

ACTS 1:1-11

**REVEALING**<sup>THE</sup>  
**KINGDOM**<sup>OF</sup>  
**GOD**

# Becoming a Christian — Where to Begin



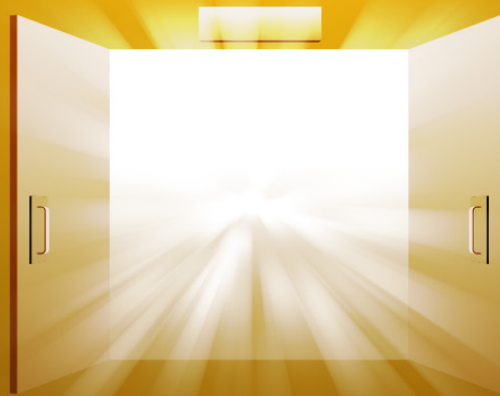
## 1 Corinthians 15:1-3

15 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

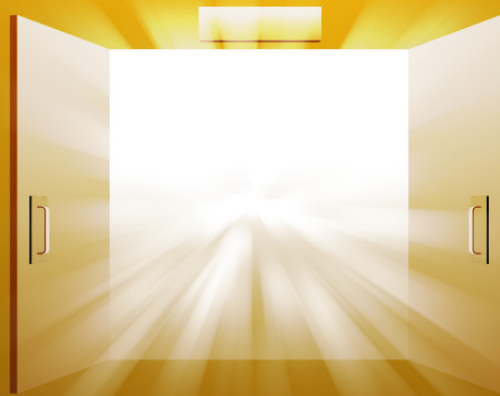
3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,



The need for an investigation of the Christian Gospel lies in the fact that the Kingdom of God is also an absolutely indispensable component of the evangelism of Jesus and the Apostles.



The term “Kingdom of God” is never simply a synonym for the facts about the death and resurrection of Jesus. Moreover the Kingdom of God is often the first article of faith in New Testament descriptions of the saving Message



The Kingdom of God is often the first article of faith in New Testament descriptions of the saving Message (Matt. 4:17; Mark 1:14, 15; Luke 4:43; 5:1; Acts 8:12; 19:8; 20:25; 28:23, 31; 2 Tim 4:1, 2, etc.)



Both before and after the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus preached the Gospel of the Kingdom as recorded by Matthew, Mark and Luke), without at that stage, mentioning his death and resurrection.



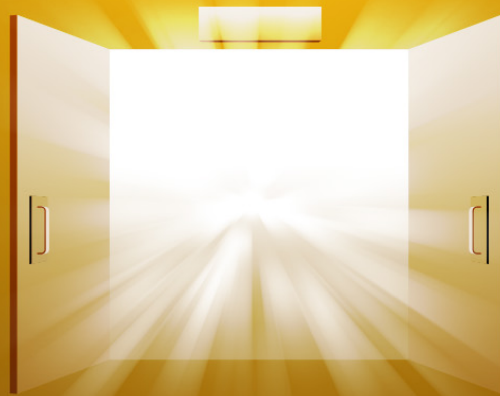
He began to speak of this much later in Matthew 16:21. This must prove to the open-minded that the Gospel is not just that “Jesus died for me.”





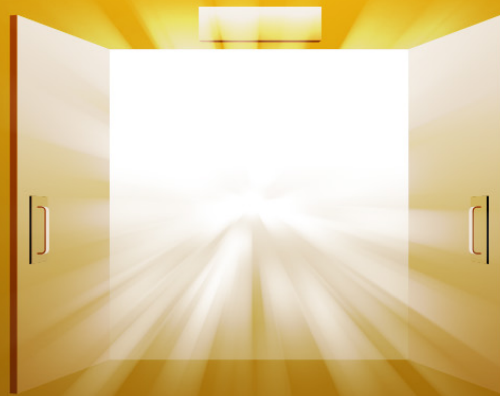
“Jesus came into Galilee proclaiming God’s Gospel [GoodNews] and saying, ‘The time has come and the Kingdom of God is approaching: Repent and believe the Gospel’”

(Mark 1:14, 15)

