

21T14a Gospel of Jesus (Research Project) – Part 1

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me @ the PUNLA coffee table. So, get your coffee or tea and Get comfortable so we can talk.

If I say the word Gospel, what do you think of?

I'm sure some of you immediately thought about the Gospels in the Bible the actual books. Which are referred to as the synoptic Gospels. Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Others thought about what the word means. "Good News" or in the Greek Euangelion. But what Good news are we talking about in the Bible?

The gospel most often taught in Churches today is what I'll refer to as The Salvation Gospel or the Gospel of Grace. That we are saved by Grace alone, through Faith alone, in Christ alone!

Others expand on this in what is typically called the Five Solas. By Grace alone Through Faith alone In Christ alone According to Scripture alone For God's Glory alone or in Latin Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Solus Christus, Sola Scriptura, Soli Deo Gloria. Which is why it is called the five Solas. And there is no doubt this is good news.

I've also heard lots of variations on this definition of the Christian Gospel. But all of these are typically focused on Salvation or forgiveness of sins, etc.

But then I heard a message by Dallas Willard. He asked a simple question. What was the Gospel that Jesus taught.? I was a little stunned by the question. I knew what the gospel was. But I began to question if I really did?

So, I decided to open my Bible and see what it says. Before we start, let us establish some ground rules for our research project.

- 1) Search English Bible translations for the word "gospel" or phrase "good news" using www.blueletterbible.org. I choose three English Translations:
 - a. King James (KJV) Version,
 - b. New International Version (NIV),
 - c. New Living Translation (NLT).
- 2) Review all texts starting with Jesus' spoken words in the Gospels and Acts, then the epistles of the new testament, as well as the old testament. Please note that basic bible study fundamentals must be applied and context when interpreting each scripture. Context meaning,
 - a. Who wrote the book and to who was it written?
 - b. When was it written? What do we need to know from history to understand culture, symbolism? What was the author and those written to experiencing?
 - c. Why, what is the purpose of the book or chapter.

The first thing was to identify verses to study using BlueLetterBible's word search tool. I searched the word "gospel" or gospel's" and the phrase "good news" in KJV, NIV, NLT, ESV, NKJV and NASB. This table shows the results I found,

Version	Total	Gospel	Good News
KJV	99	98	1
NIV	133	89	44
NLT	151	5	146
ESV	180	90	90
NKJV	105	94	11
NASB	126	93	33

Second thing needed was to see how many occurrences there are in the Gospels & Acts, occurrences in the New Testament Epistles, and occurrences in the Old Testament. The table shows the result of this search using the BlueLetterBible search tool.

Version	Gospels/Acts	Epistles	Old Testament
KJV	21	70	1
NIV	38	81	14
NLT	38	92	21
Total	41	97	24

A total of 162 verses with either “gospel” or “good news” in at least one of three translations; KJV, NIV, NLT. Since the number of occurrences differed by translation, there are obvious Greek to English translation issues as well as some differences in the Greek manuscripts used for each of these translations.

There are 7,952 verses in 260 chapters of the New Testament with 138 occurrences of “goodnews” or gospel. Which means roughly one occurrence of “gospel” or “good news” for every 55 verses in the new testament. We could study all these variations, but I want to stay focused on our original task which was to determine what was the gospel of Jesus. Surprisingly, the Gospel of John, 1,2,3 John, and 2 Peter have no occurrences of “gospel” or “good news”, although there is no question all of these are talking about the message of Christ. In these books, it is typically something like “preached the Kingdom God.” But we will focus our discussion on the explicit use of the Gospel or Good News. We may study the occurrences of “kingdom” in a future research project.

Now that we have identified verses to study. Our next task is to reduce the number to the relevant verses to study. We identified 24 Old Testament verses but since our objective was the Gospel of Jesus, we will not look at these in this study. However, it is clear some of these are Messianic verses especially those in Isaiah.

Our time is probably done for today, so I’ll stop here. We will pick up our research project with the verses from the Gospels and Acts next time.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father. Thank you for your Good news. Help us to listen to you as we study and research your word

Help us not to be confused by the many voices and opinions. May we stay focused on your word Lord.

**Help me Lord to let your word lead the way so we can see what your Gospel is. What Gospel you Lord preached while you walked among us.
We pay in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.**

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. If you liked the message, please click like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website or mail me. I want your feedback so let me know what you think.

See you next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.

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