

# What is the gospel we share?

WCT weekend away

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2012

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Churches Together in England



Churches Together in England

Making connections



# Aim of the whole weekend:

To look again at the Gospel we share by  
Considering the Gospel in the Gospels so as to  
Share faith 'the Jesus way'

A new compass for evangelism?



Churches Together in England

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# Session 1

Discuss: When do we use the word 'Gospel'?

2 minute conversation



Churches Together in England

Making connections



# Use of the word 'Gospel' eg

- Four books of the Bible
- Sunday reading
- Message of salvation
- 'truth' we swear
- Doctrine
- Preaching
- Etc
- Good news not



# What is the gospel we share?

The message  
of Good News  
or Glad Tidings  
etc



... Passing on the baton

# What is the gospel we share?

Your own understanding ...

Answers on a post card please ...

The gospel message is ...





# All start from different places

- Scripture
- Tradition
- Reason
- + Experience (Wesley)
- Holy Spirit
- Kingdom
- Old Testament
- Jesus
- Incarnation
- etc



Q - your starting place?

Discuss

# Premise: St Paul

The western church has largely inherited a model of church, mission and evangelisation from that of St Paul:

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





# Premise seen in -

- Church history
- Stories
- 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 in:

- Preaching
- Church planting
- Theology of Early Church
- Pattern / order
- 3 fold ministry
- etc



Q: What are the great missiological themes which St Paul explored, shaped, presented and handed down to us? (Eg 'conversion')

# Paul's great theological themes:

- Redemption
- Justification
- Sanctification
- Salvation
- Election
- Etc



Explanation / overlay of what Jesus taught?

# Evangelism reflects experience

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

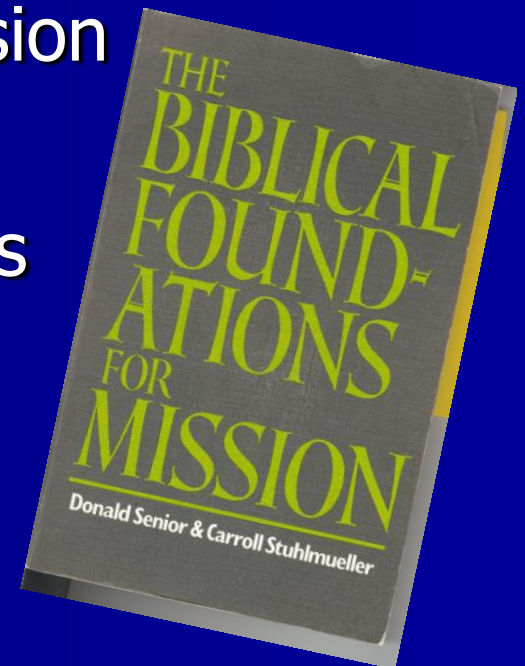


Q – what was Paul's experience?

# 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





# 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

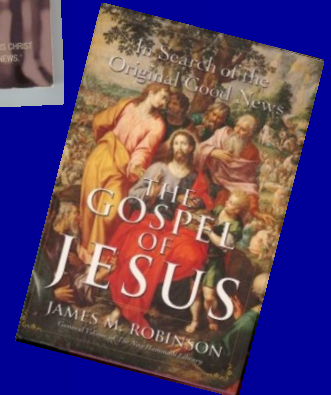
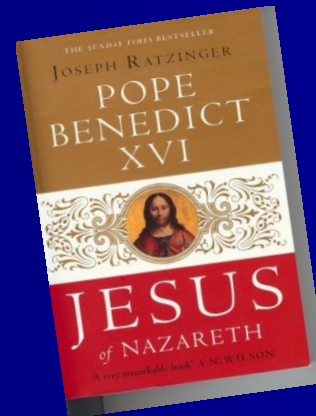
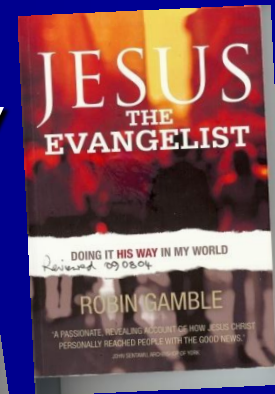
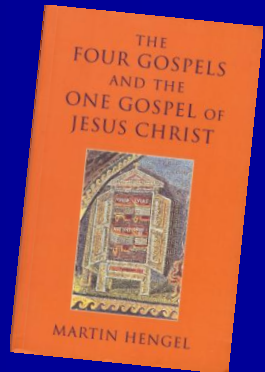
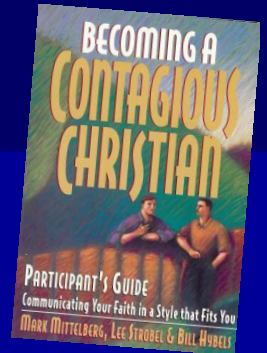
Q – who were the words written for?

