

Good News!

by Wayne Goff

Gospel means “good tidings” and is used in the New Testament of “the glad tidings of the kingdom of God soon to be set up and subsequently also of Jesus, the Messiah, the founder of this kingdom: Mark 1:15; 8:35; 10:29; 13:10; 14:9; 16:15; Matt. 26:13” [Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament]. This message is to be preached to “every creature” (Mark 16:15), and to the “whole world” (Mark 14:9).

Mr. Thayer goes on to say of the word gospel “after the death of Christ the term ... comprises also the preaching of (concerning) Jesus Christ as having suffered death on the cross to procure eternal salvation for men in the kingdom of God, but as restored to life and exalted to the right hand of God in heaven,...

The term appears about one hundred times in the New Testament. It refers to the message of eternal salvation offered to mankind by God. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to die for the sins of the world. Through the blood (death) of Jesus, mankind can have the forgiveness of their sins and be in a right standing with God when this life is over and the Judgment Day appears (Matthew 25).

The majority of the world is either passively indifferent toward this message, or actively hostile against it. Why? It does not seem natural to be concerned about life after death to humans. It doesn’t appear to be of any concern now, nor does it seem to have any lasting consequences to one’s thoughts and actions now. Therefore, it is meaningless and unnecessary. But is it really?

What if there really is a God Who created us and expects us to be accountable to Him for the lives we live on the earth? What if life after death is eternal (forever) and this brief, temporary life now is just a testing ground for it? What if death does not “end it all” as some who commit suicide seem to think? Well, if all these things are true, and the Bible is God’s revelation to man to not only warn him about these things but also to help him live an acceptable life before God now and have eternal life when this earthly life ends, then that would be “good news”! Eureka! I believe you’ve discovered why the message of the New Testament is called “gospel.” It’s good news to those who care to hear, believe and obey God! Read Romans 10 and get a glimpse into this message.

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