

What is the Gospel?

My definition:

The Hermeneutical Circle

We are studying the book of Galatians, so the tightest part of the circle is where we start. Here is the progression

The first instance of the mention of the gospel is in 1:6:

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; (Galatians 1:6 NAS)

So the verse itself and its immediate context is where we begin.

Then we move outward to the rest of the book, beginning with the nearest context and moving outward.

- Gal. 1:6ff, 11
- Gal. 2:2, 5, 7, 14
- Gal. 3:8
- Gal. 4:13

What does the book of Galatians tell me about the gospel?

The next ring on the hermeneutical circle would be the rest of Paul's writings, beginning with the writings most like Galatians

- Romans
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- Corinthians
- Thessalonians
- Pastorals (Timothy, Titus)
- Philemon

Then we would have the teaching and speaking of Paul in the book of **Acts**

Key passages: Acts 15; 16:30ff; search on "gospel" in Acts (Acts 8:25, 40; 14:7, 15, 21; 15:7; 16:10; 20:24; read any of Paul's sermons recorded: Before the counsel in 22 and 23, before Felix (24) , Festus (25) and Agrippa (25-26).

The next ring would be the writings of the other Apostles and recorded teachings in Acts.

The next ring would be the gospels themselves (Matthew et al) and the teaching of Jesus.

The next ring would be the OT, especially those passages quoted and referred to in the gospel message (for instance Isaiah 61:1-3).

*After all this study, we could draw a definitive Biblical conclusion.*

What is my definition of the Gospel?