

The Cornerstone Vision, pt. 3 – What is the Gospel?

Mark 16:15-18 - 15 And [Jesus] said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Gospel = euaggelion = lit. “good or joyful news”... a good message, report, or announcement

- Quote: NT Wright in *Simply Good News: Why The Gospel Is News And What Makes It Good* - “Many people today assume that Christianity is one or more of these things – a religion, a moral system, a philosophy. In other words, they assume that Christianity is about advice. But it wasn’t and isn’t. Christianity is, simply, good news. It is the news that something has happened as a result of which the world is a different place.”

Methods to Share the Gospel

- 1. The Four Spiritual Laws (God Man Jesus You)
 - 1. God: God, who is holy and perfect and good in every way, loves you and created you to know Him personally
 - John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
 - 2. Man: Man is sinful and separated from God, so we cannot know Him personally or experience His love.
 - Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
 - Romans 6:23 - ... the wages of sin is death
 - 3. Jesus: Jesus made a way for us.
 - John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
 - 4. You: You need to personally respond to what Jesus has done
 - John 1:12 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God
- 2. The Gospel Hand
 - 1. Thumb: God Made Everything and It Was Good
 - 2. Pointer Finger: Adam and Eve Blew It
 - 3. Middle Finger: Things Got Real Bad Real Fast
 - Genesis 3 – Adam and Eve ate the fruit
 - Genesis 4 (1st half) – Murder! Cain kills his own brother Abel
 - Genesis 4 (2nd half) – Cain’s great-great-grandson Lamech murders a man and rejoices in it
 - Genesis 6:5-6 - 5 The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.
 - 4. Ring Finger: But God Made a Commitment Way Back in the Beginning
 - Genesis 3:14-15 - 14 The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”
 - Colossians 2:15 – [God] disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in [Jesus].
 - 5. Pinkie Finger: The Smallest Finger, and Smallest Part of the Story, You

- Will you acknowledge your own guilt and then receive healing and restoration in Jesus?
Or will you continue the path of destruction rampaging on our planet?