

The Gospel

Paul claims that his punishment for the proclamation and living out of the gospel has resulted in its advance (cf. Philippians 1:12). As a Bible study method, look up Paul's use of "the Gospel." What is its content (cp. Romans 1:1-6; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)?

Kernel of the Gospel: God become one of us as Jesus Christ. Jesus died in the flesh for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried, and was raised by the power of the Spirit. This requires a response from us sinners. The Gospel must be lived out in the circumstances of our lives.

How does the Gospel go beyond just proclaiming its content (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:20-26; Romans 1:16-17; Ephesians 1:13-19)? The words of the Gospel are a living symbol which re-present the reality behind the words. His resurrection is the first fruits that points to our resurrection. The Gospel is also the power of salvation to those who believe. Salvation: justification, regeneration, sanctification, glorification. The revelation of the knowledge of God is brought about by the Spirit enlivening the content of the words of the Gospel.

Why must the content be personal (cf. 1 Thessalonians 1:5-7; 2 Timothy 1:8-11)? The content of the words points to the reality behind it that transforms us and gives us life and immortality.

How is the Gospel fully proclaimed (cf. Romans 10:13-15; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-7)? The Gospel requires being preached, so content is needed. It must also be believed and therefore we are challenged to obey.

From the previous verses, what does it mean to believe in the Gospel? How does the Gospel influence the way you live your life (cp. 2 Thessalonians 1:8)? We must obey the Gospel and be examples to those around us. In order to do this, we must know God.