

22T11 Soap Ad Gospel

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me @ the PUNLA coffee table. I heard one of the pastors I listen to on YouTube say this, the “Soap Ad Gospel”. Then he followed up by saying it’s like our version of the Gospel is all about what we get. Just like a soap ad which tells you it will wash your clothes clean. Whites whiter than ever, the Color more colorful. Out with the dingy and in with the clean.

I immediately thought of what we hear, “if we only believe, then our ticket is punched for heaven.” Now this does sound like good news. Gospel means good news, so yes that is Gospel.

But is this the Gospel preached in the Bible. Our version just seems too “me oriented”.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father. Thank you for your good news. Lord use me to share your message. If I say something in error, please let them remember what you wanted them to hear, not my errand words. Help us not to be confused by the many voices and opinions. May we stay focused on your word Lord. Guide our discussion of What was the Gospel of Jesus, then one Paul and Peter preached. We pay in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.

Okay for today, I want us to empty ourselves of what we believe the Gospel is. What did Jesus say. Let’s look at Mark 1:15 which was the beginning of Jesus’ earthly ministry. **“And saying, the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel”** (Mark 1:15 KJV). Did you hear what Jesus, said. Repent and believe the good news. What news, that the Kingdom of God is here. This Goodnews is the announcement or proclamation that Jesus is King. This is long before the cross, tomb and resurrection. Throughout Jesus ministry He taught like this. The kingdom of God is like...

So, okay, what about after the cross, tomb and resurrection. Then Jesus ascended back into heaven. He said He was given all authority, in heaven and earth. So, yes Jesus is King. He was always King.

So what did the Apostle preach of the good news. For a moment, let’s focus on Acts remembering the epistles were written to believers answering specific questions. The letter is not evangelism notes or sermon. They were written by believers to believers, not to reach the unreached. The Gospel is to be preached or proclaimed to the whole world. So what was the message the Apostles used, to preach the Gospel. Thankfully we have a few sermons. Starting with Peter at Pentecost in Acts 2:14-39. Please read it for yourselves, but here is a quick summary. First, Peter quotes from the Prophet Joel, then he reminds them what Jesus did and how he died then rose again. Then Peter says, ***³⁸Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”*** (Acts 2:38-39 NKJV)

Peter does not call this the Good News or Gospel and he never mentioned heaven or salvation or eternal life. Peter and other Apostles are held, questioned and on trial several times. Each time they speak of repenting, forgiveness of sin to those that believe in Jesus or salvation. But no mention of eternal life or heaven or gospel. In Acts 7-8 Stephen speaks before he is martyred. His message is about Jesus is King, not heaven or eternal life. You can keep working your way through Acts, when preaching to the crowds, a ticket to heaven if you believe or eternal life is not the topic. So what is the good news they truly preached.

Now we can each find our favorite verses to support our viewpoints but What did Paul think he was preaching about.

Acts 1:3 Jesus was with them of forty days after His resurrection *“speaking of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God”*

Acts 8:12 Philip preach to the Ethiopian *“Concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ”*

Acts 19:8 Paul preaches, *“And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God.”*

Acts 20:25 Paul says, *“And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more.”*

So Paul thought he was teaching about the Kingdom of God. Romans 14:17, 1 Corinthians 4:20/6:9/10; Galatians 5:21; Colossians 4:11, 2 Thessalonians 1:5. Are all Paul speaking about the Kingdom of God.

And the last two verses of Acts. Acts 28:30-31 (NKJV) *“Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.”*

Whenever the authors of the Bible want to summarize the Gospel. It's always, the Gospel of or pertaining to the Kingdom of God. It's about Jesus is King.

Now there are lots of scriptures talking about certain parts of this, grace, salvation, everlasting life, obedience, service, suffering, kindness, joy, hope, assurance which are all from Christ and for Christ. I don't see the focus on me in these verses, yet when I hear the “full Gospel” most only talk about what we get, not who we serve.

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.

The Soap Ad Gospel. I'm ashamed. I hope we have not forgotten that the Gospel is about Jesus not us. We are welcomed into a relationship with the King but it's not about us. It is and always will be about the King. Don't get me wrong Salvation and eternal life are Good News, but they aren't THE GOOD NEWS, they are the fringe benefits we get because we follow the King of kings and Lord of lords. King Jesus. Now that's Good News. I'm a child of God because of this Good News. The Good News is not that I'm a child of God. When our focus is wrong, our motives are wrong. I want you to do some self-study, Read Matthew 25:31-46. How does the shepherd divide the sheep from goats, it's not only what they did but what their motives were?

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