

## What is the Gospel?

### Bible Study – Based on Navigator Study “Clarifying Your Commitment”

2020-07-15 Pastor Sharon Tidd

Gospel means “good news”. As Jesus declared when starting His ministry, “The time has come. The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news (gospel)!” (Matthew 4:17) This study will explore the essential truths/messages of the Christian Gospel as proclaimed by the early Church.

What was the Gospel message proclaimed by the Church according to these verses? Acts 8:35; 11:20; 28:31. What did their message focus on? Why?

Read and reflect on the ‘sermons’ shared in the following passages: Acts 2:22-36; 3:12-21;

4:8-12; 10:34-43; 13:26-39. What about Jesus and His ministry and work was highlighted by the apostles as they shared the Good News? Why was it important that these truths be shared?

From the apostles’ Gospel-sharing we learn that “The Gospel is Jesus!” He is central to a true understanding of the Christian message. With that statement as your base, how would you share the Gospel today? What aspects of Jesus’ work/ministry would you highlight? How would you share?

The apostles also referred to the Gospel as a “gospel of grace” (see Acts 14:3; 20:24). What does this mean? What is grace? How does the Gospel, as preached by the early Church, reflect grace?

What gift/s are promised to those who believe the Gospel according to these verses: Acts 2:38; 3:19; 13:38-39; 15:8-9. Who can receive these gifts? How are they received?

Read and reflect on Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Ezekiel 36:25-27. What did God promise through these Old Testament prophets? How are these Old Testament promises reflected in the promises of the Gospel in the New Testament?

Read and reflect on these passages in the Gospel of John: 1:12-13; 5:24; 6:35; 7:37-38; 8:12; 10:10; 14:27. What grace-gifts does the Gospel offer according to John? How have these gifts blessed you since you accepted the Gospel? Think of the non-believers in your life right now. Which of these gifts might they need at this time? How would the Gospel be “good news” for them today? How might you be able to share, from your own experience, the truth that these gifts are available through trusting in Jesus?

How does the Gospel reveal God’s generosity? What has God done to make the Gospel and its grace-gifts available to you and to the world? What must humanity bring to God in order to receive these blessings (Acts 2:37-38; 16:29-34; 20:21; 26:19-20)?

What attitude did the apostles have toward those who received their message according to these verses: Acts 2:40; 17:16-17; 26:28-29 (you may need to read the story surrounding the verses to gain the full context)? What lessons can you take from their heart example as you seek to share the Gospel with others?