



# Gospel Proclamations

Jeremy Stephens, adapted from *Simply Good News* by NT Wright

## The Harvest of the Good News

### The Core Story of the Gospel

To proclaim good news and see harvest missionaries wrestle with these questions: what is the core story of the gospel? What does the gospel do? What does it mean? The technique, methods and diagrams will change, but we all must become fluent in the historical and theological facts of the gospel.

Let's take a minute to go through these passages, making lists of the historical, theological facts and our role in the gospel.

#### **1 Corinthians 15**

*1 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. ...11 Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.*

#### **Romans 10**

*8 But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: 9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. 11 As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame."*

#### **2 Corinthians 5**

*21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

### Titus 3

3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. 8 This is a trustworthy saying.

### Colossians 1

12 and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins... 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. 21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— 23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

<b>HISTORICAL</b> <i>(the story)</i>	<b>THEOLOGICAL</b> <i>(the meaning)</i>	<b>OUR ROLE</b> <i>(the call)</i>
<i>Ex: shed death on cross (for sins), buried, raised bodily, appeared to many people</i>	<i>Ex: God does the work: we share in inheritance, rescued us, brought us into kingdom</i>	<i>Ex: proclaim, continue firm in faith, declare Lordship + believe God raised Him = saved</i>

# Not Advice, but Good News

## All News Has 3 Parts

The techniques vary, the images change, but these core scriptural truths demonstrate how we are unique in the world and why the gospel is good news. News always informs us of the past, points to a future impact, and clarifies the effects now. For example, when President Kennedy was assassinated, politicians from Washington D.C. immediately issued the news that President Kennedy was shot and dead (past), that there would be a new president (future), and that as a result, citizens should get their political allegiances in order (present now).

Sharing news involves a past event pointing to the future that impacts the present. The past event points to the future and impacts the present.

## *The 3 Parts of News*

When we share the good news of Jesus, every technique must touch on these three aspects of news:

1. **Good news of the PAST** Ex: *"Jesus died and rose."*
2. **Good news of the FUTURE** Ex: *"Jesus will rescue and renew the cosmos."*
3. **Good news of your PRESENT** Ex: *"You can share in that new world now."*

When we say "Jesus died for our sins" we should immediately say something like "so you can freely pick up your role as a truly human being and discover your particular vocation within God's purposes for his world." The past event points to the future, and impacts the present.

NT Wright sums it up this way, "The Creator God, through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, has done what he has promised to do. The defeat of death, removal of shame, the rescue from slavery and has begun the remaking of the cosmos. We are now invited into his redemption project."

# Practicing with your Microchurch

## How would you share the basic Gospel news?

As a microchurch, practice sharing the basic story in 3 minutes per person. Practice telling the facts of the news but then take time to also tell it as a narrative or story.

Basic Gospel	How would you share this news?
Creator God has defeated death and shame	
In and through Jesus (death and resurrection)	
Repent, give up your way, turn around and go to Him	

## Advanced Practice for Fluency

Metaphors help us communicate the facts and good news while giving a clear call to their present reality and need for response. As a microchurch, practice using metaphors to share the good news of Jesus. (below are a few suggestions)

1. Coming home
2. Lost and found
3. Prison and freedom
4. Dirty and clean
5. Hole in heart that's filled
6. Darkness to light