In His very name is the power to deliver and preserve. The Good News of the Gospel is Jesus coming to fully deliver us then preserve what He delivered till the day of His return.
 7. **The Gospel of Christ: Gal 1:7 The Good News is good because it is the news of the anointed one.** After the Resurrection the Scriptures add Christ to the name of Jesus. Christ meaning "anointed one."
 - Now the Good News is not just the power to deliver and preserve but also the power to anoint. The Gospel is Good News because it has the power to anoint, consecrate and enable.

8. The Gospel of the Glory of God: 2Cor4:4 The Good News is good because there is nothing hidden about the Gospel, the Gospel is fully revealed in the person of Christ. Glory in this use meaning appearance, revealing or recognition.

- The Gospel is the primary revealing of Jesus Christ. Through the Gospel Jesus appears as He really is consequently we are motivated to give Him the recognition He fully deserves.
- A fuller understanding of the Gospel of God will always release a fuller expression of glory to God. An accurate understanding of the Gospel will always produce a freer expression of worship.

9. The Gospel of Peace: Ep6:15 The Good News is good because the government of the Gospel will always result in the peace of God. To the degree we embrace the government of His Gospel is the degree to which we experience the reality of His peace.

- This aspect of the Good News is so good that Is9:7 tells us, “There will be no end to the increase of His government or of His peace.” In liberating us from the government of self the Gospel brings us into the peace of God.

10. The Eternal Gospel: Rev14:6 The Good News is good because the eternal Gospel stands outside of time without beginning or end. Being eternal the Gospel is without limit or scope. No one or no thing is beyond the reach of the gospel.

- “God is able to save to the uttermost” and He does so through the eternal reach of the Gospel. The Good News of the Gospel is so good it is able to reach into the past and save and it is able to position us in the future to save.
- The Gospel works outside of time so it is not limited to time, circumstance or situation. Our past can’t limit it and our future is ordered by it.

No wonder it is called Good News. It is the:

- **Good News of the Kingdom**
- **The Good News of the Blessed God**
- **The Good News of God**
- **The Good News of His Son**
- **The Good News of Grace**

- **The Good News of Salvation**
- **The Good News of Christ**
- **The Good News of God's Glory**
- **The Good News of Peace**
- **The Good News that is Eternal**

The Good News is good because it has all the resource of God and heaven backing its promise.

But as good as it is it is not good for you until you own it through belief and surrender to it through confession.