



# GOOD NEWS FOR CHALLENGING & CHANGING TIMES

STANDING FIRM  
ON THE GOSPEL

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**"...Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15**

# **TITLE: Good News For Challenging & Changing Times**

ISBN: 978-9-274683-4-0

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Editor: Pat Gerbrandt

Cover Design / Layout: Sarah Van Pelt

Printed in Canada by:

Project L.A.M.B.S. International Inc.  
Box 20569 Steinbach, MB Canada R5G 1R9  
E-mail: [projectlambs@gmail.com](mailto:projectlambs@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.projectlambs.com](http://www.projectlambs.com)

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from:  
**New American Standard Bible**, © The Lockman Foundation  
1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995.

or

**New King James Bible** © Thomas Nelson, Inc. 1982

First Edition: Mar.15, 2016

Leadership Series  
**Book 19**

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## Preface:

Paul tells Timothy, *“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come”* (2 Timothy 3:15). Paul wanted Timothy to know and understand that the disciple and the church were going to go through challenges. Near the end times, things would begin to change dramatically around them. Paul wanted Timothy to remember what he had learned and to know that the Scripture and the doctrines that line up within them and that they were as David proclaimed, *“your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”* (Psalm 119:105). He was also exhorted to *“study to show thyself approved unto God ... rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15), why, so that he *“may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work”* 2 Timothy 3:17.

Jesus proclaimed that He was and is the Word and the Light (John 1:1-5; 8:12). His life was the Good news. He is the true and living Gospel of God and His kingdom and all our hope, grace and mercy can only come through Him. Jesus is the answer for our Challenging and Changing Times.

The Old Testament prophecy about the coming of the Messiah and the Gospel present to us the truth of who God is and what His purpose would be for mankind. Plus, the rest of the books of the New Testament teach us how Christ the living God comes into our hearts to teach us and prepare us for the kingdom of heaven if we will first trust in Him as our personal Saviour and Lord

In the last days there will be many types of antichrist who will proclaim things that are contrary to the Word of God. They will also take away the truth concerning the inherency of the Word. They will water down the Gospel truth to the place that its power and of its meaning will be gone. Preachers and teachers will be full of lies and deceptions. The disciples will soon become people who are followers of other men, rather than followers of Jesus and

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His teachings. Soon people will become illiterate when it comes to the Word of God. Some will be hearers but not believers because if they were true believers they be doing things that are different from those of the world (James 1:22-25).

There is a great need in our world to get back to the basic truth of what the Gospel of Christ Jesus is. Many have not heard this truth and even those who have heard do not understand that it is the foundational walk to the Christian faith. Without it the disciples of Christ and the Church of Christ will not stand. It is this truth of the Bible that sets the captive free. The Gospel is what we are commanded to go out and preach and teach to a lost world.

In this booklet we will see the clear teaching from Scripture what this Good News message is all about and why it is so important to every true believer. The Gospel is also the key area that the antichrist, false teacher and every kind of cult will attack. We cannot just accept some parts and deny other parts. Every cult denies some truth of the gospel and we hope to show where they move away from what is God's truth to man's truth. They now believe man's truth is correct and biblical. We are told that in the last days these truths will be attacked and diluted down to such a place where many in the church will follow after these false teachers.

It is amazing how many believers cannot tell you where in the Bible the Gospel of Christ is written, and if they can tell you where it is (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) they are not able to explain to others what the Good News is all about. Because of this lack of understanding, this will become the battle ground where the antichrist will deceive many people in the last days. We need to understand that the Gospel is central both to fulfilling the Old Testament and the climax to what we are told will take place in the last days in the New Testament.

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The Gospel is made up of at least ten key doctrines that are clearly proclaimed in the Bible and we as disciples must confess to believe. We have placed within each main point a Disciple Teaching Principle that will help us to understand the truth and apply it to our personal lives.

The purpose and goal of this teaching is to help people to get back on track to what the Bible proclaims about Jesus Christ. Any deviation of this truth becomes heresy and false doctrine and we as disciples of Christ cannot support or have anything to do with these false teachers and preachers.

Christ came to bring us good news; a way that we could escape the bondage and death of this world. His life is the bridge that makes the way of escape possible. The enemy of our soul is going to attack and water down the various truths that make up the Rock and foundation which we are to believe in and stand upon as a disciple of Christ. There are already many antichrists and cult churches in the world. We must take time to study the word and especially the life teaching of Christ if we hope to make it through these challenging and changing times.

After one finishes reading this booklet one will be challenged to look at the truth of Christ's life for what it means and teaches. It is at that point where one will have to decide if one can sign the document of the "Gospel Creed." The "Gospel Creed" sets out the ten main truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The document in the appendix is there to challenge us to make a decision on whether we will believe and accept the whole truth about Christ or deny who He is as the Son of God. If we are not able to agree, we can not pick and choose, it must be all or nothing. It is something that we all have to do personally and our decision will affect our eternity.

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## Introduction:

*Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you **good tidings** of great joy which will be to all people.” Luke 2:10*

One may ask, what is thing called the “good news”? To put it another way, what is this thing called the Gospel and why are these words used interchangeably? Why do people sometimes say, “Well that is just the gospel truth?” It seems that these words have at least a 2000-year-old history to them, because they came into being around the time of Christ. They became part of the Greek thinking and language throughout the Roman world.

