

# JESUS CHRIST IS THE GOSPEL

May 6, 2007

When people think of the Lord Jesus Christ they typically regard him as depicted in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They might say, *Oh yes, he lived on this earth and died for me.* Though this is true, a much greater truth emerges in scripture. He is the living Word of God, God's manifested plan and purpose of eternity. We are not to know him as the one who walked the earth, but instead, to know him in a spiritual sense, as the results of his finished work of redemption – the realities of the gospel:

“From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once regarded Christ from a human point of view, we regard him thus no longer.” (2Co 5:16 RSV)

## CHRIST IS THE GOSPEL:

“1 ¶ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God.” (Joh 1:1-2 ASV)

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth.” (Joh 1:14 ASV)

“to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him (GRK: “announce him as the glad tidings”) among the Gentiles; straightway I conferred not with flesh and blood:” (Ga 1:16 ASV)

“and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (Joh 8:32 ASV)

“If therefore the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” (Joh 8:36 ASV)

“And every day, in the temple and at home, they ceased not to teach and to preach (GRK: “announcing the glad tidings”) Jesus *as* the Christ.” (Ac 5:42 ASV)

“thus making it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on another man's foundation,” (Ro 15:20 RSV)

“17 ¶ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. 18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1Co 1:17-18 RSV)

“but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,” (1Co 1:23 RSV)

“1 ¶ Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, 2 which he promised afore through his prophets in the holy scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,” (Ro 1:1-3 ASV)

“Now when I came to Troas for the *publication of the* glad tidings of the Christ, a door also being opened to me in *the* Lord,” (2Co 2:12 Darby)

“To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,” (Eph 3:8 RSV)

“27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we proclaim (as glad tidings), warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man mature in Christ.” (Col 1:27-28 RSV)

Jesus Christ IS the gospel. The gospel is Jesus Christ. To preach/speak of/think according to one is to do so regarding the other. The two are one. Many points made in the scriptures are illuminated by this simple understanding. E.W. Bullinger states in his lexicon regarding this word “preach,” “*To bring a joyful message...to bring some one into relation with it, to evangelize him.*”

Let's consider some scripture in light of this understanding:

1. “But ye shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Ac 1:8 ASV)
2. “30 ¶ And he abode two whole years in his own hired dwelling, and received all that went in unto him, 31 preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness, none forbidding him.” (Ac 28:30-31 ASV)
3. “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who was made unto us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption:” (1Co 1:30 ASV)
4. “1 ¶ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, a called apostle, set apart to preach the gospel of God, 2 which he had promised before by his prophets in the Holy Scriptures, 3 the gospel concerning his Son, who was born of the seed of David as to the flesh, 4 and shown with power to be the Son of God as to his spirit of holiness, by the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord; 5 through whom we received grace and the office of an apostle in behalf of his name, in order to produce obedience to the faith among all nations;” (Ro 1:1-5 Noyes)
5. “25 ¶ Now to him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which for eternal ages was unrevealed, 26 but is now made manifest, and through the writings of the prophets, by the command of the everlasting God, is made known to all the nations to bring them to obedience to the faith,— 27 to God, the only wise, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.” (Ro 16:25-27 Noyes)
6. “Wherefore, my brethren, ye also were made dead to the law through the body of Christ; that ye should be joined (married) to another, *even* to him who was raised from the dead, that we might bring forth fruit unto God.” (Ro 7:4 ASV)
7. “1 ¶ There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death.” (Ro 8:1-2 ASV)
8. “23 but we preach Christ crucified, unto Jews a stumblingblock, and unto Gentiles foolishness; 24 but unto them that are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.” (1Co 1:23-24 ASV)
9. “6 ¶ I marvel that ye are so quickly removing from him that called you in the grace of Christ unto a different gospel; 7 which is not another *gospel* only there are some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.” (Ga 1:6-7 ASV)
10. “17 ¶ Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them that are causing the divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which ye learned: and turn away from them. 18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Christ, but their own belly; and by their smooth and fair speech they beguile the hearts of the innocent.” (Ro 16:17-18 ASV)
11. “Wherefore if any man is in Christ, *he is* a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new.” (2Co 5:17 ASV)
12. “But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit.” (2Co 3:18 ASV)

13. “who (Jesus Christ) gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us out of this present evil world, according to the will of our God and Father.” (Ga 1:4 ASV)
14. “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ living in me: and that *life* which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, *the faith* which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.” (Ga 2:20 ASV)
15. “My little children, of whom I am again in travail until Christ be formed in you—” (Ga 4:19 ASV)
16. “16 that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, that ye may be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inward man; 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; to the end that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,” (Eph 3:16-17 ASV)
17. “10 ¶ Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” (Eph 6:10-11 ASV)
18. “12 the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; 13 let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.” (Ro 13:12-14 RSV)
19. “5 ¶ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ro 15:5-6 RSV)
20. “8 Yea verily, and I count all things to be loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but refuse, that I may gain Christ, 9 ¶ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of mine own, *even* that which is of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith: 10 that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, becoming conformed unto his death;” (Php 3:8-10 ASV)
21. “to whom God was pleased to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:” (Col 1:27 ASV)
22. “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” (Col 3:16 RSV)
23. “As therefore you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so live in him,” (Col 2:6 RSV)
24. “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.” (Ga 6:18 ASV)