

## **FOT 2022– DAY 6**

### **PART 1 — THE GOSPEL — OF JESUS OR THE KINGDOM?**

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We're here looking forward to the time when God's Kingdom is on the earth — the Millennium.

That's good news! **In Bible terms — a Gospel. Peace ... prosperity ... well-being.**

#### **Mark 1:14-15**

14 Now after John was put in prison, **Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,**

15 and saying, "**The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.**"

#### **Jesus preached the Kingdom of God.**

At this Feast we tend to focus on this coming world — what it might be like. We still hope it might be soon.

**But this future Kingdom is not the whole Gospel.** If you think about it —it's not here yet (!! ) ... so how relevant was this message to the day-to-day lives of people living in 50 AD ... 500 AD ... 1920 etc?

It's certainly a hope (a confident expectation) of all believers of all time. After all — it's the time of their resurrection to eternal life!

But not particularly relevant in a day-today sense?

#### **What about the Good News for Today?**

Notice the "First" New Testament sermon by Peter after Jesus had gone to Heaven.

#### **Acts 2:22-24**

22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: **Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst**, as you yourselves also know—

23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, **you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;**

24 **whom God raised up**, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

YOU killed God’s Son!

## **Jesus: Died and Resurrected.**

### **Acts 2:32-36**

32 **This Jesus God has raised up**, of which we are all witnesses.

33 Therefore **being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit**, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

34 “For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: The LORD said to my Lord,  
“Sit at My right hand,

35 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” ’

36 “**Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.**”

## **Jesus: Lord and Christ!**

### **Acts 2:37-41**

37 Now **when they heard this, they were cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “**Men and brethren, what shall we do?**”

38 Then Peter said to them, “**Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."

41 **Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.**

**Repent! Get baptised! Receive the Spirit!  
This is the Gospel. Sins can be forgiven! Reconciled to God!  
The Spirit is promised!**

**All due to the Mission of the Lord Jesus.**

No mention here of any future Kingdom? Curious? Isn't that the heart and core?

We all need help here and now?!

### **Acts 5:25-32**

25 So one came and told them, saying, "Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!"

26 Then the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned.

27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them,

28 saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!"

29 **But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.**

30 **The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.**

31 **Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.**

32 **And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."**

**The Message is the impact of Jesus in the here and now!**

No doubt many people would like to know more. How did Jesus achieve this? What Old Testament prophecies apply? How should I live from now on?

### **Acts 5:33-35**

33 **When they heard this, they were furious and plotted to kill them.**

34 Then **one in the council stood up, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in respect by all the people**, and commanded them to put the apostles outside for a little while.

35 And he said to them: **“Men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what you intend to do regarding these men.”**

Gamaliel's warning!

### **Acts 5:40-42**

40 **And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.**

41 **So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.**

42 **And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.**

**Preaching Jesus as the Christ — the Anointed One — sent by God!**

**A key part of the Gospel is preaching Jesus.**

As we continue in the Book of Acts ... we see what the Apostles and Disciples taught.

### **Acts 8:26-38**

26 **Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”** This is desert.

27 So he arose and went. And behold, **a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship,**

28 **was returning.** And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet.

29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."

30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.

32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this:

"He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; *(taken from Isaiah 53)*

And as a lamb before its shearer is silent,

So He opened not His mouth.

33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away,

And who will declare His generation?

For His life is taken from the earth."

34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?"

35 **Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.**

36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. **And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?"**

37 Then Philip said, **"If you believe with all your heart, you may."**

And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And **both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.**

**Philip preached Jesus!** This leads to the eunuch being baptised! No mention of a future Kingdom. What relevance would a future kingdom be to him here and now?

**Acts 10:30-48**

30 So **Cornelius** said, “**Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing.**”

31 **and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God.**”

32 **Send therefore to Joppa and call Simon here, whose surname is Peter.** He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea. **When he comes, he will speak to you.’**

33 So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God.”

34 **Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.**”

35 **But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.**

36 **The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all—**

37 **that word you know,** which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached:

38 **how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.**

39 **And we are witnesses of all things which He did** both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree.

