

November 27, 2016
Mark 1:1-4; Mark 16:15

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

I. Introduction:

What is Advent? Advent comes from the Latin word “adventus” meaning “Coming”. It is the time of the year when we remember and prepare for the first coming of Christ and also anticipate His second coming.

What is the gospel? – Greek = Euangelion = Good News

“The beginning of **the gospel** about Jesus Christ, the son of God.” Mark 1:1

¹⁵ He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach **the gospel** to all creation.” Mark 16:15

II. Two Diagnostic Questions:

1. Have you come to the place in your spiritual life, where you **know** for certain that if you were to die today that you would go to be with God in heaven?

Yes No Unsure

“These things have been written in order that you may **know** that you have eternal life?” I John 5:12

2. Suppose that you were to die today and stand before God and He were to ask you, “Why should I let you into My heaven? What would you say?”

III. A Brief Presentation Of The Gospel

A. Grace:

1. Heaven Is A Free Gift
2. It is not earned or deserved

“²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the **gift of God** is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

⁸ For it is **by grace** you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is **the gift of God** ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.”
Ephesians 2:8-9

B. Man:

1. Is A Sinner
2. Cannot Save Himself

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
Romans 3:23

“There is no one righteous, not even one.” Romans 3:10

C. God:

1. Is Merciful and loving, therefore doesn't want to punish us
2. Is Just – therefore must punish sin

“God is Love” I John 4:8

“He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

D. Jesus Christ:

1. Who He Is – the infinite God-Man
2. What He Did – He died on the cross and rose from the dead to pay the penalty for our sins and to purchase a place in heaven for us, which He offers as a gift.

Thomas said, "My Lord and **My God.**" John 20:28

"⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6.

E. Faith:

1. What it is not – mere intellectual assent or mere temporal faith.
2. What it is – Trusting In Jesus Christ alone for eternal life.

IV. Conclusion and Application:

- Have you received God's Gift of Eternal Life?
- Who will you share the gospel with this week?

POINTS TO PONDER
Week of November 27th to December 3rd
What Is The Gospel
Mark 1:1-4

Open It

1. How would you prepare for a home visit from your boss or another important person?
2. Why is it important to prepare for the coming of an influential person?
3. What attitudes do most ordinary people have about "very important persons"?

Explore It

4. What do Mark's first words tell us about his Gospel? (1:1)
5. Who was John the Baptist? (1:2-3)
6. *Who sent the messenger? Why? (1:2-3)
7. How was Isaiah's prophecy fulfilled? (1:4)
8. *What were the two aspects of John's ministry? (1:4)
9. What reasons to be baptized did John give the people? (1:4)

Get It

10. What is your reaction to the fact that Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled?
11. *In what ways can you prepare others for Christ?

Apply It

12. *What step could you take this week toward becoming a better witness for Christ?
13. With whom can you share God's promise of forgiveness of sins? How?
14. How can you encourage other Christians to be witnesses for Christ?