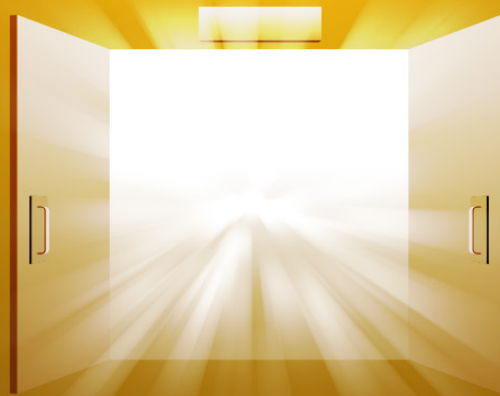


**“When they believed Philip as he proclaimed the Gospel about the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, both men and women”**

**(Acts 8:12)**

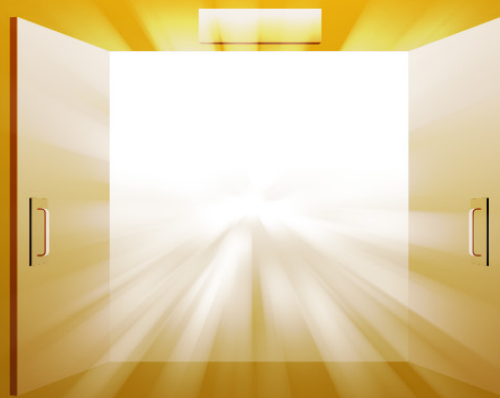


“Paul put his case to them, testifying to the **Kingdom of God** and trying to persuade them about **Jesus**, arguing from the Law of Moses and the prophets. This went on from early morning until evening, and some were convinced by what he said, while the rest were skeptical” (Acts 28:23)



“Paul lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all [Jews and Gentiles] who came to him, proclaiming the Kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance”

(Acts 28:30, 31)



In every system of knowledge there is a fundamental idea to be grasped, a core concept around which all other data must be organized. This central, dominating idea will determine the character of the subject as a whole and give meaning to every part of it.



The core concept, the basic thesis, becomes the criterion by which all subsidiary ideas are evaluated. What then is the axis around which all of the Christian faith revolves?



The Christian faith comes to us in the Bible as a body of information challenging us to response and action.



The source of that information is ultimately God Himself transmitting His message through prophets and teachers and supremely in His principal representative, Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.





What, then, is the central core concept of the teaching of Jesus?

What forms the heart of his *Message*?

What one single idea underlies all his preaching and teaching?



What primary idea must be grasped and believed by any who want to follow Jesus?

What did Jesus consider to be the essential Gospel/Saving Message?



The answer to these question can be discovered by anyone with an earnest desire to find out what Jesus taught.



Jesus' master idea is very seldom, if ever, presented with clarity to the public in 21<sup>st</sup>-century Gospel preaching.



Leaders of organized Christianity admit that they are not proclaiming as Gospel what Jesus proclaimed as the Gospel. The Gospel as Jesus preached it is very often conspicuous by its absence from contemporary presentations of what is called the “Gospel.”



# Christianity's Central Idea



Without any possible fear of contradiction we can assert with complete confidence that the axis around which all Jesus' teaching revolves is the **GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**



The genius of Christianity is concentrated in that one term. It is Jesus' and the Apostles' master-idea. It is the heart of their rallying cry to the public. It has been preserved for us meticulously in the pages of the Bible, especially in the records of the ministry of Jesus.



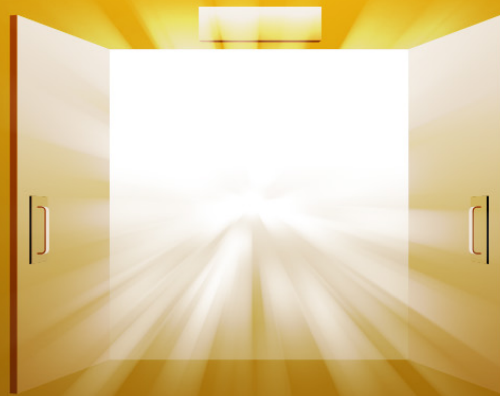


It is the Gospel which comes from the One God of the Bible — “God’s Gospel” (Mark 1:14-15).



## Mark 1:14-15

14 Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and [d]believe in the gospel.”



There is one Gospel in the Bible, the Good News of God's plan to grant you immortality (indestructible life, life forever) and to prepare you to administer the world, on a renewed earth, with Jesus in the coming Kingdom

