

Evangelism: Preaching the Gospel/Good News

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INTRODUCTION

In discussing the need for evangelism, we should understand the terminology of Sacred Scripture, and also recognize the demands of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Greek verb *euaggelizō*, which communicates the concept of preaching, a compound of *eu* [good, well] and *aggelos* [a messenger, angel], means, “to announce good news” [Thomas 2097]. BDAG define it generally as “bring good news,” or “announce good news,” and specifically, “to proclaim the divine message of salvation,” i.e., “proclaim the gospel” (Rom. 1:15; 10:15; etc.).

*Romans 1:15 (NASB95) — 15 So, for my part, I am eager to ***preach the *gospel** to you also who are in Rome.*

*Romans 10:15 (NASB95) — 15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who ***bring *good *news** of good things!”*

The related noun *euaggelion*, usually translated “gospel,” signifies “good news” (Mark 16:15-16; Rom. 1:16-17; etc.). In the New Testament, it refers to “God’s good news to humans, good news as proclamation.” Additionally, it may involve “details relating to the life and ministry of Jesus, i.e., the good news of Jesus,” or “a book dealing with the life and teaching of Jesus, a gospel account,” i.e. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John [Thomas & BDAG].

*Mark 16:15-16 (NASB95) — 15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the ***gospel** to all creation. 16 “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.*

*Romans 1:16-17 (NASB95) — 16 For I am not ashamed of the ***gospel**, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous man shall live by faith.”*

One additional word deserves consideration: *euaggelistēs*, translated “evangelist,” refers to “a bringer of good news” [Thomas 2099]. BDAG define it as a “proclaimer of the gospel, evangelist” (Acts 21:8; Eph. 4:11; 2 Tim. 4:5).

*Acts 21:8 (NASB95) — 8 On the next day we left and came to Caesarea, and entering the house of Philip the *evangelist, who was one of the seven, we stayed with him.*

*Ephesians 4:11 (NASB95) — 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as *evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,*

*2 Timothy 4:5 (NASB95) — 5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an *evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

Knowing that the gospel involves the good news of Jesus Christ, one might suppose that nearly everyone would be receptive, that most would jump at the opportunity of salvation, that preachers and personal workers would be overwhelmed with prospects, that places of assembly would be packed, and that baptistry waters would be in a constant state of agitation. Sadly, such is not the case.

While the gospel is undeniably good news, it requires accountability. It involves duty and discipleship. It demands sacrifice and self-denial. It carries physical, financial, and spiritual obligations. It entails cross-bearing and counting the cost.

Even in the first century, when the fields were white unto harvest (John 4:35-38), more individuals rejected the gospel than received it (John 1:11-13). This sinful world lies under the power of the evil one. Men prefer darkness rather than light. Sensuality is easier than sanctification. Selfishness comes naturally, but serving is hard.

John 4:35-38 (NASB95) — 35 “Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest?’ Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. 36 “Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 “For in this case the saying is true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ 38 “I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor.”

John 1:11-13 (NASB95) — 11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

A Message of Joy

The gospel is a message of joy: When the Christ-child was born, angels announced to the shepherds in the field, “I bring you good news (*euaggelizō*) of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the

Lord” (Luke 2:8-11). Yet, this blessing is conditional; not all receive it (Col. 2:6-7). Certainly, Herod was not pleased when he learned of the birth of a King (Matt. 2:16-18). Even among those having good and honest hearts, the gospel must be accepted and assimilated if joy is to be realized (Phil. 2:1-2; 4:1-2, 4-7).

*Luke 2:8-11 ... 8 In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, ***I *bring you *good *news** [euaggelizō] of great joy which will be for all the people; 11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (NASB95)*

Colossians 2:6-7 (NASB95) — 6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

Matthew 2:16-18 (NASB95) — 16 Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi. 17 Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: 18 “A voice was heard in Ramah, Weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children; And she refused to be comforted, Because they were no more.”

*Philippians 2:1-2 (NASB95) — 1 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my ***joy** complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.*

*Philippians 4:1-2 (NASB95) — 1 Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my ***joy** and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved. 2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord.*

*Philippians 4:4-7 (NASB95) — 4 ***Rejoice** in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

A Message of Hope

The gospel is a message of hope (Luke 4:16-21; Isa. 63:1-3). Yet, some reject it, because they have differing agendas or expectations (Luke 4:22-30). Hope is communicated through the Word of Truth, the Gospel, which must be received in faith and love, resulting in constant spiritual growth (Col. 1:2-8). This message of reconciliation holds great promise, but high

expectations. Christians must continue in the faith, being firmly established and steadfast, and not be moved away from the hope of the gospel (Col. 1:21-29).

