

# WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

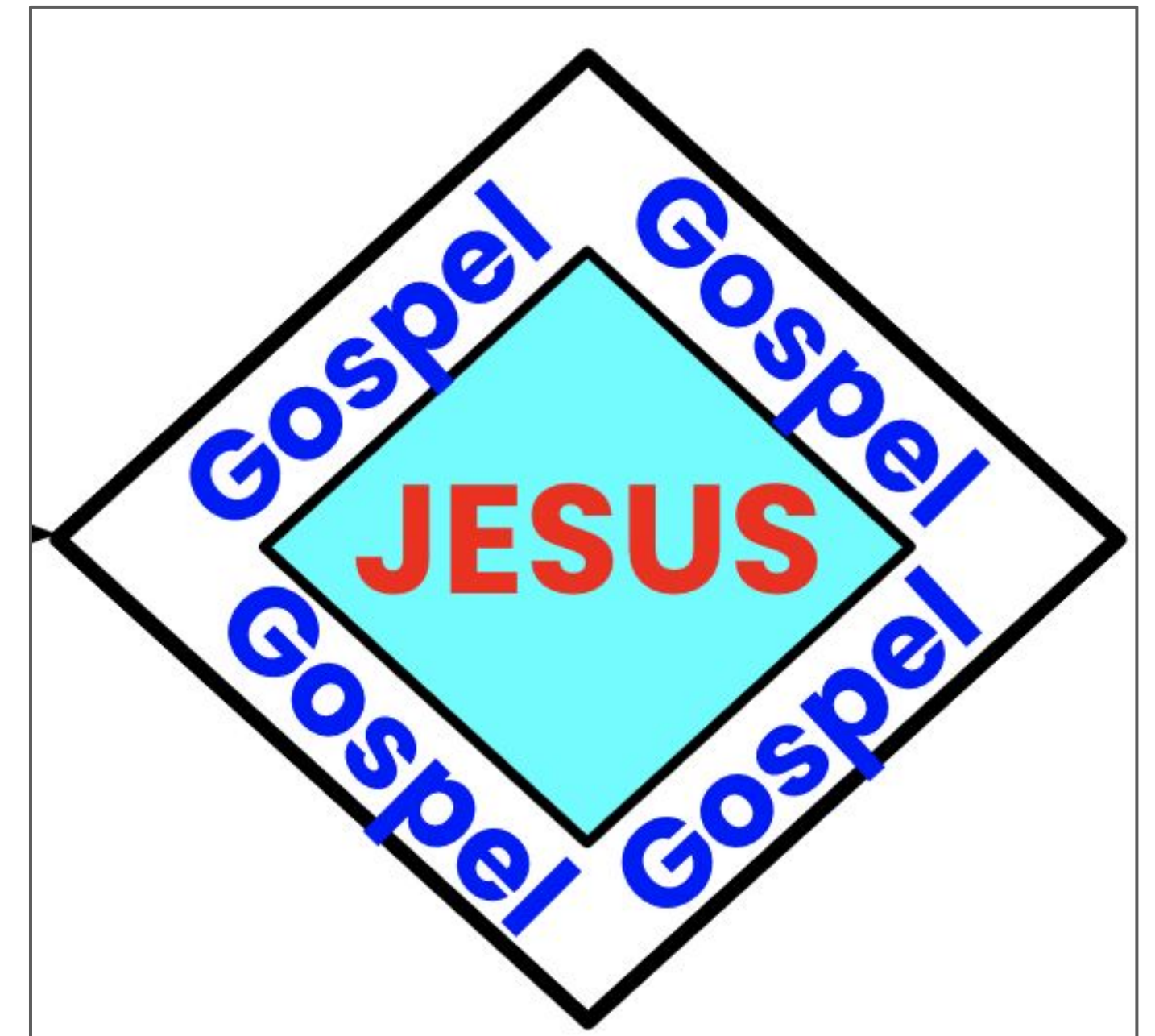


# WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

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- Week 1: **GOOD NEWS!** The Gospel Can Be Known
- Week 2: **GOOD NEWS!** The Serpent & the Skull Crusher
- Week 3: **GOOD NEWS!** An Everlasting King is Coming
- Week 4: **GOOD NEWS!** A Mighty Prophet is Coming
- Week 5: **GOOD NEWS!** An Eternal Priest is Coming
- Week 6: **GOOD NEWS!** A Kingdom of Priests is Coming
- Week 7: **GOOD NEWS!** A Suffering Servant is Coming
- Week 8: **GOOD NEWS!** **THE KING OF KINGS HAS COME**
- Week 9: **GOOD NEWS!** **THE WORD MADE FLESH HAS COME**
- Week 10: **GOOD NEWS!** **THE PERFECT HIGH PRIEST HAS COME**
- Week 11: **GOOD NEWS!** **THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS COME**
- Week 12: **GOOD NEWS!** **THE LAMB OF GOD HAS COME**
- Week 13: **GOOD NEWS!** **THE RESURRECTION GOSPEL**

## A 13 week study



Prepared by Todd Frehafer  
Grace Evangelical Congregational Church

# WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

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- Week 1:
- Week 2:
- Week 3:
- Week 4:
- Week 5:
- Week 6:
- Week 7:
- Week 8:
- Week 9:
- Week 10:
- Week 11:
- Week 12:
- Week 13:

**P R O M I S E**

**F U L F I L L M E N T**



**Session 1**

An open Bible is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are filled with text, and the central gutter is visible. The background is dark and slightly blurred. Overlaid on the Bible is the main title of the session in large, bold, white capital letters.

