

### Mark 1

“14 And after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel (good news).”

As ambassadors of God in the world,  
we are on a mission with a message.

## But what is it?

### Mark 1

“repent and believe in the good news.”

What is the nature of this “good news”?

1.

It is a proclamation of **NEWS** about something that is about to be **DONE** (not **advice** about what we must **do**).

2.

It is a call for **TURNING** and **TRUST**.

What was Jesus’ audience expected to believe?

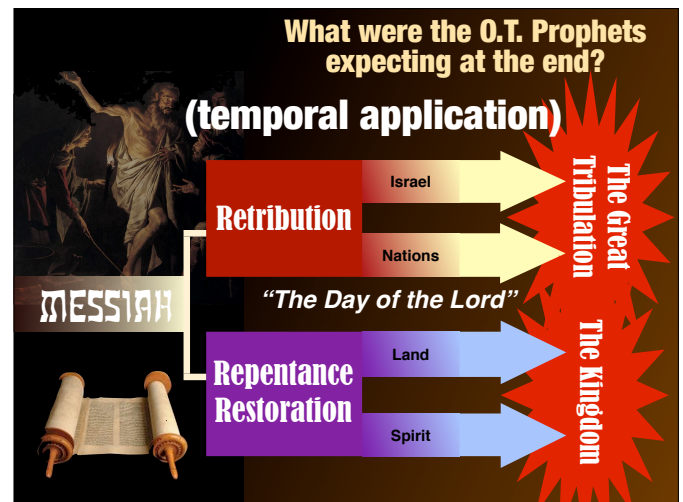
They were to believe that

**Jesus was the Christ and he was ushering in the promised Kingdom.**

- ✓ judgment on Israel’s enemies
- ✓ judgment on false Israel’s sins
- ✓ restoration of the believing remnant or true Israel

What were the O.T. Prophets expecting at the end?

(temporal application)



### The emphasis of Jesus’ Gospel

#### Luke 4

“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.”

**The blessings of the gospel are for Israel.**

This contains a quote from Isaiah 61 where the context suggests restoration for Israel’s cities, land, and place of power in the world (social / material renewal).

### Mark 10

“29 Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake, 30 but that he shall receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. 31 But many who are first, will be last; and the last, first.”

**The blessings of the gospel are linked to following Jesus.**

And are not only in the age to come but in this present age as well (social / material reward).

### Matthew 6

“<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”

**The blessings of the gospel are tied to obedience to the Old Covenant's laws.**

Epecially, the way we relate to one another.

### Mark 1

“repent and believe in the gospel.”

**But is this the gospel that Paul preached?**

**Jesus' audience could not have known what was later preached by Paul as “his Gospel”.**

- ✓ the cross, resurrection,
- ✓ the indwelling Holy Spirit,
- ✓ justification by grace through faith (apart from the works of the Law of Moses)
- ✓ inclusion of Gentiles

### *The distinctiveness of Paul's Gospel*

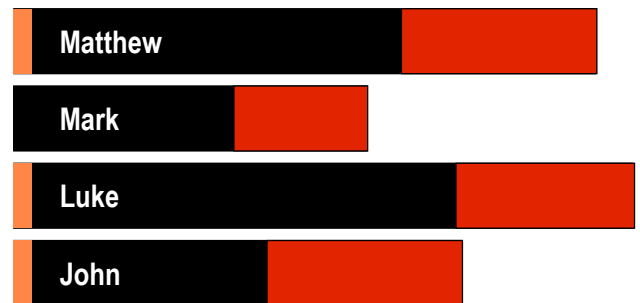
#### 1 Corinthians 15

“<sup>1</sup> Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup> by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,”

**Christ's death and resurrection are the focus.**

### *The emphasis of the Gospels*

#### *The Passion and Resurrection*



### *Gospels*

#### *The Passion and Resurrection*

birth, teaching, miracles, deeds of Jesus

### *The emphasis of the Epistles*

#### *Epistles*

### *The distinctiveness of Paul's Gospel*

#### Galatians 1

“<sup>11</sup> For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. <sup>12</sup> For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.”

#### Ephesians 3

“<sup>3</sup> that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, . . . <sup>5</sup> which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; <sup>6</sup> to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.”

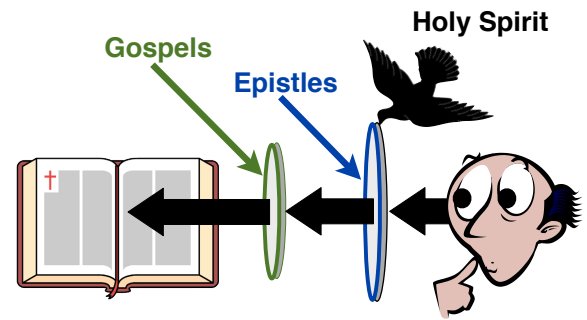
**It was not revealed until after Christ's death**

## John 16

"<sup>12</sup> I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. <sup>14</sup> He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you."

1. There was more revelation coming.
2. The disciples would not be able to receive it yet.
3. The coming Spirit would make the message clear.

**We must discern the full meaning of the gospel through the eyes of the Apostles under inspiration of the Holy Spirit.**



**We interpret the Scriptures through lenses.**

## Acts 19

"<sup>1</sup> And it came about that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper country came to Ephesus, and found some disciples, <sup>2</sup> and he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." <sup>3</sup> And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup> And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." <sup>5</sup> And when they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying."

