

What is the gospel we share?

Lay Evangelists

Diocese of Sheffield

20.10.12

Jim Currin, Church Army Captain,
Secretary for Evangelisation
Churches Together in England



Churches Together in England

Making connections



Aim of the day:

To look again at the Gospel we share by
Considering the Gospel in the Gospels and
Sharing faith the Jesus way



Churches Together in England

Making connections



The 'Gospel'

- Four books of the Bible
- Sunday reading
- Message of salvation
- 'truth' we swear
- Doctrine
- Preaching
- Good news
- Etc



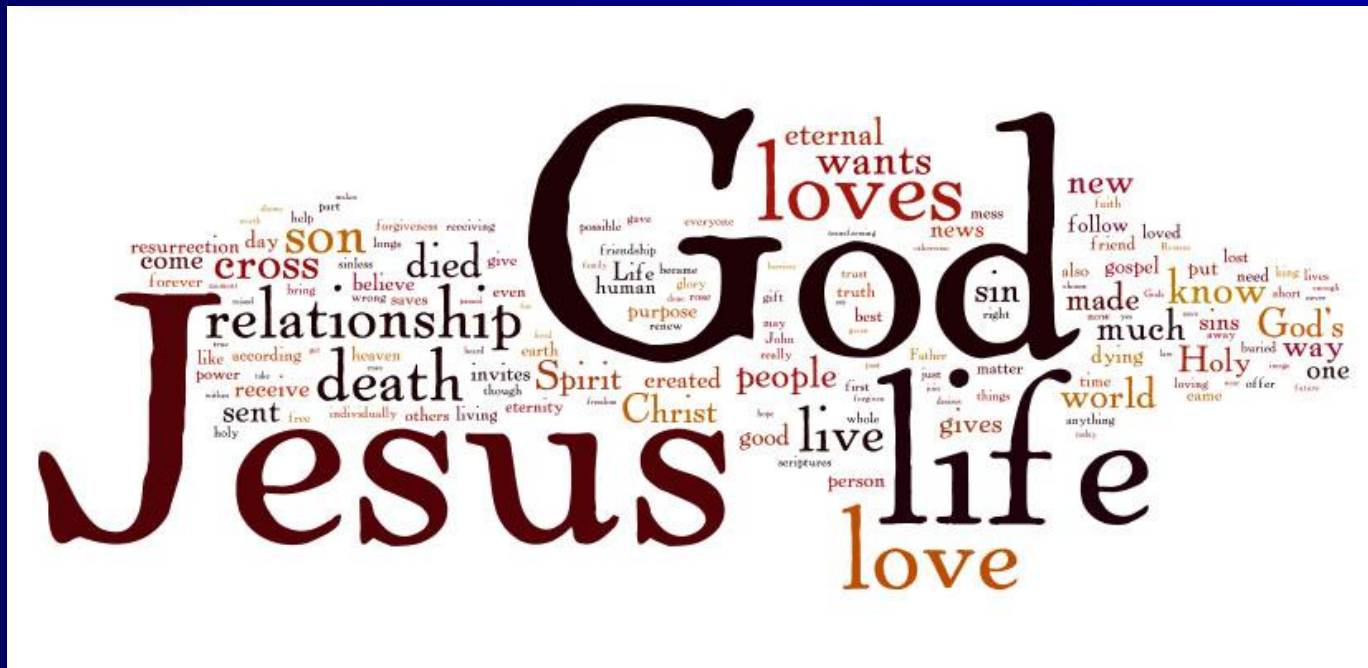
What is the gospel we share?

Answers on a post card please ...

The gospel message is ...



What is the gospel we share?



www.wordle.net

www.jesus360.org.uk

Premise —

the western church has largely inherited St Paul's model of mission and evangelisation:

- 300 books
- Protestant 'systematic theology'
- Catholic St Paul 'primary source EC'
- Mar Thoma: St Paul the 'architect'
- Missionary Methods: St Paul's or Ours?
- 'Conversion', and 'being saved' language

Even:

... 'born again' used to fit Pauline structure ...