**WHAT IS THE  
GOSPEL?**

**GOOD NEWS!  
THE GOSPEL CAN BE KNOWN**



# My Presuppositions

1. God exists (known through general and special revelation – Rom. 1:29,20; Heb. 1:1,2)
2. God has revealed Himself to us because He wants us to know Him
  - a. He acted in history (revelation)
  - b. He chose certain people to record and proclaim His acts (inspiration)
  - c. His Holy Spirit helps the reader (hearer) of this written revelation understand its main truths (illumination)
3. The Bible is the Word of God and the only authoritative source of truth about God
4. **The Bible is a true and clear self-revelation of God**
  - a. **God is not illogical, self-contradictory, and neither is His Witness of Scripture**
5. **We can understand Who God Is by How God Acts in His Self-revelation**
6. **The Gospel of God—Who is the Savior King, What is His Kingdom, Who are His Servants, Whom, How, and Why does the King save—is clearly revealed in Scripture**
7. Although Christ's disciples may never have a perfect theology (human finite mind), we can have a very sound biblical theology that eliminates most false teaching.

# הַרְיִשָׁ, εὐαγγέλιον, Evangel, Gospel

1. **רַשֵׁי** (v. *bāśar*): **הַרְיִשָׁ** (n. *bəśôrâ*): Hebrew. "to gladden with good news"
2. **εὐαγγέλιον** (*euaggélion*): Koine Greek (c.400 BC–600AD)  
From **εὐάγγελος** (*euángelos*, "bringing good news"), from **εὖ** (*eû*, "well") + **ἀγγέλλειν** (*angélllein*, "to announce")  
The Greek Septuagint (Greek Old Testament) and the New Testament use the noun "gospel (**εὐαγγέλιον**) 77x and the verb "to preach the gospel" (**εὐαγγελίζω**) also 77x.
3. **Evangel**: Old French (c. 700–1400 AD)  
From **evangile**, from Church Latin *evangelium* (c. 500–1500 AD), from Greek **εὐαγγέλιον** (*euaggélion*)
4. **Gospel**: Old English (c. 450–1150 AD)  
From **god** "good" + **spel** "story, message"

# I know a Doctor...

"Bad News. I have an incurable terminal illness."

"I have Good News! I know a doctor."

1. *But...* **is the doctor able to heal me?**
2. *But...* **is the doctor willing to heal me?**
3. *But...* **is the doctor still practicing?**
4. *But...* **can I speak to the doctor?**
5. *But...* **can I afford the cost of the doctor to be healed?**
6. *But...* **can I fulfill all the necessary conditions to be healed?**
7. *But...* **will I still die as a result of being healed?**
8. *But...* **will the healing be permanent?**
9. *But...* **can I be healed now?**

# The Gospel Saves and Can Be Known

**1 Corinthians 15:1-2** “Now I make **known** to you, brethren, **the gospel** which I **preached** to you, which also you **received**, in which also you **stand**, **2 by which also you are saved**, if you **hold fast the word** which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.”

**1. Gospel to be known**

2. Gospel to be preached

3. Gospel to be received

4. Gospel to be lived

**5. Gospel by which comes salvation**

6. Gospel to be held onto



# Gospel According to the Scriptures

## 1 Corinthians 15:3–9

- 3** “For **I delivered** to you as of **first importance** what **I also received**:  
**that Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the Scriptures,
- 4** **that he was buried,**  
**that he was raised on the third day** in accordance with the Scriptures,
- 5** **that he appeared to Cephas** [Peter],  
**then to the twelve.**
- 6** **Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time,**  
most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.
- 7** **Then he appeared to James,**  
**then to all the apostles.**
- 8** Last of all, as to one untimely born, **he appeared also to me.”**

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# Gospel Promised Through Prophets

**1 Peter 1:10–12** “As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, **11** seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. **12** It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.”

# Gospel Promised Through Prophets

**Romans 1:1-6** "Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for **the gospel of God, 2 which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, 4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake, 6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ**".



