

“How I kept back nothing that was helpful,
but proclaimed it to you, and taught you
publicly and from house to house.”

Acts 20:20

Totally Committed

Olympic Athletes

Terrorist

Ideologues

Cultist Religious Groups

Phrases we use to describe them:

Activist

Fanatics

Extremist

Totally Committed

This was the description of the church
in the first century.

And why not so today?

Two Christian Camps

Camp One

Those whose relationship to Jesus is understood to be an allegiance to external rule-keeping.

Camp Two

Those whose relationship to Jesus is understood to be a supplement to their already busy lives.

The Gospel of the Kingdom

This third camp—is made up of those whose relationship to Jesus Christ is not motivated by guilt, condemnation, shame, religious duty, the fear of hell, or the hope of heaven.

Rather, it's motivated by the compelling sight of the glorious Person of Christ and the irresistible power of His kingdom.

The Gospel of the Kingdom

The Gospel of the Kingdom is what was preached during the first century but is rarely done so today.

We have substituted it with another gospel.

Those who embraced the Gospel of the Kingdom left all to live for His Kingdom.

Today, few leave anything to follow Christ.

The Gospel of the Kingdom

The origins of the word: Gospel

In the first century, the words “gospel” and “evangelize” referred to heralding the good news that a new emperor had been installed in the Roman Empire. Heralds would go out to proclaim the good news, informing people that a new era of peace, salvation, and blessing had begun.

They then exhorted people to get down on their knees to worship the new emperor.

The Gospel of the Kingdom

The origin of the word: gospel.

The apostles used the same term to describe the preaching of the good news of the Kingdom of God.

The gospel that the apostles preached was the announcement—the heralding—that Jesus of Nazareth had become this world's true Emperor (Lord), launching a new era of peace, salvation, and blessing, and because of it, everything has changed.

The Gospel of the Kingdom

This is the message that turned the world upside down during the first century.

But it is a message seldom preached today.

Did you ever wonder why?

We don't like the idea of a King,
or a Kingdom,
or a Ruler,
or any Authority over us.

The Gospel of the Kingdom

Look how the word “gospel” is used in the Bible:

The gospel of the kingdom.

The gospel of the kingdom of God.

The gospel of Jesus Christ.

The gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The gospel of God.

The gospel of the grace of God.

The Gospel of the Kingdom

Look how the word “gospel” is used in the Bible:

The gospel of His Son.

The gospel of Christ.

The gospel of peace.

The gospel of the glory of Christ.

The gospel of your salvation.

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of the Kingdom

They are all different names for the same message.

And Jesus rules His Kingdom by His glory,
and not by compulsion, guilt, or duty.

The Gospel of the Kingdom

God the Father is spoken of as the God of glory (Acts 7:2). He's also called the Father of glory (Ephesians 1:15–17).

Jesus is called the Lord of glory (1 Corinthians 2:6–8).

The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of glory (1 Peter 4:14).

So the triune God, the eternal Godhead, is characterized by glory.

The Gospel of the Kingdom

And once we begin to see the glory of Christ and the wonder of His Kingdom, everything changes.

He is no longer an historical figure, but Someone we literally adore and long to be with.

He is Someone we will abandon all to follow.

And this was the message preached by the disciples and the early church.

Satan's kingdom is ruled by fear.

Christ's Kingdom is ruled by glory.

The Gospel of the Kingdom

Why do the rest of the angels serve Him still?

Why did the twelve leave everything and follow Him?

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,
and **we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only
begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**

John 1:14

Nothing in their life compared to Jesus!

The Gospel of the Kingdom

Why to the rest of the angels serve Him still?

Why did the twelve leave everything and follow Him?

They became compelled, driven, single-focused,
obsessed.

The Gospel of the Kingdom

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 3:18

How do we recapture the vision of His glory
in our lives?

How do we re-ignite our love for Him?

Could You Love a Man Like This?

Imagine you are watching all of this happen right
before your eyes?

And imagine it is happening to you.