

(1) The Gospel of God, following the text of Mark 1:14 and its partner in Luke 4:43. In a nutshell this is the good news about the Father:

--in His activity:

seeking sinners (Luke 15:1-10), seeking worshippers without regard to ethnic and other features (Jonh 4:23), and completing the satisfaction of life for all who will look to and trust Him. (John 6)

--and in His attitude:

forgiving (Matthew 9:1-13) as he cares (Mt. 6:25-34), and as he hears us in our expressions of grief and struggle (Luke 18:1).

This is properly the Gospel of God...Good News about the Creator/Sustainer of the Universe who receives us in His Son.

(2) The second is the Gospel of the Kingdom, with emphasis on both the spiritual and physical side but with particular good news that the kingdom is:

open to all believer (Luke 18, John 3:3), and an aura of complete spiritual satisfaction now and eternally (John 10), with a family or group in which the believing class is not limited or aligned after or in the pattern of the believing class of the Old Testament (Mark 13:16, Matthew 11:25).

(3) There is the Gospel of His presence which is the good news that the Son of God is "with us" and brings the "glad tidings of great joy". We may best see this in the consultation of some key Bible passages: Luke 2:10, John 3:16, Matthew 16:16. This is the presentation that the Redeemer has come, he is "Immanuel" and thereby the fullness of God's salvation is immediately present with His people.

(4) Finally there is the Gospel of His Atoning work. It is the good news that redemption is complete. Scriptures that highlight this are: John 10:11, Matthew 20:28, Mark 14:24; Acts 2:23; 1 Cor. 1:17y; Romans 1:16-18; 1 Cor. 15:1-7; Acts 15:7.

All of these ideas help us see what is meant in the term "gospel" and why it is such good news. It is emotional stuff for the guilty but now forgiven soul. True, when we think of the four Gospels we are thinking about the Books but we need to reassure our selves as to what the books are about...great truths about the manifold grace of God. You will see how Paul gets great mileage out of this when he tells the Roman Christians.. "I am ready to preach the Gospel to you who are in Rome, also."