Premise seen in -

- Stories
- Ambition of church
- Language
- Letters
- Theology
- Structure
- etc





St Paul's gospel explanation

- 'Gospel .. Regarding his son' Rom 1:3
- 'power of God for salvation' Rom 1:16
- 'Delivered to death for our sins and raised to life for our justification' Rom 4: 25
- 'Wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ' Rom 6:23
- 'Grace given you in Christ Jesus' 1Cor 1:4
- 'sent .. To preach the gospel' 1Cor 1:17
- 'we preach Christ crucified .. Christ the power of God' 1 Cor 1:24

Q – who were the words written for?

St Paul's model of mission

- Peter the rock but Paul the model?
- Preaching and church planting
- Church pattern and order
- Theology to Early Church



What are the great missiological themes which St Paul explored, shaped, presented and handed down to us?

Paul's great theological themes:

- Redemption
- Justification
- Sanctification
- Salvation
- Election
- etc



Evangelism reflects experience

1. Osmosis
2. Conversion
3. Pastoral
4. Counselling
5. Vision
6. Healing
7. Parents
8. Etc

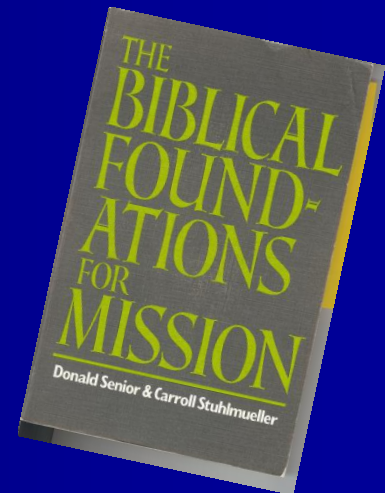


Q – what was Paul's experience?

Examples of St Paul as norm

- Roland Alan 'Missionary Methods'
- CH Dodd 'Apostolic Preaching'
- John Finney: Emerging Evangelism
- The Biblical Foundation for Mission

4 arguments for Paul > Jesus



All start from different places

- Scripture
- Tradition
- Reason
- Experience
- Holy Spirit
- Kingdom
- Old Testament
- Jesus
 - Incarnation
 - Crucifixion
 - Resurrection



Q - your starting place?

Paul points to Jesus



- 'Follow me' Mt 4:19
- 'Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven' Mt 5:3
- Ask and it will be given to you' Mt 7:7
- 'Take up your cross' Mt 16: 24
- 'Your sins are forgiven' Mark 2:5
- 'Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor' Mk 10: 17-20
- etc

Q – who were the words written for?

A – John 20: 30, 31.

Introduce '360'

- Pictures
- Interview
- Antivirus
- Xbox
- Digger
- ADD ...
- Jesus 360?



Jesus '360' = starting point?

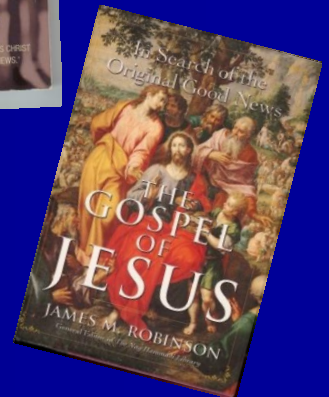
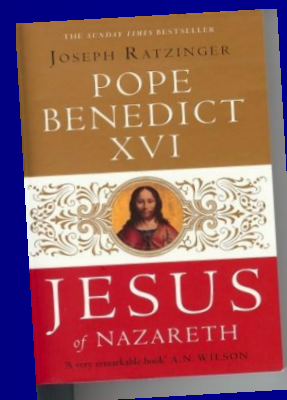
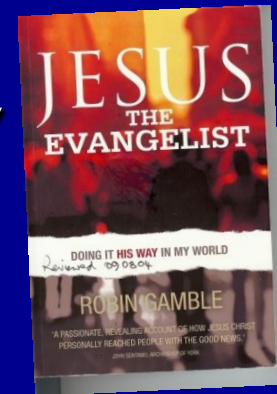
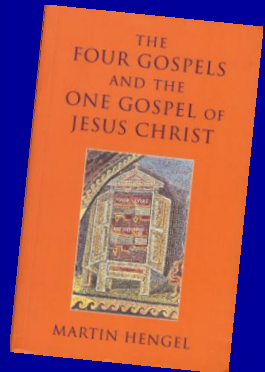
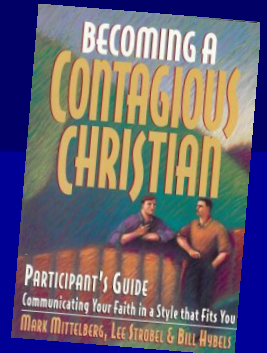