**Receiving the Holy Spirit was a part of Paul's Gospel (Two different baptisms)**

**How are we to understand Jesus' Gospel in light of Paul's?**

**Both Jesus and Paul are preaching the same Gospel in this respect.**

**It is the good news about Jesus and God's coming Kingdom fulfilling the Abrahamic promise of blessing to the world through Christ.**

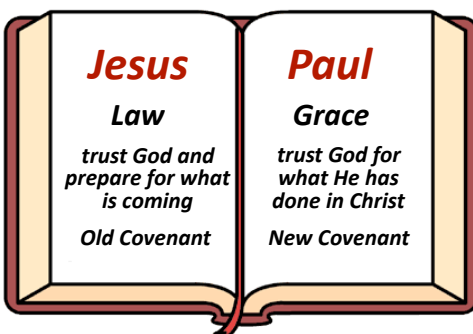
**Paul and Jesus are preaching out of two different contexts.**

**Jesus, from the Old Covenant perspective is looking ahead in anticipation of what God would do through Christ.**

**Paul, from a New Covenant perspective is looking back at what God had done through Christ.**

**How are we to understand Jesus' Gospel in light of Paul's?**

**At face value they have different emphases in their mission and message.**



**Differing emphasis between Jesus and Paul**

Jesus' Gospel of the Kingdom	Paul's Gospel of the Cross
Matthew, Mark, Luke	Acts, Epistles, (John)
Repentance from sins	Faith
Practiced holiness	Positional holiness
Under the Law	Indwelling Holy Spirit
Our walk	Christ's work
Preached to the Jews only	Preached to the world
Kingdom ethics centered	Cross and Resurrection centered
Fulfillment of the promises to Israel	A mystery before it was revealed to Paul
Temporal salvation	Eternal salvation

## How are we to be in the world?

Life and  
teaching of  
Jesus



Crucifixion &  
resurrection



Social Renewal  
Kingdom Ethics

This world

Jesus is reigning  
King



Spiritual Redemption  
Personal Holiness

Heaven

Jesus is suffering  
Servant

View #1 Gospel = Law / Grace

Old Testament

New Testament

Grace

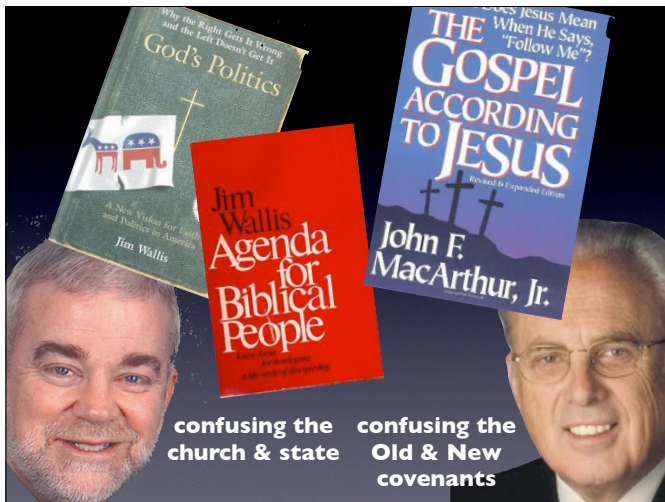
Kingdom

Law

Moses

Jesus

Paul



View #2 Gospel = New Covenant

Old Testament

New Testament

Kingdom

Law

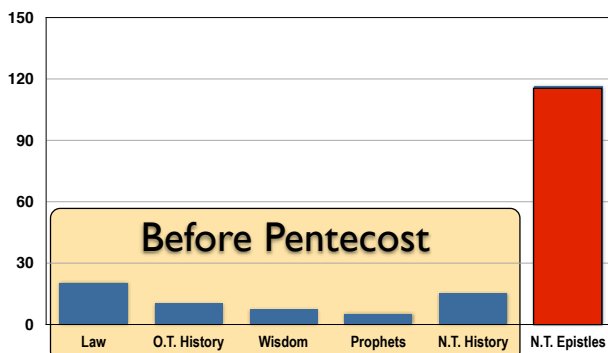
Grace

Moses

Jesus

Paul

Distribution of references to the word "grace" in the various divisions of the Scripture



The great symbols of the faith  
are NOT



The Law



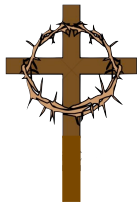
The towel and basin



Birth of Jesus

reminding us of the life of  
Jesus

## The great symbols of the faith ARE



The Cross



The Lord's Supper



Baptism

**reminding us of the death and  
resurrection of Jesus**

**Jesus calls us to be *in* but not *of* the world.**  
Mark 1:1-13

1. **Baptism** is a call to die to this world and live for Christ.
2. As ambassadors we will be called to **spiritual warfare**.
3. We are **not left alone** in our struggles.

**Jesus calls us to be *in* but not *of* the world.**

**Jesus calls us to be *in* but not *of* the world.**  
Mark 1:14-15

1. The good news of the kingdom is to be understood through **the Apostles revelation & application**.
2. We are not called to **renew** the earth so much as to **redeem** the lost.
3. The sincerity of our message will be measured by the **self sacrifice** of our **compassion**.

**Jesus calls us to be *in* but not *of* the world.**

### *Social ethics in the Epistles*

1. The **emphasis** is on the internal life of the faith community, which is salt and light to the world.
2. The **love** of God addresses the brokenness of this world with a **hope** that transcends this life but is **compassionate** to the suffering of this life.
3. The message of the gospel is an **inside - out** change.
4. The mission of the gospel is a **show and tell** ministry.
5. More attention is given to the way disciples graciously **endure** temporal suffering than in their removing it.

### **Galatians 6**

“9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. 10 So then, while we have opportunity, **let us do good to all people**, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”

### **Application steps**

1. God's redeeming power is **in** the church not in society **through** the church?  
**Build authentic, healthy faith communities.**
2. Don't be discouraged by the world's darkness or place your **hope** in its renewal.  
**Be a salt and light alternative society in the world.**
3. **Show** and **tell** the good news.  
**Show compassion without giving false hope.**