

Evangelism 2 - What is the Gospel?

Message Study Notes for 11th July 2021

Read Galatians 1 verses 6 to 7

Paul wrote about people placing extra burdens on top of the gospel of grace.

What do you understand as the gospel?

Mark says that the story of Jesus, and what he has done, is the gospel. But Jesus is often a barrier for people.

In what ways do you consider that the story of Jesus might create a barrier?

Read Mark 1 verses 14 to 15

Jesus' STARTING point for proclaiming the gospel is the fact that the kingdom of God is now near. Then he calls people to repent.

What do you understand repentance to be?

A summary of the gospel could be: 'The good news that God is pursuing us through Christ.' Yet evangelism has often proclaimed bad news.

In what way?

We summarised the gospel under three main points: God wants to 1: show us his love, 2: save us from sin, 3: set up his kingdom and shut down religion.

Explore those three points. Can you put concrete examples to them?

If Jesus is taking away the sins of the world, that makes the religious system redundant.

Why, then, do we still meet together as church, in a 'religious' structure?

When sharing the gospel, our best place is to say, 'What's the starting point for this person?'

Think about non-Christians you know or hear about. Can you see where their need might be answered by re-wording the gospel? Do they need to hear about God's love, his forgiveness, about kingdom living, or something else?