# Paul's Prologue: Gospel to the Romans

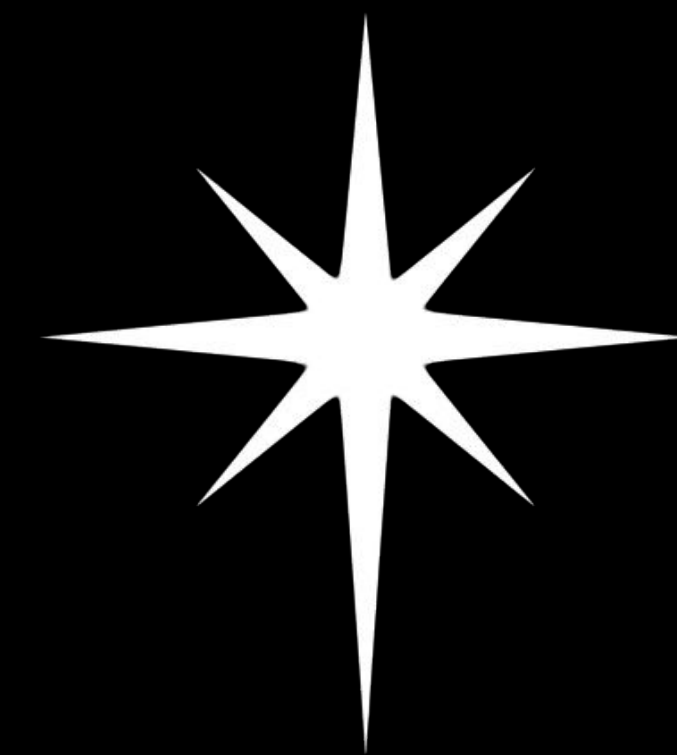
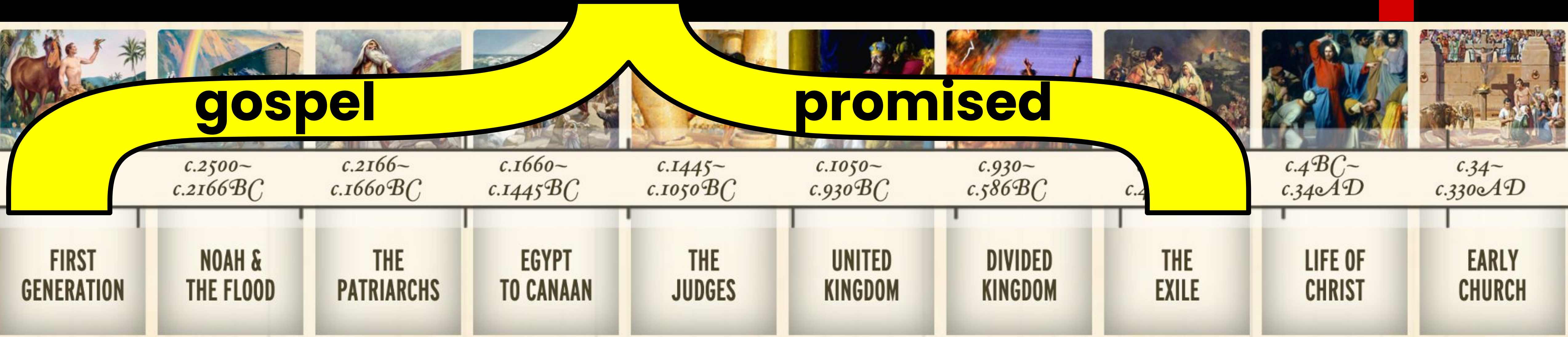
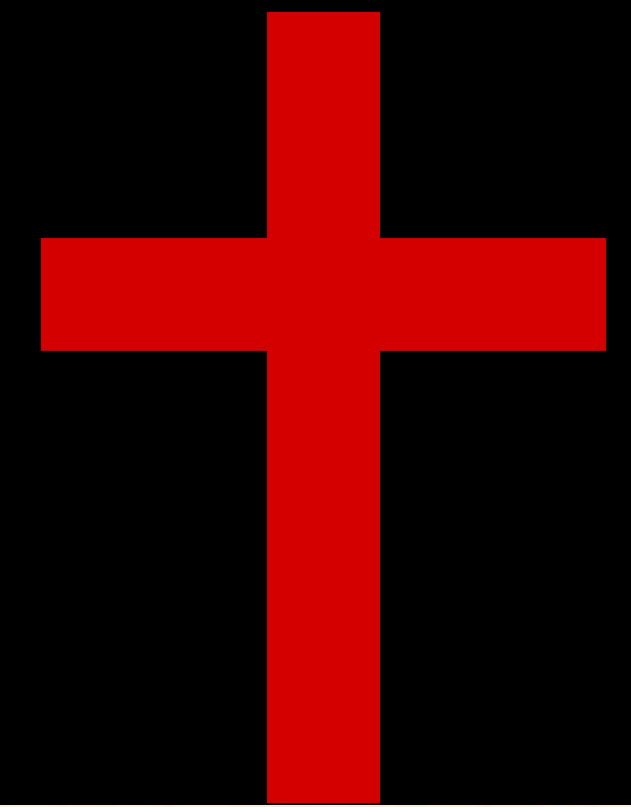
1. a bond-servant/**slave**
2. of **Christ**
3. **Jesus**
4. called as an **apostle**
5. **set apart**
6. for **the gospel of God**
7. which He **promised beforehand**
8. through His **prophets**
9. in the **holy Scriptures**
10. concerning **His Son**
11. who **was born**
12. of a **descendant of David**
13. according to the **flesh**
14. who was **declared the Son of God**
15. with **power**
16. by the **resurrection from the dead,**
17. according to the **Spirit of holiness,**
18. **Jesus Christ our Lord,**
19. through whom we have received **grace**
20. and **apostleship**
21. to bring about the **obedience of faith**
22. among **all the Gentiles**
23. for **His name's sake**
24. among whom **you also are the called of Jesus Christ**

# Paul's Prologue, Gospel to the Romans

1. a bond-servant/slave
2. of Christ
3. Jesus
4. called as an apostle
5. set apart
6. **for the gospel of God**
7. **which He promised beforehand**
8. **through His prophets**
9. **in the holy Scriptures**
10. **concerning His Son**
11. who was born
12. of a descendant of David
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**“The gospel of God which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures concerning His Son...”**





## **1 Corinthians 3:11**

**“No other  
foundation can  
anyone lay than  
the one which is  
laid, which is  
Jesus Christ.”**

A photograph of a stone tower with a bell tower on a rocky hillside under a cloudy sky. The tower is built of dark stone and has a red-tiled roof. The bell tower is on top of the main tower and has a pointed roof. The hillside is rocky and has some green vegetation. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

**Good News  
Jesus Christ  
Word Enfleshed**



# How many “gospels”?

1. Are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John each relaying different gospels?
2. Paul mentions the gospel of the circumcision (Jew) and the gospel of the uncircumcision (Gentile) **Galatians 2:7**
3. The gospel of the kingdom and the gospel of grace **Acts 20:24–25**
4. The “everlasting gospel” **Revelation 14:6**
5. The gospel of God (8x)
6. The gospel of Christ/God’s Son (12x)
7. The gospel of salvation **Ephesians 1:13**
8. The gospel of the glory of Christ **2 Corinthians 4:4**
9. My [Paul’s] Gospel” (3x) **Romans 2:26; 16:25; 2 Timothy 2:8**

