## C G B B G r a c i a

## Creyentes Bíblicos de la Gracia Grace Bible Believers

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## IS THERE ONLY ONE GOSPEL?

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are often called 'The Four Gospels'. Actually these four accounts are given to us not as different gospels, but as portrayals of the earthly ministry of our Lord in four different aspects.

Equally it is incorrect to say that the Scriptures present only one gospel.

First, the word gospel (Gr. evangelion) means simply good news and to say that the Bible presents only one gospel is like saying that God has sent man only one good news message down through the ages.

Second, God uses distinctive terms to designate the various good news messages: e.g., "the gospel [good news] of the kingdom" (Matthew 9:35), "the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24), "the gospel of the uncircumcision" (Galatians 2:7), etc. Surely if God distinguishes between these gospels they cannot be exactly the same. Next, it should be noted that God has revealed His good news to man progressively.

To Adam and Eve He proclaimed the gospel, or good news, that the woman's seed should some day crush the head of the serpent (Genesis 3:15). To Abraham He preached the gospel, or good news, that in him all nations should be blessed (Galatians 3:8).

And all down through the Old Testament Scriptures we find God proclaiming more and more good news to man. Finally the Lord sent His apostles to proclaim 'the gospel of the kingdom' (see Luke 9:1-6), but mark well: at that time they did not even know that Christ was to die (see Luke 18:31-34).

Obviously, then, 'the gospel' which they preached was not 'the gospel' which Paul later preached and by which we are saved (see 1 Corinthians 15:1-4). 'The gospel' which they preached was the *"the gospel of the kingdom"* (Matthew 9:35 cf. Luke 9:2), not *"the preaching of the cross"* (1 Corinthians 1:18).

So it is evident that many gospels could be mentioned. We will, however, limit ourselves to the following five:

1. **The gospel of the kingdom** takes us back to David, with whom the covenant of the kingdom was made (2 Samuel 7:16);

2. **The gospel of the circumcision** takes us back before David to Abraham, with whom the covenant of circumcision was made (Genesis 22:17,18);

3. **The gospel of the uncircumcision** takes us back before David and Abraham to Abram who, as an uncircumcised heathen, was justified by faith (Romans 4:9-11). It should be clearly noted that Paul's ministry to the Gentiles with "the gospel of the uncircumcision" superseded our Lord's earthly ministry and the Pentecostal ministry of the twelve. This is emphatically stated in Romans 15:8,9 and in Galatians 2:2,7,9;

## 4. The message of reconciliation takes

us back before David, Abraham and Abram to Adam, the *"one man"* (Romans 5:12) by whom the world was alienated from God. The proclamation of this glorious message is our great commission, as we are distinctly told in 2 Corinthians 5:16-21;

5. **The mystery** takes us back before David, before Abraham, before Abram, before Adam to God Himself and 'the good pleasure of His will' (Ephesians 1:9). Here the great central truth is that God was to form of believing Jews and Gentiles one joint body in Christ. The joint body is the product of the reconciliation of Jews and Gentiles to God (Ephesians 2:14-18).

(Source:

'Things That Differ' by Cornelius R. Stam)