The Point Of The Apostolic Preaching In The Book Of Acts

How Did The Apostles Interpret And Apply The Gospel?

The Gospel, 1 Corinthians 15.1-8

- Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures
- He was buried
- He was raised the third day according to the Scriptures
- He appeared to hundreds of witnesses after His resurrection

A Potpourri Of Contemporary Applications Of The Gospel

You too can achieve prosperity!

You can feel good about yourself because God loves you!

If you were to die today, do you know where you'd go?

1. Peter On The Day Of Pentecost

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified." (2.36)

"Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (2.38)

"Be saved from this perverse generation!" (2.40)

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2. Peter In Solomon's Portico

"But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, but put to death the Prince of life, the one whom God raised from the dead, a *fact* to which we are witnesses." (3.14-15)

"Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away ..." (3.19)

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3. Peter Before The Sanhedrin

"... by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health. He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, the builders, but WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone. (4.10-11)

"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." (4.12)

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4. Peter & Apostles: Sanhedrin 2

"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins." (5.30-31)

"And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him." (5.32)

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5. Stephen Before The Sanhedrin

"You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did. Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become ..." (7.51-52)

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6. Peter To The House Of Cornelius

"Jesus of Nazareth ... this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins." (10.38, 41-43)

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7. Paul To The P. Antioch Synagogue

"Those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, ... asked Pilate that He be executed." (13.27-28)

Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through [Jesus] forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses." (13.38-39)

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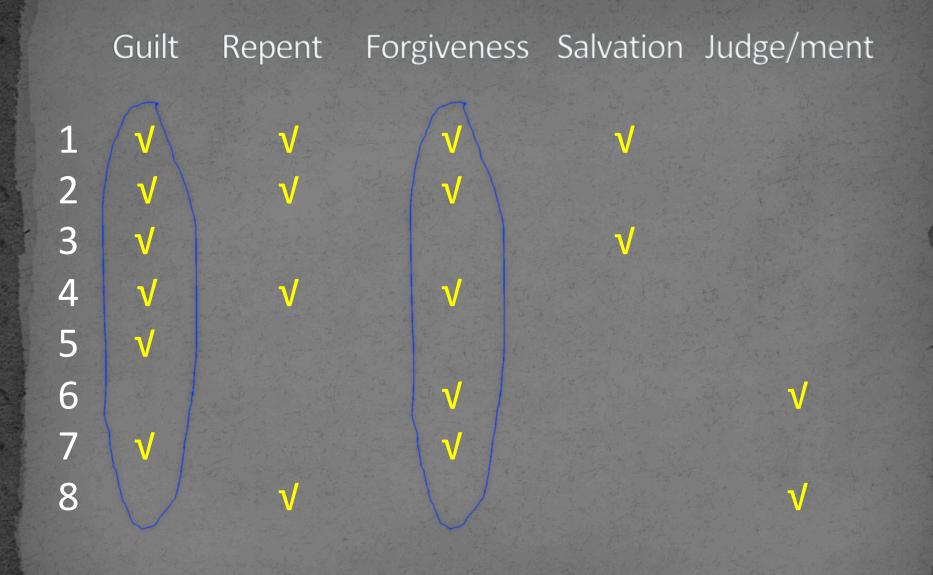
8. Paul On Mars Hill In Athens

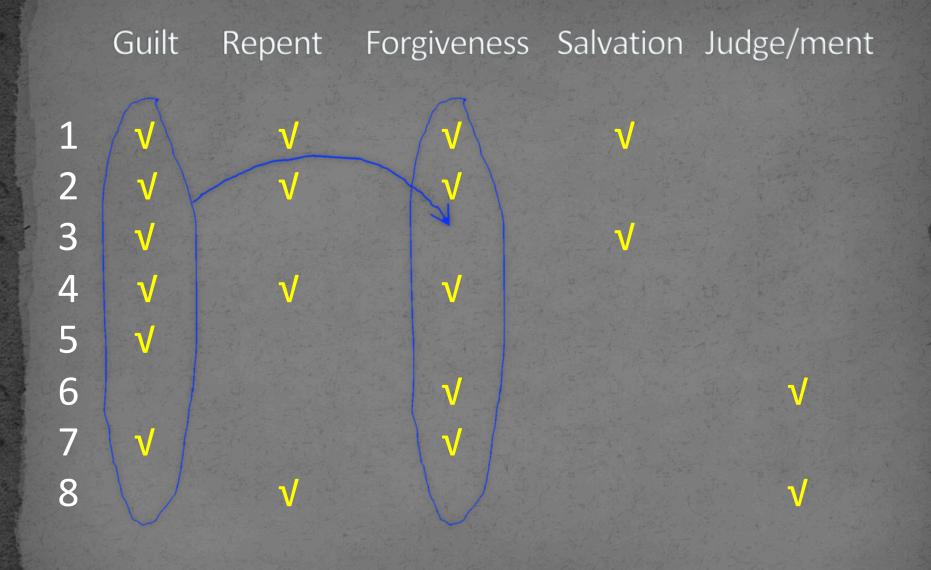
"Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." (17.30-31)

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The Point Of The Apostolic Preaching

Guilty sinners can repent and be reconciled to God.

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This is why the gospel is good news.

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Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5.18-20)

- 1. Modern evangelism tends to appeal to human self-interest, emphasizing God's concern for man.
- 2. The preaching of the apostles appealed to the conscience, emphasizing man's indebtedness to God.

3. If we share the gospel with no mention of repentance and reconciliation to God, we're not really sharing the good news.

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- 4. The gospel is *not* good news for the person who has no desire to be reconciled to God and have a relationship with Him.

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- 5. For those who want to be embraced in the arms of their true Father, and look into the loving eyes of their Creator and Savior, the gospel is the best news ever!

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Roderick Graciano