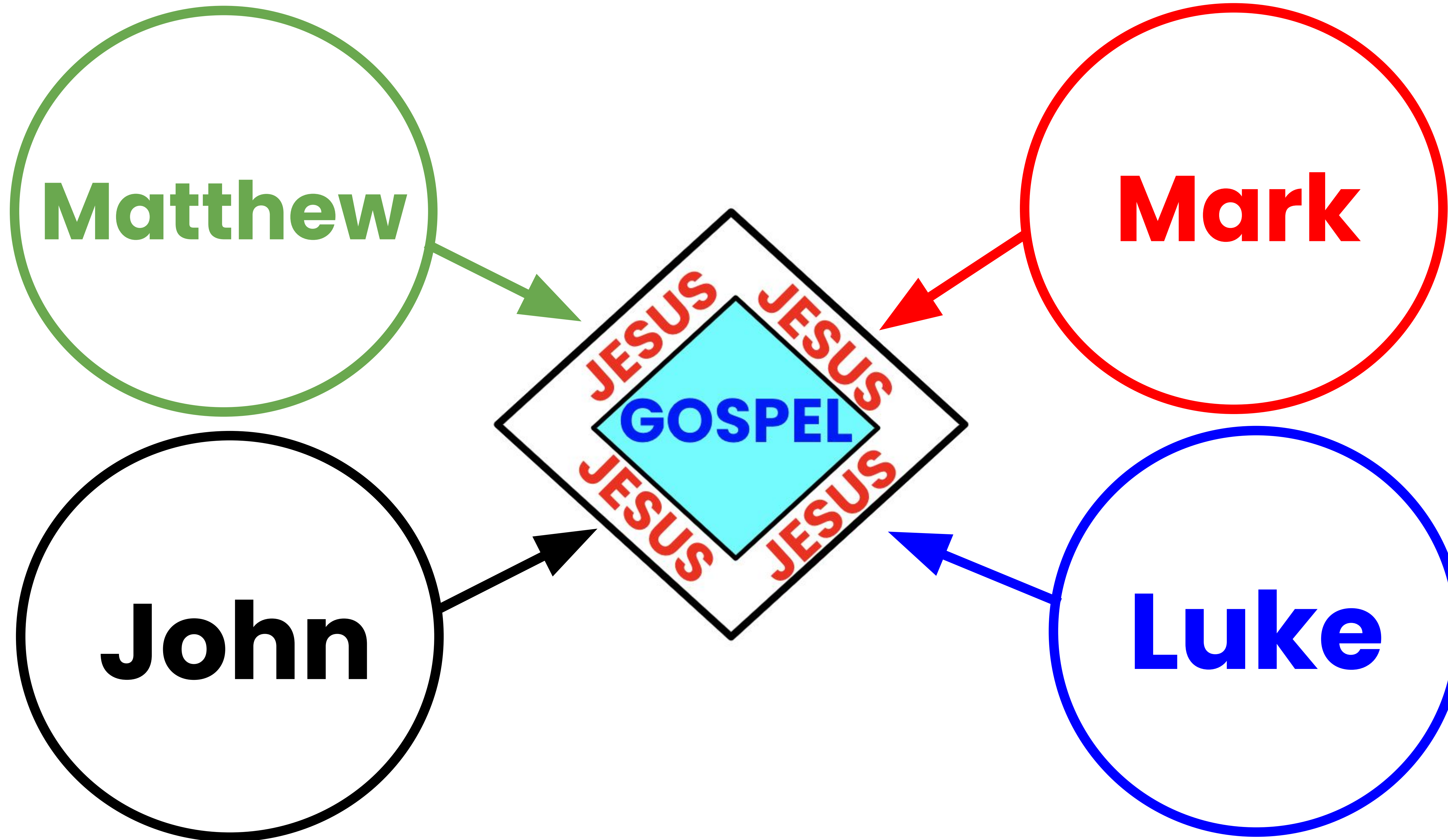
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3. The gospel of the kingdom and the gospel of grace **Acts 20:24-25**
4. The “everlasting gospel” **Revelation 14:6**
5. The gospel of God (1x)
6. The gospel of Christ/God’s Son (12x)
7. The gospel of salvation **Ephesians 1:13**
8. The gospel of the glory of Christ (2 Cor. 4:4)
9. My [Paul’s] Gospel” (3x) **Romans 2:26; 16:25; 2 Timothy 2:8**