40 **Him God raised up on the third day,** and showed Him openly,

41 not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

42 **And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.**

43 To Him all the prophets witness that, **through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.**” (*And be reconciled to God*)

44 **While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.**

45 And **those of the circumcision who believed were astonished**, as many as came with Peter, because **the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also**.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered,

47 **“Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”**

48 And **he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord**. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

This was a big event! **God proved beyond doubt that he was inviting “Gentiles” — non-Israelite people — into His family!**

How did this come about? **By preaching Jesus!**

At some future point ... Cornelius would hear about God’s Eternal Kingdom on the earth. But not key to conversion. Though a great hope to look forward to!

#### **Acts 17:1-4**

1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.

2 Then **Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures,**

3 **explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead**, and saying, **“This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.”**

4 **And some of them were persuaded**; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.

**Paul preached Christ!** Many were converted!

#### **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**

1 Moreover, brethren, **I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,** (*“by which you stand” — right here and now*)

**2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you**—unless you believed in vain.

**3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,**

**Paul confirms that he preached The Gospel. Which was: Christ died ... was buried ... and rose again the third day!**

**In the latter portion of this chapter ... Paul explains the Resurrection of the saints and when — at the last Trumpet!**

That's when the Everlasting Kingdom begins. It's not ignored!

### **1 Corinthians 1:17-24**

**17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel,** not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

**18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

19 For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.”

20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

22 For **Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom;**

23 but **we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,**

24 **but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**



**Paul preached the Gospel — the message of the Cross. He preached Christ crucified! Jesus — His blood and death — forgiveness — reconciliation. Not directly — a far-future Kingdom.**

### **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

17 Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**

18 **Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,**

19 that is, **that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself,** not imputing their trespasses to them, **and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.**

20 Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ,** as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, **be reconciled to God.**

21 **For He made Him who knew no sin to be a sin offering for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

**The message preached was: Be reconciled to God through Jesus ... as our sin offering.**

**CJB: God made this sinless man be a sin offering on our behalf, so that in union with Him we might fully share in God's righteousness.**

So the Gospel message was not primarily about a 1,000 year Kingdom ... arriving 20 centuries later?

### **Romans 1:1-3**

1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, **separated to the gospel of God**

**2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,**

**3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,**

## The Gospel of God — concerning His son.

### **Romans 1:15-17**

15 So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to **you** who are in Rome also.

16 **For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.**

17 **For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith;** as it is written, **“The just shall live by faith.”** (*Living by faith — day in — day out!*)

The Gospel of Christ is the power of salvation ... revealing righteousness.

### **Romans 16:25-27**

25 **Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ,** according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began

26 but **now** made manifest, **and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—**

27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

Paul’s Gospel “and the preaching of Jesus Christ” helps “establish us” — settled ... “for obedience to the faith”.

It looks like Paul focused greatly on Jesus — His Cross ... His Resurrection ... His Death.

### **Philippians 1:12-14**

12 But **I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,** (*the Gospel must go forth — it has promoted the Gospel!*)

13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;

14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

## The Gospel.

### **Philippians 1:15-18**

15 **Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife**, and **some also from goodwill**:

16 **The former preach Christ from selfish ambition**, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;

17 **but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.**

18 What then? **Only that in every way**, whether in pretense or in truth, **Christ is preached**; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

**Preach Christ** — mentioned **3 times**. That is the furtherance of the Gospel.

**Although in prison ... Paul rejoices that Christ is preached — the Gospel!**

### **Philippians 1:27**

27 **Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ**, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, **that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel**,

**We should live consistently with the Truth of The Gospel.**

That's here and now! It affects how we live here and now. That's where it should have the biggest impact.

### **Galatians 2:20**

20 **I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.**

**It's our lives that we are living here and now in the flesh —  
that matter. I live by the faith of Jesus Christ living in me —  
EVERY DAY!**