Luke 4:16-21 (NASB95) — 16 And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. 17 And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are oppressed, 19 To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.” 20 And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Luke 4:22-30 (NASB95) — 22 And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, “Is this not Joseph’s son?” 23 And He said to them, “No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, ‘Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.’ ” 24 And He said, “Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown. 25 “But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land; 26 and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 “And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.” 28 And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; 29 and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. 30 But passing through their midst, He went His way.

Colossians 1:2-8 (NASB95) — 2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. 3 We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; 5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel 6 which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth; 7 just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, 8 and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.

Colossians 1:21-29 (NASB95) — 21 And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, 22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach— 23 if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was

proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister. 24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions. 25 Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, 26 that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, 27 to whom God willed 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. 28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. 29 For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

A Message of Peace

The gospel is a message of peace (Luke 1:78-79; 2:13-14). Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1-2). The gospel enables us to live at peace with others (Eph. 2:14-18), and also holds the promise of inner-peace (Phil. 4:4-9). Yet, this can only be accomplished on God's terms: Disobedience produces divine indignation and wrath, but glory, honor, and peace belong to those who keep His commandments (Rom. 2:6-11).

Luke 1:78-79 (NASB95) — 78 Because of the tender mercy of our God, With which the Sunrise from on high will visit us, 79 To shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

Luke 2:13-14 ... 13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." (NASB95)

Romans 5:1-2 (NASB95) — 1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

Ephesians 2:14-18 (NASB95) — 14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; 18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

Philippians 4:4-9 (NASB95) — 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in

everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. 9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Romans 2:6-11 (NASB95) — 6 who will render to each person according to his deeds: 7 to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; 8 but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. 9 There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, 10 but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 11 For there is no partiality with God.

A Message of Grace

The gospel is a message of grace (Rom. 6:1-4). Yet, it is possible for one to receive the grace of God in vain (2 Cor. 6:1-2), to set aside the grace of God (Gal. 2:20-21), to fall away from God's grace (Gal. 5:1-4), to insult the Spirit of grace by willfully rejecting God's law (Heb. 10:26-30), and to turn the grace of God into lewdness (Jude 1:3-4).

Romans 6:1-4 (NASB95) — 1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

2 Corinthians 6:1-2 (NASB95) — 1 And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain— 2 for He says, "At the acceptable time I listened to you, And on the day of salvation I helped you." Behold, now is "the acceptable time," behold, now is "the day of salvation"—

Galatians 2:20-21 (NASB95) — 20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. 21 "I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."

Galatians 5:1-4 (NASB95) — 1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. 2 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. 3 And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the

whole Law. 4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

Hebrews 10:26-30 (NASB95) — 26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge His people.”

Jude 3-4 (NASB95) — 3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. 4 For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

In order to be saved, we must continue in the grace of God (Acts 13:43), and be built up in the same (Acts 20:31-32). It is imperative that we properly receive divine grace (2 Cor. 6:1-2). We must be strong in God’s grace (2 Tim. 2:1-3), and stand firm in it (1 Pet. 5:12). Moreover, we must grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord (2 Pet. 3:17-18).

Acts 13:43 (NASB95) — 43 Now when the meeting of the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and of the God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, were urging them to continue in the grace of God.

Acts 20:31-32 (NASB95) — 31 “Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. 32 “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

2 Corinthians 6:1-2 (NASB95) — 1 And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain— 2 for He says, “At the acceptable time I listened to you, And on the day of salvation I helped you.” Behold, now is “the acceptable time,” behold, now is “the day of salvation”—

2 Timothy 2:1-3 (NASB95) — 1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 3 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 5:12 (NASB95) — 12 Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!

2 Peter 3:17-18 (NASB95) — 17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

ATTITUDE OF THE PRESENTER

Eager Compulsion

Paul spoke of competing and (in some measure) conflicting emotions: “I am under obligation ... I am eager to preach the gospel” (Rom. 1:14-15). He felt compulsion, but acted voluntarily (1 Cor. 9:16-17).