**ONE GOSPEL,**

**MANY POINTS OF**

**REFERENCE**



**Matthew**

**Mark**

**GOSPEL**

**JESUS**

**JESUS**

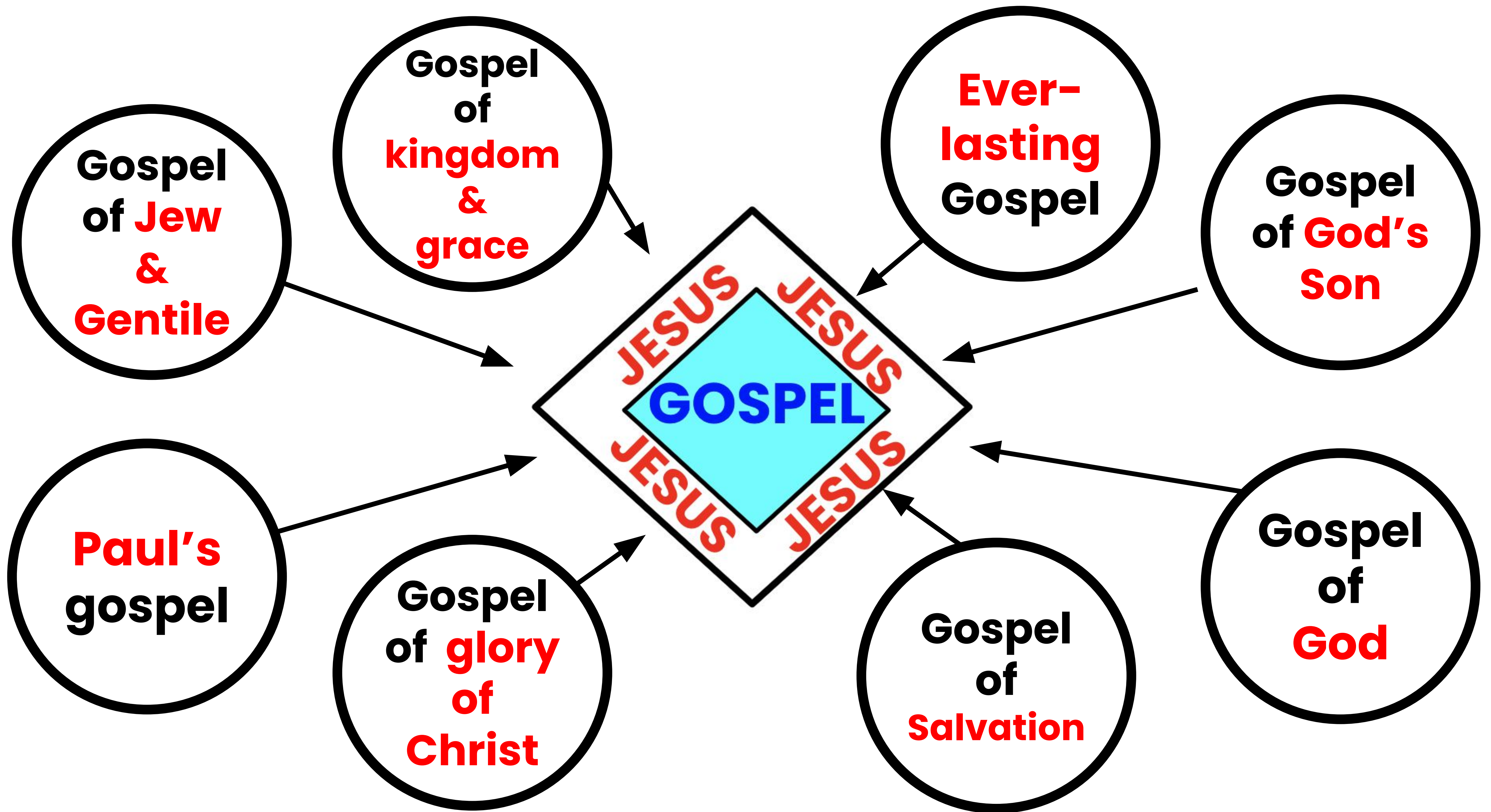
**JESUS**

**JESUS**

**John**

**Luke**





# Warning against perverted, false “gospels”

**Galatians 1:6-9** “I am astonished that **you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 which is really no gospel at all.** Evidently some people are **throwing you into confusion** and are trying to **pervert the gospel of Christ.** **8** But even if we or an angel from heaven should **preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse!** **9** As we have already said, so now I say again: **If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God’s curse!”**

1. Deserting Christ’s gospel
2. Turning to different gospel
3. False gospels are no gospels at all
4. False gospels “confuse”
5. False gospels “pervert”
- 6. False gospels condemn!**

# The Gospel...

- is Good News
- is from God
- was given to God's prophets
- **is announced in the holy Scriptures**
- **can be known**
- must be preached
- is the power of salvation
- must be received by faith
- is to be lived
- is to be held onto
- **concerns God's Son**
- points to a descendant of David
- **is about Jesus of Nazareth**
- **reveals that Jesus is Christ and Lord**
- promises the resurrection from the dead
- is according to the Spirit of holiness
- is grace
- calls apostles
- makes disciples
- brings about the obedience of faith
- unites Jews and Gentiles
- announces the Kingdom of God on earth





# Why Preach the Gospel?

**Matthew 28: 18-20** “And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;** and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”

**Acts 1:6-8** “So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, ‘Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?’ **7** He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; **8** but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.**’”

**CHRIST COMMANDS US TO  
PREACH THE GOSPEL,  
BAPTIZE AND TEACH  
OBEDIENT DISCIPLES  
WHO BELONG TO HIM!**



# Paul Compelled to Preach the Gospel

**1 Corinthians 9:16** "For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, **for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.**"

**1 Corinthians 9:23** "I do all things for the sake of the gospel, **so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.**"

**Acts 20:24** "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, **to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.**"



