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<sup>[1]</sup> *The beginning of the gospel<sup>1</sup> of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

[Mark 1:1]

You have probably heard the word gospel many times. However, did you know many people understand the meaning of the word gospel in many ways. Some believe it to be the teaching or revelation of Christ Jesus. Others consider it to mean ALL Christian teachings. Some think it means that which is absolutely true that is the truth or the whole truth. Still others think of it being a doctrine or a dogma or teaching. Some others think it is only the record of Jesus' life and teaching in the first four books of the New Testament. To one degree or another, there is some truth to all these opinions. However, to truly understand what the meaning of GOSPEL<sup>1</sup> is, you need to understand the Greek definition of the word GOSPEL<sup>1</sup>.

Our English word GOSPEL<sup>1</sup> comes from the old English 'godspel' which had the meaning of 'glad tidings announced by Jesus'. The more literal meaning is 'good spell', which came from 'good' plus 'spel' which meant 'story' or 'message'. This was a translation from the Latin 'bona adnuntiatio', which was a translation of the Greek εὐαγγέλιον (yooanggheleoon),<sup>1</sup> meaning a "reward for bringing good news".

The meaning of the Greek noun εὐαγγέλιον (yooanggheleoon),<sup>1</sup> was originally 'to bring, proclaim, or tell good news'. It later came to mean just 'good news'. In the New Testament it is used only 'to speak of the glad tidings of Christ and salvation in Him'.

Listen to how the Holy Spirit moved Paul to define GOSPEL in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. Here you learn,  
<sup>[1]</sup> Now I make known to you, brethren, the GOOD NEWS which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, <sup>[2]</sup> through which also you are SAVED, if you hold fast the Word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. <sup>[3]</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that CHRIST DIED FOR [your] SINS according to the Scriptures, <sup>[4]</sup> and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

When Paul was moved to write that this was "according to the Scriptures", it is an indication that the "the glad tidings of salvation in Christ" were first prophesied in the Old Testament [Genesis 3:25; Isaiah 53:1-12; Daniel 9:24-26; et al].

Now listen to what the Holy Spirit moved Paul to write in 2 Thessalonians 1:8. Here You are told that,  
"in flaming fire" [God will take] "vengeance on those who DO NOT KNOW GOD, and ON THOSE WHO [HAVE NOT OBEYED] THE GOSPEL GOOD NEWS of our Lord Jesus Christ".

Did you know before today that the GOSPEL GOOD NEWS of our Lord Jesus Christ" is something that you need to 'OBEY'? This begs a second question. How do you "OBEY" the GOSPEL GOOD NEWS? To answer that question, look again at 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 and ask yourself what the Spirit said is the GOSPEL GOOD NEWS.

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<sup>1</sup> "Gospel" is the Greek noun εὐαγγέλιον (yooanggheleoon), Strong's Greek dictionary noun number 2098. It is also translated as "good news"<sup>1</sup>

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Did you see what the GOSPEL GOOD NEWS is? The GOSPEL GOOD NEWS is three things. First, Jesus *DIED FOR SINS!* Second, *HE WAS BURIED!* And third, *HE WAS RAISED from the dead!*

Again, I ask, how do you obey the GOSPEL GOOD NEWS? How do you DIE and be BURIED and RISE from the dead? Consider that the answer to that question is found in Romans 6:3-4 where you are asked,

*[3] ... do you not know that as many of us as were IMMERSED<sup>2</sup> into Christ Jesus were IMMERSED<sup>2</sup> INTO HIS DEATH? [4] Therefore we were BURIED with Him through IMMERSION<sup>3</sup> into death, that just as Christ was RAISED FROM the DEAD by the glory of the Father, even so WE ALSO SHOULD WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE.*

Please visualize that when someone is *IMMERSED<sup>2</sup>* in water, they have metaphorically *DIED* with Christ in His crucifixion [Galatians 2:20]. This death is symbolized by their being *BURIED* in water. Their *RESURRECTION* with Christ is then symbolized when they come up out of that watery grave of immersion.

These three steps are how one OBEYS the GOSPEL GOOD NEWS in 2 Thessalonians 1:8. This is also how you receive the promise of Romans 6:5-6 of having,

*... been united together [with Jesus] in the likeness of His death, CERTAINLY we also will be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our [old self] was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*

Will you now please join with me in prayer?

O Father God, today I bring You a sacrifice of thanksgiving! I bring You this thanksgiving because if we have been immersed, You have united us together with Christ Jesus in the likeness of His death. You have also given us the promise that we will also be in the likeness of His resurrection. And this hope we have because our old self was crucified together with Christ. You have also given us the assurance that in all of this our body of sin has been taken away; and we are no longer slaves of sin. I now ask You to accept this prayer of thanksgiving through the authority which is in the name of my Lord Jesus. Amen!

Please meditate and pray on these things!

Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to **know in a greater way** the **One** Who promises in His Word to never leave you nor forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6,8]!

*BECAUSE I WAS IMMERSED INTO CHRIST'S DEATH,  
AND WAS BURIED WITH JESUS THROUGH IMMERSION IN WATER,  
I AM NOW RAISED WITH CHRIST THAT I MIGHT WALK IN A NEW LIFE. ! – tom!*

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<sup>2</sup> "Immersed" is the Greek verb βαπτίζω (baptizō), is Strong's Greek dictionary verb number 907. Usually transliterated as 'baptized' this Greek verb has the meanings of to 'immerse', 'submerge' or 'overwhelm to make fully wet'.

<sup>3</sup> "Immersion" is the Greek verb βάπτισμα (baptismah), is Strong's Greek dictionary verb number 908. Usually transliterated as 'baptism' this Greek verb has the meaning of 'immersion'.