

The Authentic Gospel

Restoring the Original Intent



Lawrence Blanchard, ND, M.Div

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Envision Publishing
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The Septuagint with Apocrypha: Greek and English. Translated by Sir Lancelot C.L. Brenton, London, 1851, reprinted in Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1998.

The Apostolic Bible Polyglot. Translated by Charles Van der Pool, Newport, OR: The Apostolic Press, 1996, 2013, Second edition. Septuagint and New Testament.

A word to KJV folk: We have chosen to use the *New American Standard Bible* (NASB) for this book. We encourage you to check out every Bible reference with the KJV to see if there are any substantial discrepancies.

All bold notations are the author's except where it is in an original quoted text from another source in which case it will be indicated by "Emphasis in the original."

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Dedication

I dedicate this book to all the Christian saints who have gone before me and on whose shoulders I stand, and to those who will come after me who will “contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints” (Jude 3).

... in the defense and confirmation of the gospel ...

– Philippians 1:7

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Introduction

Was the gospel that was originally proclaimed and taught by Jesus Christ and His Apostles in the first century the same gospel that is declared today?

Is the gospel preached today the authentic and genuine gospel in meaning and authority or is it a counterfeit – another gospel?

To many who profess to be followers of the Lord Jesus Christ and believe in the Bible as the “God-breathed” and trustworthy written revelation of God, this may seem like a preposterous question. “Of course, it’s the same gospel message!” That might be the defensive and well-meaning response of orthodox, evangelical Christianity today. If that conviction is well-founded, then there shouldn’t be any hesitation to answer the challenge this book presents: to examine the scriptural evidences of the **original intent** of the biblical gospel in comparison to the gospel message that is professed today.

Treading on Sacred Ground

I understand this is sacred ground. I understand that such an inquiry might be seen as an unauthorized intrusion into unapproachable territory. It would be easy and convenient to curtly dismiss the proposition that the gospel preached today might be different or even contrary to the biblical gospel. Some, perhaps even the majority, may not be willing to study the matter out.

There will be a few, however, who will not fear this investigation. Like the Bereans of old (Acts 17:10-12), they will possess enough personal integrity to pursue the truth of the matter. Truth that arises out of biblically-based evidence will be infinitely more important than defending traditionally-held religious **viewpoints**, even if it means potentially painful opposition. This could manifest as rejection from family, friends, or loss of position, reputation, or employment. It may mean that they could be put out of the church and labeled a “heretic.” Despite the possible fallout, they will not be afraid to test popular, assumed beliefs against what the Bible actually says and means.

What You May Find

Let me address you personally. If you choose to examine this book, you may discover that some parts of the gospel message of Jesus Christ and His Apostles are, indeed, the same as the gospel preached and taught today.

On the other hand, you may encounter biblical evidence about the gospel that may at least cause you to question the validity of the contemporary message. You may find some points of today's gospel are supported by the biblical evidence, and perhaps, other parts which cannot be substantiated, and may even be contrary to the biblical gospel because they do not fit the facts of **the whole biblical context**.

Could it be that some or all of the gospel message testified throughout the New Testament has been misunderstood and misapplied? And if you discovered that for yourself, would you be courageous enough to change your opinion, or at least pursue the matter further?

There may be consequences to consider when one encounters long-held and intensely defended belief systems. It will not be an easy road, but it may be "the narrow gate" that only a "few" find (Matthew 7:13-14).

A Cultural Gospel?

Why would I even suggest that you take another look at the gospel that is being preached and taught today? Where am I going with this? I have come to discover over the years that the modern cultural context, even in conservative Bible-believing churches, subtly influenced and modified the meaning and intent of the gospel that the Christ and His Apostles taught.

My purpose in this book is to objectively examine the entire biblical context with respect to the gospel and compare that to the present-day gospel within the modern cultural context. Is there substantial difference in today's gospel message so as to significantly alter the meaning and application of the biblical gospel? What was the **original intent** of the first century gospel? This will be a decision you will have to make after you have honestly weighed the evidence.

Major Implications

You might be wondering whether this subject is even worth searching out. Is it important enough to take the time to do so? The Apostle Paul boldly addressed the Galatian churches regarding this very problem of “another gospel”:

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for **a different gospel**, which is not just another account; but there are some who are disturbing you and want to **distort the gospel of Christ**. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, even now I say again: if anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! – Galatians 1:6-9

The issue regarding circumcision that Paul contested and called “a different gospel” in the first century is not the same one we face today. Still, is another gospel and another Jesus being preached today? To search out the matter, it is imperative that the whole counsel of God is preserved and taught as it was originally intended to be understood.

If the original gospel message according to Jesus Christ and His Apostles has been changed, and perhaps significantly so, then that would alter our understanding of the purpose and plan of God as revealed in the Bible. Would the originally intended mission of Jesus Christ be thrown off course to such a degree that the modern gospel has actually become destructive to His mission? And could this be one of the main reasons behind the national and global chaos we are experiencing?

After all, the gospel is the power of God for salvation, redemption, and transformation to restore His Kingdom order of righteousness, peace, and joy on earth as it is in heaven, as was originally intended in the first Adam. Is that what we are witnessing today – the Kingdom of God? It is anything but the Kingdom of God. If you haven’t noticed, we are experiencing rapidly deteriorating conditions, especially in the western European nations of the world, that are destroying Christian culture, lives, families, businesses, and everything that is left of our birthright heritage.

Something is not right in our world today. What’s going on? Is there a problem with the gospel message proclaimed today that has led to our own demise? Let’s find out for sure! Our future and our posterity’s future may depend on it.

Could the book you hold in your hand help you clarify the biblical gospel and start you on your life mission to help correct our present destructive course? If you let the written Word of God speak for itself, I believe it will greatly impact your life!

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