**WHAT** is the Good News?

**WHO** gives the Good News?

**WHOM** is given the Good News?

**WHERE** is the Good News given?

**WHEN** is the Good News given?

**WHY** is the Good News given?

**HOW** is the Good News given?

# Good News in the Paul's Epistles

## **WHAT** is the **GOOD NEWS**?

- God's Son crucified & risen to save us from our sin & reconcile us to Himself

## **WHO** gives the **GOOD NEWS**?

- God first, then Paul through Christ

## **WHOM** is given the **GOOD NEWS**?

- Jews & Gentiles in streets, synagogues, churches Paul preached

## **WHERE** is the **GOOD NEWS** given?

- Cyprus, Galatia, Asia Minor, Macedonia, Achaia, Rome

## **WHEN** is the **GOOD NEWS** given?

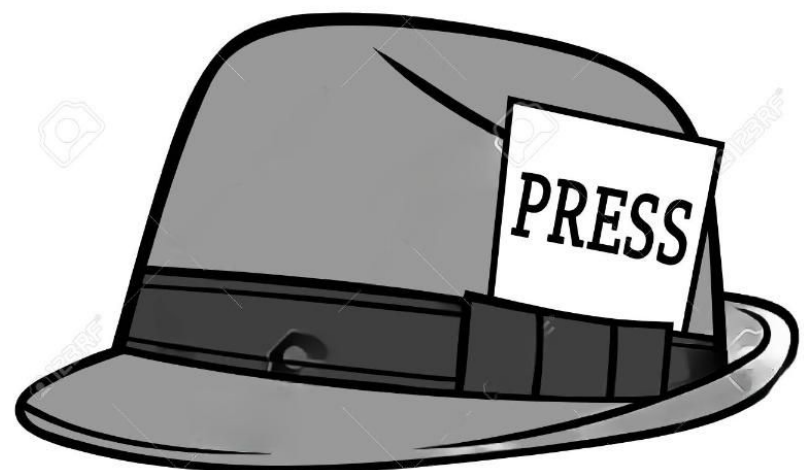
- -c.33-c.64 AD

## **WHY** is the **GOOD NEWS** given?

- The gospel of salvation brings about obedience resulting from faith

## **HOW** is the **GOOD NEWS** given?

- In love, through preaching in person & exhortation by letter





# The Gospel is **GOOD NEWS**

**Our**

**GOOD God**

**gave us**

**GOOD News**

**at a**

**GOOD Time**

**about His**

**GOOD Son**

**who renews a**

**GOOD Creation**

**by His**

**GOOD Covenant**

**sealed by His**

**GOOD Spirit**

God sends Himself  
as the Word Enfleshed/Jesus Christ  
the *Living Gospel*

**God Himself is the Word,**  
the **Word** Made Flesh is the **Good News** Made Flesh!

**GOD**  **CHRIST**  **GOSPEL**

To receive the **Gospel** is to receive **Christ**  
To receive **Christ** is to receive **God**

# **GOD** **CHRIST** **GOSPEL**

**“I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me.”**

**John 8:18**

**“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me.”**

**John 15:26**



**Beware the crossless  
gospel of modern  
evangelicalism!**

# Beware the crossless gospel!

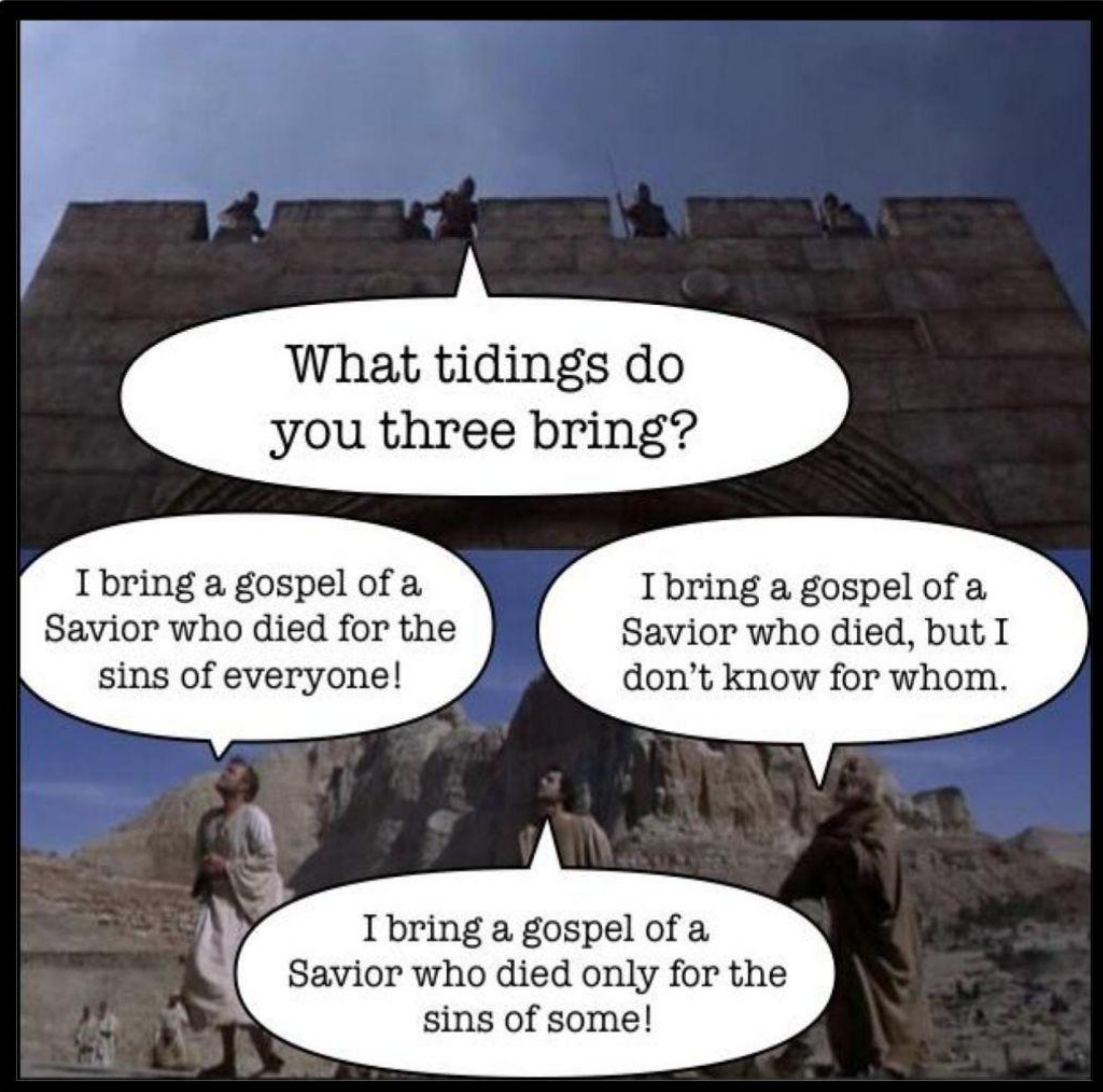
“To require belief in Christ’s deity, death for sin, and resurrection in order to be saved is now openly derided as ‘theological legalism’...**What is now being taught as the new, simplified version of the “good news” is that a lost person can receive eternal life by “faith alone in Christ alone,” yet without needing to believe in or even know about Christ’s person and work.** According to the new and improved gospel, someone doesn’t need to believe in Christ’s deity, substitutionary death for sin, or bodily resurrection to be truly born again. **As long as that person believes in the name of “Jesus,” even without an understanding of who He is or what He’s done, such a “believer” will receive eternal life and become justified by God’s grace**—just as long as he believes this “Jesus” can guarantee him eternal life.”