Romans 1:14-15 ... 14 I am under obligation [i.e., a debtor] both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. 15 So, for my part, I am eager [i.e., eager to be of service, ready, willing] to preach the gospel to you also who are Rome. (NASB95)

1 Corinthians 9:16-17 ... 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. 17 For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me. (NASB95)

Fearful Obligation

Faithful proclaimers evidence an attitude of fearful obligation. Divine condemnation falls upon one who preaches a distorted message (Gal. 1:8-9). Promoters of error provide not the slightest benefit (Jer. 23:25-32).

Galatians 1:6-10 (NASB95) — 6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; 7 which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! 9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! 10 For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

Jeremiah 23:25-32 (NASB95) — 25 “I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy falsely in My name, saying, ‘I had a dream, I had a dream!’ 26 “How long? Is there anything in the hearts of the prophets who prophesy falsehood, even these prophets of the deception of their own heart, 27 who intend to make My people forget

My name by their dreams which they relate to one another, just as their fathers forgot My name because of Baal? 28 "The prophet who has a dream may relate his dream, but let him who has My word speak My word in truth. What does straw have in common with grain?" declares the Lord. 29 "Is not My word like fire?" declares the Lord, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock? 30 "Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," declares the Lord, "who steal My words from each other. 31 "Behold, I am against the prophets," declares the Lord, "who use their tongues and declare, 'The Lord declares.' 32 "Behold, I am against those who have prophesied false dreams," declares the Lord, "and related them and led My people astray by their falsehoods and reckless boasting; yet I did not send them or command them, nor do they furnish this people the slightest benefit," declares the Lord.

ATTITUDE OF THE RECIPIENT

Obedient Faith

From the Parable of the Sower, we learn that one's response to the Word differs according to the characteristics of the heart (Luke 8:4-15). Possessors of good and honest hearts manifest obedient faith (Heb. 4:1-7). Salvation is conditioned upon our being doers of the word, not hearers only (James 1:21-25).

Luke 8:4-15 (NASB95) — 4 When a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable: 5 "The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up. 6 "Other seed fell on rocky soil, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. 7 "Other seed fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out. 8 "Other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great." As He said these things, He would call out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." 9 His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable meant. 10 And He said, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. 11 "Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God. 12 "Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved. 13 "Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away. 14 "The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity. 15 "But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.

Hebrews 4:1-7 ... 1 Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. 2 For indeed we have had good news

preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard. 3 For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, "As I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter My rest," although His works were finished from the foundation of the world. 4 For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh day: "And God rested on the seventh day from all His works"; 5 and again in this passage, "They shall not enter My rest." 6 Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience, 7 He again fixes a certain day, "Today," saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, "Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts." (NASB95)

James 1:21-25 (NASB95) — 21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. 22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; 24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. 25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

Steadfast Growth

Possessors of good and honest hearts hold fast, and bear fruit with patience (Matt. 13:23; Luke 8:15; 1 Cor. 15:1-2; Col. 1:9-12).

Matthew 13:23 (NASB95) — 23 "And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."

Luke 8:15 (NASB95) — 15 "But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.

1 Corinthians 15:1-2 ... 1 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. (NASB95)

Colossians 1:9-12 (NASB95) — 9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12 giving

thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

CONCLUSION

The gospel is a message of divine origin (1 Cor. 2:6-13; Gal. 1:11-12). It is a message of universal obligation (Luke 4:31-32, 42-44). It is a message that will endure forever (1 Pet. 1:25; cf. Isa. 40:3-8). Have you obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ?

1 Corinthians 2:6-13 (NASB95) — 6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; 7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; 8 the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; 9 but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him." 10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

Galatians 1:11-12 ... 11 For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. (NASB95)

Luke 4:31-32 ... 31 And He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and He was teaching them on the Sabbath; 32 and they were amazed at His teaching, for His message was with authority. (NASB95)

Luke 4:42-44 ... 42 When day came, Jesus left and went to a secluded place; and the crowds were searching for Him, and came to Him and tried to keep Him from going away from them. 43 But He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose." 44 So He kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea. (NASB95)

1 Peter 1:22-25 ... 22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, 23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For, "All flesh is like grass, And all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, And the flower falls off, 25 But the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word which was preached to you. (NASB95)

Isaiah 40:3-8 ... 3 A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. 4 "Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley; 5 Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, And all flesh will see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." 6 A voice says, "Call out." Then he answered, "What shall I call out?" All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades, When the breath of the Lord blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever. (NASB95)