**The “Gospel” is *Good News,* Acts 13:14-43**

In recent lessons, we’ve addressed the *divisive* power of the gospel; as a *sword* that *divides* us from family and friends, and even *lays bare* our innermost *thoughts* and *motivations* (Heb.4:12)*.* But today I’d like to also briefly examine another aspect of its *power,* after all, the *gospel* is supposed to be *“good news”!*

From its first proclamation, cf. Matt.4:23, the *gospel* proclaimed and personified by Jesus was different. The term *euaggelion* (yoo·ang·**ghel**·ee·on) is used to describe “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. 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 the men in the kingdom of God, but as restored to life and exalted to the right hand of God in heaven, thence to return in majesty to consummate the kingdom of God” (Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon). Such *glad tidings,* or *good news,* was very different from *the Law and prophets* which were previously proclaimed, Luke 16:16a. This revelation of *grace* and *truth* would be *realized* through Jesus Christ, John 1:17; and its message, and primary Messenger,were revolutionary to its hearers, Matt.7:28-29. So, what was it about this *new teaching* (Mark 1:27) that caused its hearers to *force their way into the kingdom,* Luke 16:16b?

**I. The Gospelwas Good News *at its inception* because:**

1. **It provided *salvation* that the Law could not, Heb.10:1-10.**

The Law, through its *animal sacrifices,* could not *make perfect those who draw near;* but in those sacrifices, there was a *reminder of sins year by year;* for, *it is impossible* for *animal sacrifices* to *take away sins,* cf. 7:18-19; Acts 13:38-39.

1. **It provided salvation *to all* that the Law could not, Rom.3:19-30.**

The Law and its covenants were with and for the nation of *Israel,* Deut.5:1-6. It was not for *everyone,* Rom.2:12. But *the gospel* was, Rom.1:16-17; and is *for everyone,* Gal.3:26-29. Race no longer mattered. Country of origin, likewise, no longer mattered. God, through Jesus and His gospel, made all *one* and *reconciled mankind* to Himself*,* Eph.2:11-22.

**II. The *Gospel* is still Good News *now* because:**

1. **It provides *complete/total forgiveness,* 1Cor.6:9-11.**

The nature or duration of depravity does not matter, for through the gospel, *all* sin can be *washed away,* Acts 22:16. God’s *grace* is sufficient to *redeem* and *purify* applies to *every lawless deed,* Titus 2:11-14.

1. **It provides *complete/total access to God,* Heb.4:14-16.**

Under the Law, the Jew was (rightfully) *afraid* of God. He was told *not to go near the mountain* under penalty of death while Moses was receiving the Law. Under the Law’s restrictions, *only the high priest* could go near the presence of God in the *Holy of Holies,* and then *only once a year,* and *not without a blood sacrifice,* cf. Heb.9:1-7. But through Jesus and His gospel, such restrictions were removed, vv.11-14; and we are all made *priests* (1Pet.2:9), allowing *personal access* to God, 10:19-22.

**III. Conclusions**

**While it is certainly true that the gospel is the *sword of truth/Spirit* that *divides* adherents from the world (Luke 12:51-53), and even *lays bare* our *thoughts and intentions* (Heb.4:12)*,***

**It is also true that it is the *good news* as the source of *peace on earth, and goodwill* to all of mankind, Luke 2:8-11.**