# Beware Gumbby Jesus!





# Are All Gospels the Same?

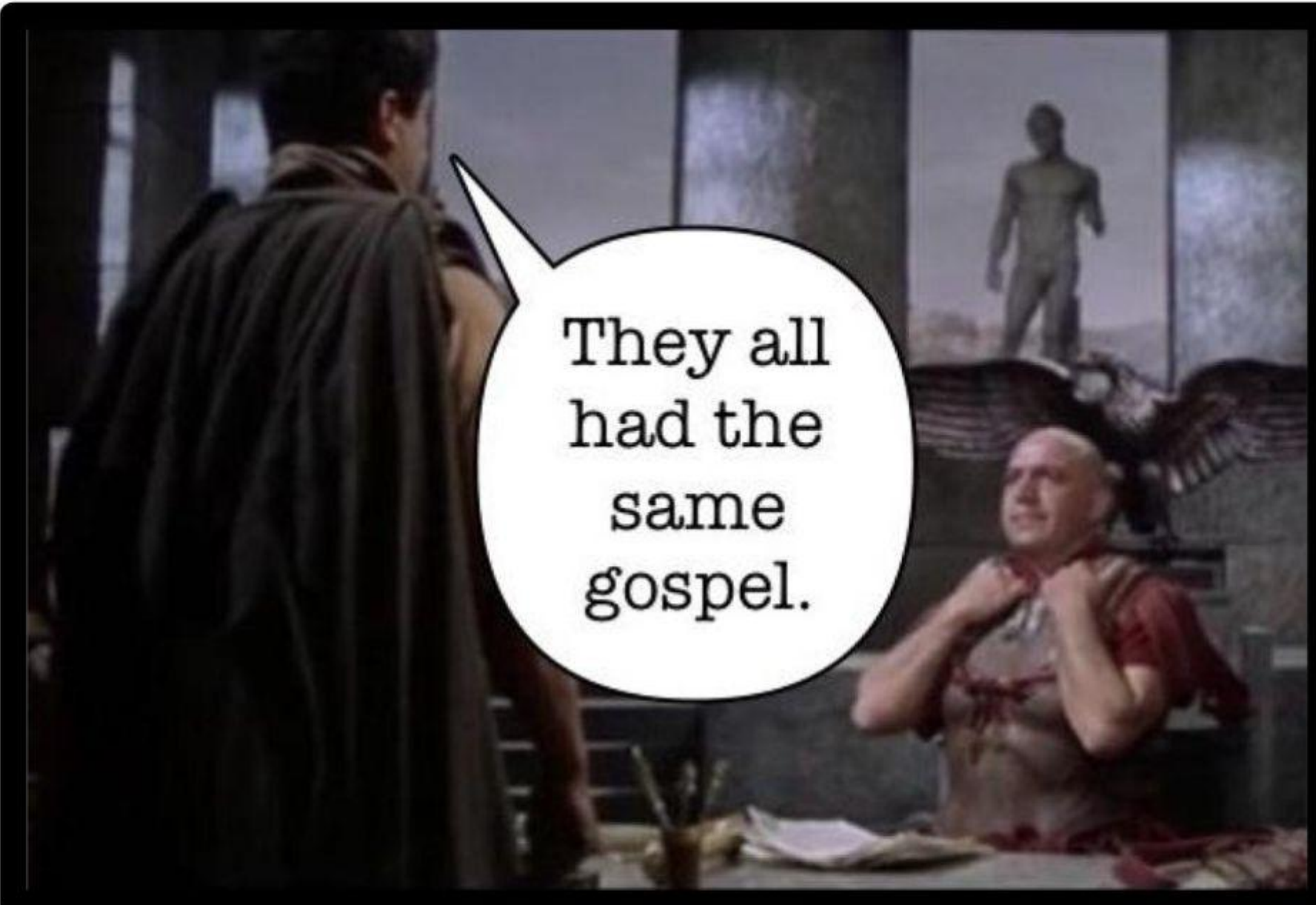


What tidings do you three bring?