The words “good news” can be defined as, “glad tidings”. The old English was spelled “godspel” from “god” meaning “good” and “spel” meaning “news or a story.” From the Latin and Greek we get our word evangelism; the word gospel means, to announce or declare good news in advance. Theologically it is “the teaching or revelation of Christ” plus it can also refer to the first four books of the New Testament and the saying “gospel truth” implies something that is “absolutely true.”

The first time this word appears is in Matthew 4:23 *“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the **gospel** of the kingdom and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.”* Matthew records for us what kind of things that Christ was doing. He was travelling and wherever He went He shared the good news about the Kingdom of heaven, plus He was demonstrating the power of this good news by healing the multitudes. Historically we see it being used in Mark 1:1-2, *“The beginning of the **Gospel** of Jesus Christ, the son of God; as it is written in the prophets, behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare the way before thee.”* It is thought that the Gospel of Mark is the oldest of the four Gospel books.



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The challenges that we as men and women face are 1), “Is there really a living God who created all things in creation including mankind? and 2) “Where has He been all these years? 3) Why does He still care about us? 4) Why did God want to reach out to man anyway?

Well, one reason may be because He created us and we are His children. Secondly, He loves His creation and deeply loves His family for He desires to be our Father. But there have been problems throughout history that have constantly built a wall between God and Mankind. Much of the root problem started in the Garden of Eden when man and woman took their free will and decided to disobey God. Throughout time the human race has continue to spiral down a road of eternal sinfulness and damnation.

To get a better understanding we need to go further back in history and see that it seems that God had a plan from the beginning of time so that we could be brought into a deep and personal relation with Him again. Disobedience is sin and because of Adam and Eve’s sin, all that came after them was infected with the DNA of a sin nature. We didn’t need to do anything; it was already in our blood, mind and spirit. But because of God’s great love, mercy and grace He had conceived from the beginning of time a redemptive plan. A step-by-step way that, once it all came together in the fullness of time, would again making it possible for man to enter into a personal relationship with God.

The plan was to send a Son who would put things in motion that mankind could again use their free choice to decide that through faith we could receive back again eternal life or to continue down the pathway of death and destruction.

The Bible has become a record and testimony to what God has done for mankind and what He will yet do through mankind into the future. The Bible is full of prophecies that foretell what



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God had in mind and how things would change if we only had faith in Him.

There is I believe at least one key Scripture that sums up this whole Gospel plan that God had in mind right from the day of creation until He comes again to set up a new heaven and earth. It is found in Matthew 24:14 “And this **gospel** of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations and then the end will come.” This is authored by Jesus Christ.

I believe these five words, “The Gospel of the Kingdom,” sum up for us the big picture that all mankind needs to know. We are told that we are to preach and to be a witness of the Gospel of the kingdom to all the nations. It is the message that has been proclaimed from the beginning of time and we are entering into the place where the last few pieces of the puzzle are about to be put in place.

It would come to us through the life of Jesus Christ which has been record for us in the Gospel of the Bible. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John do give testimony to this unique gift that was sent to us, so that we could be restored back to a personal relationship with God. These four books of the New Testament, which is also known as the “Good News” paint for us a unique picture of who Jesus Christ is, what His nature and character is and what He was going to give to us through His life.

The key was that God wanted to take away the belief in self-righteousness and to have man put into his heart God’s righteousness. To extend to us once and for all an amazing grace. To give to us a way, a truth and a life that is full and unique, one with purpose and value. We are called to test the spirits and we should also be like the Berean church, searching the Scriptures to make sure that was is being taught is truthful.

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The gospel pictures for us ten unique events of Christ life that would change the direction of all mankind. They can be titled as followed:

1. Living Word
2. Birth
3. Life
4. Death
5. Resurrection
6. Ascension
7. Holy Spirit
8. Church
9. Second Coming
10. Heaven

Now let's begin our journey through the Gospel of Jesus Christ which the heavenly Father sent to us so that we may have eternal life and to help us understand what the Kingdom of Heaven is all about.

## 1. Living Word

### Prophecy:

*“The grass withers, the flowers fades, but the **Word of God** stands forever. O Zion, you will bring **good tidings** (good news), get up into the high mountains; O Jerusalem, you who bring **good tidings** (good news), lift up your voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid; say to the cities of Judah, behold your God! Behold, the LORD God shall come with a strong hand, and His arms shall rule for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young.”* Isaiah 40:8-11

### Key Scripture:

*“In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ... And the **Word** became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”* John 1:1-3, 14

From the very beginning it was the Living Word that spoke everything into being, all that was created was created by God Almighty. When God spoke, dramatic things took place. Even man and woman was created by God, He said, *“Let us make man in our image according to our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in His own image; and in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”* (Gen 1:26-27)



# PROJECT L.A.M.B.S. INTERNATIONAL

Project LAMBS Publications:  
Canada / Myanmar / Thailand  
[www.projectlambs.com](http://www.projectlambs.com)

**Leadership Series - Level 4  
Book 19**

**English | \$6.95 CDN**

ISBN 978-1-927468-34-0



9 781927 468340

