

More Than One Gospel?

2 Timothy 2:15; Gal. 1:6-12

Why is there so many differences in religions? Two reasons:

1. Some have been seduced by Satan to believe “*doctrines of devils*” (1 Tim. 4:1; 1 John 4:1).
2. A failure to rightly divide the Scriptures (Mt. 22:29; 2 Tim. 2:15).

➡ Most heresies are Bible doctrines that have been misapplied—Sabbath keeping; losing salvation; speaking in tongues; baptismal regeneration etc.

➡ God never changes (Heb. 13:8)—But the manner God carries out His plan may change during different covenants and dispensations (Heb. 1:1).

- Healing the blind Mt. 20:34; Mk. 8:23; Luke 18:42-43; John 9:6-7).
- Reception of the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:38; 8:12-17; 10:44-48).

“*Rightly dividing the Word of truth*” involves looking for things that are different. We are to make a distinction where God makes a difference (cf. Ex. 8:23; Mt. 25:32). Things that are different cannot be made the same.

Baptism doesn’t always involve water. And there are more than one “gospel.”

This study is important because we are commanded to “*preach THE GOSPEL to every creature*” (Mk 16:15). A person is saved by believing the Gospel. The gospel is “*the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth*” (Rom. 1:16). Therefore, we had better understand what the gospel is if salvation is dependent upon it!

I. The MEANING of “Gospel.”

- Would you be able to tell someone what the gospel is? You’d be surprised how many people think they know but cannot tell you what it is. They cannot give you a Bible definition of what the gospel is.
- A. By comparing Scripture with Scripture we see the word “gospel” means GOOD NEWS (Luke 4:18 cf. Isaiah 61:1).
 - “*tidings*”—A tide is something that goes out from you and comes in to you. That is what the gospel is supposed to do: It should go out from you and come in to someone else.)
 - B. So, if the “*gospel*” is “good news” what is that “good news?” It depends on WHICH GOSPEL we are referring to.

II. The MULTIPLE “Gospels.” (Galatians 1:6-12).

- A. **Paul’s Gospel** (2 Tim. 2:7-8—*Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to **MY GOSPEL.***)
1. Paul’s gospel consisted of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-4).
 2. This is the “gospel” we are to preach today.
- B. **Gospel preached to Abraham** (Gal. 3:6-8). Good news for Abraham.
- C. **“The everlasting gospel”** preached by an angel in the tribulation period (Rev. 14:6-7). That is not the gospel message for today. Why? Because the hour of God’s judgment is not yet come!
- D. **The gospel of the Kingdom** (Mt. 4:23; 9:35).
1. The gospel of the kingdom was the GOOD NEWS that the kingdom was at hand (Mt. 4:17, 23; 9:35; 10:5-7).
 - It was preached to Jews only (10:5-6).
 - It was accompanied by signs and wonders (v. 8).
 - **“The gospel of the kingdom” will be preached again during the tribulation period** prior to the second coming (Mt. 24:14).
 - **NOTE:** Paul said his gospel had already gone to every creature during his ministry (Col. 1:5-6, 23). If *“the gospel of the kingdom”* and Paul’s gospel are the same, why hasn’t Jesus come yet?
 2. COMMON MISCONCEPTION: People were saved in the O.T. by looking forward to the cross while people in the N.T. are saved by looking backward to the cross. Were the disciples saved by looking forward to Christ’s death on the cross? See Luke 18:31-34. The message of Christ’s death, burial and resurrection was HID from Christ’s disciples. This means one of two things:
 - Either the disciples were lost (2 Cor. 4:4). But that could not be true because Jesus prayed in John 17:12, *“Those that thou gavest me I have kept, and NONE OF THEM IS LOST, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.”*
 - Or, the disciples were saved by believing ANOTHER GOSPEL.
 - ➡ This is evident since the disciples had already been preaching “a gospel” prior to Luke 18 (see Luke 9:1-2, 6). **Which Gospel?** The

same Gospel Jesus preached during His earthly ministry—THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM (Mt. 9:35).

III. The MANDATE of the Gospel (Rom. 10:9-15).

- A. We are to **DISPENSE** this gospel (1 Cor. 9:16-17).
- B. We are to **DEFEND** the gospel (Phil. 1:7, 17). The way you defend it is by using it and letting it do its work.

SUMMATION: What makes the “good new”s so good is what makes the “bad news” so bad. Peter asks: “**What shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?**” (1 Pet. 4:17). Paul answers in 2 Thessalonians 1:8— “*In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that **obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.***”

It is good news only if it is believed and received.

A preacher was passing out gospel tracts on the street. A skeptic stopped and casually said, "The gospel you preach isn't doing much good, is it? The world is more wicked than ever and people keep on sinning." The pastor noticed a young boy walking by covered in mud. The pastor pointed to the dirty little boy and said, "I see that soap hasn't done much good because you still have many filthy people around." The man answered, "Oh, well, soap only works when it is applied." And the pastor said, "Exactly, the same is true with the gospel."

I have a “pill” that will cure the ills of this world. It is the GOS-PILL. But will not do you any good unless you take it!

Romans 1:16—*I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the **power** of God unto salvation to every one that **BELIEVETH**...*

2 Thess. 2:13—*...when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which **effectually worketh also in you that BELIEVE.***

John 1:12— *But as many as **received** him, to them gave he power to **become the sons of God**, even to them that **BELIEVE** on his name:*