

CLASS NOTES ON ACTS -- Appendix # 1

NEW TESTAMENT "GOSPELS" -- The implications of the TITLES used. (Reference notes at Acts 15:11)

- 1A. "The gospel of God"** -- Rom. 1:1; 15:16; 2 Cor. 11:7; 1 Thess. 2:2, 8, 9 (also the "glorious gospel of the blessed God" in 1 Tim. 1:11).
- 1B.** General, but Dispensational (used only by Paul).
 - 2B.** Good news **from God**. This descriptive title indicates the **source** of the message. (See context for its **content**).
- 2A. "The gospel of Christ"** -- Rom. 15:19, 29; 1 Cor. 9:12, 18; 2 Cor. 2:12; 4:4; 9:13; 10:14; Gal. 1:7; Phil. 1:27; 1 Thess. 3:2 (also "The gospel of Jesus Christ" in Mark 1:1 and "The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" in 2 Thess. 1:8).
- 1B.** General, but Dispensational (used only once outside of Paul's epistles).
 - 2B.** Good news **about Christ**. This descriptive title indicates the **topic** of the message. (See context for its **content**).
- 3A. "My gospel"** -- Rom. 2:16; 16:25; 2 Tim. 2:8 (also "Our gospel" in 2 Thess. 2:14).
- 1B.** Specific and Dispensational -- It has to do with this Age of Grace.
 - 2B.** The **human instrument** used to bring this message to men (**Paul**) is in view. (1 Cor. 14:37; Eph. 3:2; Col. 1:25, 26; 1 Thess. 2:13).
- 4A. "The gospel of the grace of God"** -- Acts 20:24.
- 1B.** Specific and Dispensational -- It has to do with this Age of Grace.
 - 2B.** The **message** brought by Paul is highlighted. It involves those truths revealed to Paul for this age.
- 5A. "The gospel of the circumcision"** -- Gal. 2:7, 8.
- 1B.** Specific and Dispensational -- This description is applicable only between Acts 9 / 13 and the death of the last kingdom saint of the New Testament period.
 - 2B.** This identifies the gospel **as adapted to the living kingdom saints** who remained after the Body of Christ began, as distinct from "the gospel of the uncircumcision".
- 6A. "The gospel of the uncircumcision"** -- Gal. 2:7, 8.
- 1B.** Specific and Dispensational -- This description applicable only between Acts 9 / 13 and the death of the last kingdom saint of the New Testament period.
 - 2B.** This identifies the gospel **as adapted to the Body saints**, as distinct from "the gospel of the circumcision."
- 7A. "The gospel of salvation"** -- 1 Cor. 15:1, 3, 4 and Eph. 1:13.
- 1B.** Specific and supra-Dispensational. It underlies God's dealings with all men of every dispensation and (**in God's mind** -- though not revealed until Paul) rises above (transcends) dispensational boundaries.

2B. This **message**, in all of its clarity and simplicity, was not preached until Paul. However the events involved were prophesied in the Old Testament and, as foreseen by **God**, were the **basis** for salvation then -- **in His reckoning**. **All** good news is based ultimately on the events of 1 Cor. 15:3, 4. There could be **NO good** news for sinful man apart from Calvary. Possibly this is in view in the "everlasting gospel" of Rev. 14:6. The death and resurrection of Christ was determined in eternity past (1 Pet. 1:19, 20; Rev. 13:8), carried out in time (Gal. 4:4, 5), and will be the theme of our praise and our songs in eternity future (See Rev. 5:9. Will we fail to be as grateful to the Lord as these kingdom saints, and for the same wonderful Savior?).

(When the word "gospel" is not linked with the qualifying expressions listed here, the context must determine the nature of the "good news" and the content of the message)

--- William P Heath

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