A – John 20: 30, 31.

# Lessons from the Master

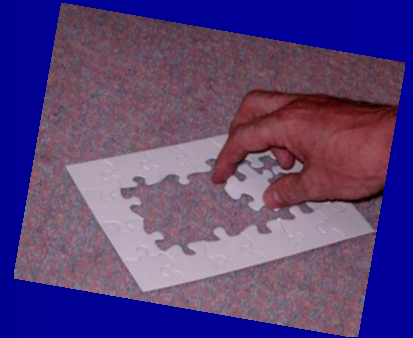
- Bill Hybells: Contagious Christian
- Martin Hengel: composite Gospel
- James M Robinson: Q
- Tom Wright: 'For everyone'
- Robin Gamble
- Pope Benedict XVI

Note not Paul v Jesus!

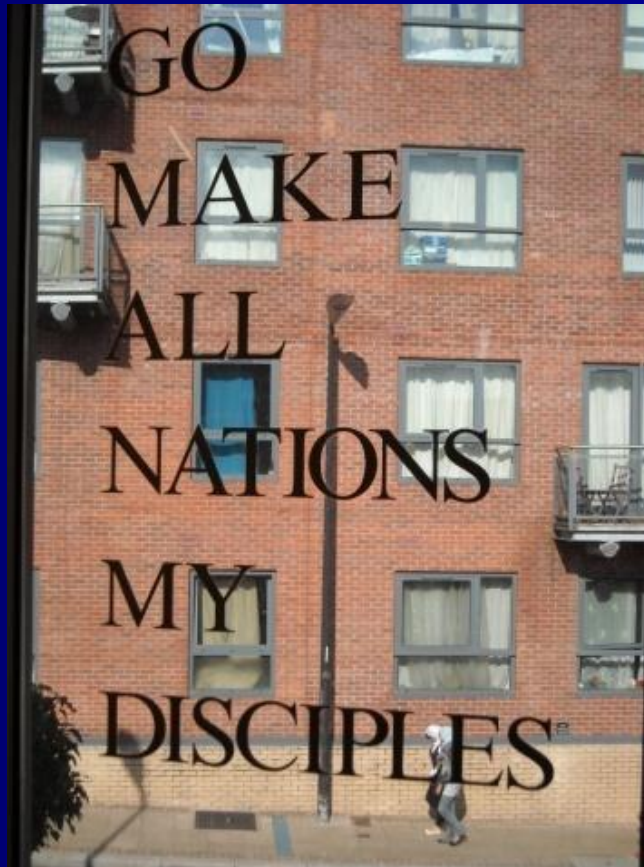


# Big picture

- All pieces of the jigsaw
- From all four Gospels
- Removing duplicates
- Listing 'as given' words of Jesus
- Taking 'top 50' out of 84
- Looking at all facets and
- Possible answers to question: 'what must I do to inherit eternal life'.



# Gospel - exciting adventure



# What is the gospel we share?



Illustrated by another image



# 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'