Etc



Lessons from the Master

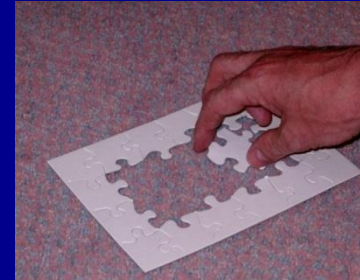
- Bill Hybells: Contagious Christian
- Martin Hengel: composite Gospel
- James M Robinson: Q
- Tom Wright: 'For everyone'
- Robin Gamble
- Pope Benedict XVI



.... etc

360 jigsaw

- Pieces to big picture
- From all four Gospels
- Removing duplicates
- Listing 'as given' words of Jesus
- Taking 'top 50'
- Looking at all facets
- Possible answers to question: 'what must I do to inherit eternal life'.



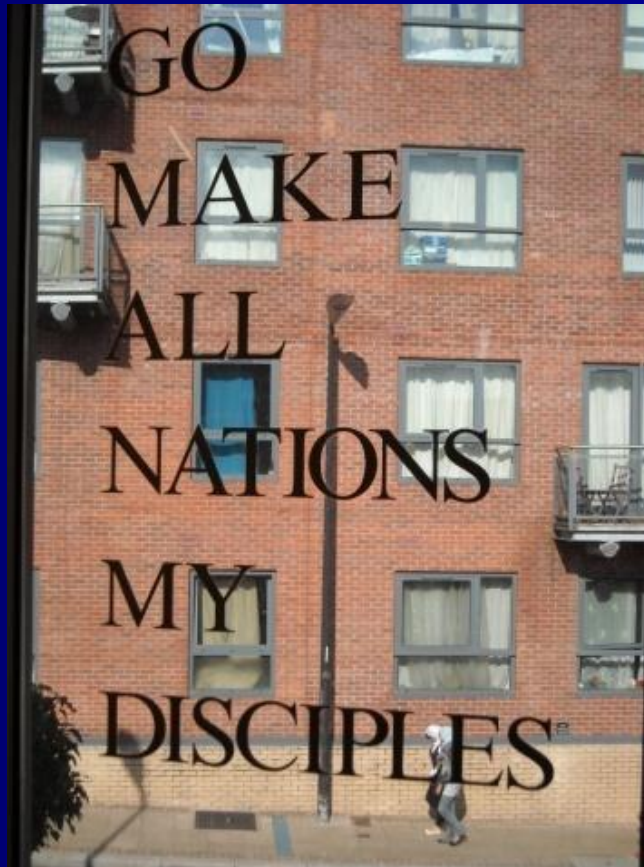
'Jesus 360'

'360' Gospel suggests:

- All angles
- All directions
- Contradictory
- Paradoxical



Gospel - exciting adventure



The '360 Gospel of Jesus'

Jesus model is not 'one size fits all'. Just like the facets of a diamond it depends on the angle as to what you see.

- 'Repent and believe'
- 'Follow me'
- 'You must be born again'.
- 'Give away your goods to the poor'
- 'Take up your cross'
- etc



Pastor and Evangelist story



Word picture of 'top 50 texts'



Q - What does this 'word cloud' say to us about the gospel?

Inherited evangelism model?

- Preaching
- Bible bashing
- Pressure
- Judged



Mission together - principle

Christ's intercessory (high priestly) prayer

'I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.'

John 17: 20b,21.



The compass: '360' gospel of Jesus

Principles:

1. Three stories
2. Their story and God's story > my story
3. What they hear is more important than what I say
4. At appropriate time, name the name of Jesus
5. Don't point finger – Jesus didn't
6. The motivation, and the gift, is love
7. John 3:16 'gospel in a nutshell'