I bring a gospel of a Savior who died for the sins of everyone!

I bring a gospel of a Savior who died, but I don't know for whom.

I bring a gospel of a Savior who died only for the sins of some!



They all had the same gospel.



**Beware the gospel of truth relativism,  
which is no truth and no gospel at all.**

**Some gospel  
says that  
some christ  
did something to  
some people  
in some way  
somewhere.**







“The student of cultism, then, must be prepared to scale the language barrier of terminology...the vocabulary of the cults is not the vocabulary of the Bible by definition...The cults capitalize on the almost total inability of the average Christian to understand the subtle art of redefinition in the realm of biblical theology.”

– *Walter Martin*  
“*The Kingdom of the Cults*”;  
‘*Scaling the Language Barrier*’,  
[2003] p 28.



**Christian fellowship is  
built around the  
person of Jesus Christ,  
not shared biblical  
terminology.**

# False Prophets in Sheep's Clothing

**Matthew 7:15** "Beware of the false prophets, **who come to you in sheep's clothing**, but inwardly are ravenous wolves."

**Acts 20:29,30** "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; **30** and **from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.**"

**2 Peter 2:1** "But there were also false prophets among the people, **just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them**—bringing swift destruction on themselves."



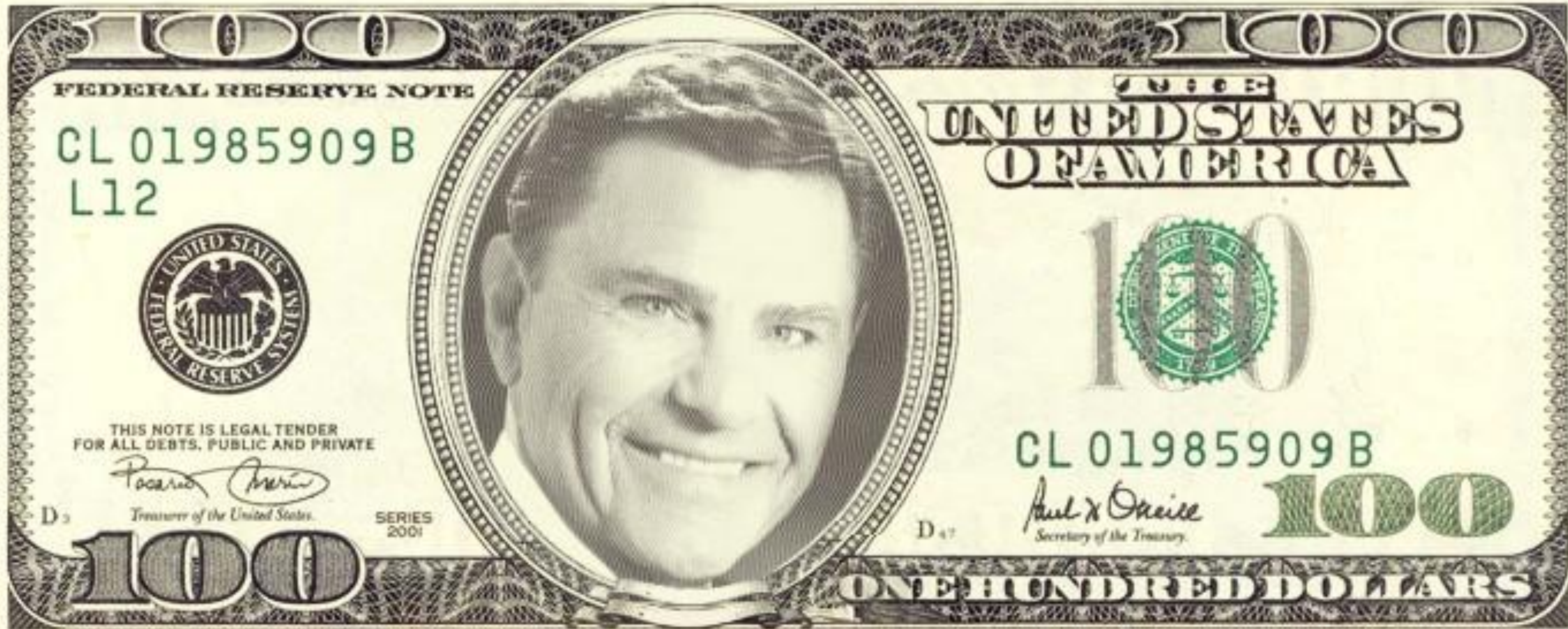
# Christians must earnestly study



**The Biblical Gospel**



**So that we'll be capable to discern**



**The Counterfeit Gospels**



# The Gospel of salvation is not vague

**“The Lord has not been vague about what He requires us to believe in order to be born again.** Nor has He hidden it from us. This is not a matter of the secret things belonging only to the Lord in contrast to the truths He has revealed (Deut. 29:29). **He has provided abundant revelatory testimony to mankind in order to answer the question of what we must believe...**In some passages, the Lord requires the lost to believe the gospel in order to receive eternal salvation. In other passages, He conditions eternal life upon believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and Son of Man. **These “gospel” versus “Christ”/“Son” passages do not represent two separate, disparate contents of saving faith; rather, they are alternate expressions for the same required content...This means that the requirement to believe in Jesus’ deity, humanity, substitutionary death, and bodily resurrection is not the result of imposing our own arbitrary, manmade evangelical orthodoxy upon the Scriptures. It is quite the opposite.** God has placed this pattern in Scripture and it has been there all along for us to behold and believe.”

**DON'T FORGET!**

THE  
**GOOD**  
NEWS

**CAN BE KNOWN**