



# ICL Evangelism and Discipleship

Timothy R. Valentino

# What is the gospel?

We will endeavor to *start* answering this question over the next two weeks.

## Resources:

Handout: “Clarifying the Gospel”  
A Biblical-Theological Approach

Handout: “Understanding the Word ‘Gospel’”  
A Look at Primary Sources

Handout: “A Collection of Gospel Definitions”  
How Others Address the Question

# **CLARIFYING THE GOSPEL**

## **A Biblical-Theological Approach**

# **CLARIFYING THE GOSPEL**

## **A Biblical-Theological Approach**

Introduction

# CLARIFYING THE GOSPEL

## A Biblical-Theological Approach

### Introduction

- A. When God first opened your eyes to his love for you

# CLARIFYING THE GOSPEL

## A Biblical-Theological Approach

### Introduction

- A. When God first opened your eyes to his love for you
- B. Thomas Blackshear's "Forgiven"



# CLARIFYING THE GOSPEL

## A Biblical-Theological Approach

### Introduction

- A. When God first opened your eyes to his love for you
- B. Thomas Blackshear's "Forgiven"
- C. Romans 5:6-11



# CLARIFYING THE GOSPEL

## A Biblical-Theological Approach

### Introduction

- A. When God first opened your eyes to his love for you
- B. Thomas Blackshear's "Forgiven"
- C. Romans 5:6-11
- D. What *is* the gospel?

# CLARIFYING THE GOSPEL

## A Biblical-Theological Approach

### Introduction

- A. When God first opened your eyes to his love for you
- B. Thomas Blackshear's "Forgiven"
- C. Romans 5:6-11
- D. What *is* the gospel?
- E. 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

# I. What Is the Gospel?

# I. What Is the Gospel?

## A. The Definition of the Gospel

# I. What Is the Gospel?

## A. The Definition of the Gospel

1. The gospel is not good do's.

# I. What Is the Gospel?

## A. The Definition of the Gospel

1. The gospel is not good do's.
2. The gospel is not good views.

# I. What Is the Gospel?

## A. The Definition of the Gospel

1. The gospel is not good do's.
2. The gospel is not good views.
3. The gospel is good news.

# I. What Is the Gospel?

## A. The Definition of the Gospel

1. The gospel is not good do's.
2. The gospel is not good views.
3. The gospel is good news.
  - a. The term *euangelion* as used among the Greeks



# I. What Is the Gospel?

## A. The Definition of the Gospel

1. The gospel is not good do's.
2. The gospel is not good views.
3. The gospel is good news.
  - a. The term *euangelion* as used among the Greeks
  - b. The term *euangelion* as used among the Romans

## Virgil, Eclogue IV

*Virgil was a Roman poet who died about 19 years before Jesus was born.*

“Ours is the crowning era foretold in prophecy: Born of time, a great new cycle of centuries begins. Justice returns to earth, the Golden age returns, and its first-born comes down from heaven above . . . with him shall hearts of iron cease, and hearts of gold inherit the whole earth. . . .

## Virgil, Eclogue IV

“You at our head, [Caesar], mankind shall be freed from its age-long fear. All stains of our past wickedness being cleansed away. This child shall enter into the life of the gods, and rule a world made peaceful by his father’s virtuous acts. . . .

## Virgil, Eclogue IV

“Earth will shower you with romping ivy, fox-gloves, goats shall walk home, their udders taut with milk, and nobody herding them; the ox will have no fear of the lion: silk-soft blossoms will grow from your very cradle to lap you. But snakes will die, and so will fair-seeming, poisonous plants. The soil will need no harrowing, the vine no pruning-knife; and the tough ploughman may at last unyoke his oxen.

## Virgil, Eclogue IV

“Come soon, dear child of the gods, Jupiter's great viceroy! Come soon—the time is near—to begin your life illustrious! Look how the round and ponderous globe bows to salute you, the lands, the stretching leagues of sea, the unplumbed sky! Look how the whole creation exults in the age to come!”

(1) Virgil, Eclogue IV

(2) Caesar as “the Savior of  
the world”

- (1) Virgil, Eclogue IV
- (2) Caesar as “the Savior of the world”
- (3) Caesar’s birth as “the beginning of the good news” for the world

- (1) Virgil, Eclogue IV
- (2) Caesar as “the Savior of the world”
- (3) Caesar’s birth as “the beginning of the good news” for the world
- (4) The New Testament’s “hijacking” of the word “gospel” and its application to Jesus



- (1) Virgil, Eclogue IV
- (2) Caesar as “the Savior of the world”
- (3) Caesar’s birth as “the beginning of the good news” for the world
- (4) The New Testament’s “hijacking” of the word “gospel” and its application to Jesus
- (5) Mark 1:1

- (1) Virgil, Eclogue IV
- (2) Caesar as “the Savior of the world”
- (3) Caesar’s birth as “the beginning of the good news” for the world
- (4) The New Testament’s “hijacking” of the word “gospel” and its application to Jesus
- (5) Mark 1:1
- (6) Luke 2:8-14

4. The “gospel” = the good news announcement of what God has freely done (and will do) for his people in Jesus Christ

## B. The Descriptions of the Gospel

## B. The Descriptions of the Gospel

1. Biblical encounters with Jesus help describe the gospel.

## B. The Descriptions of the Gospel

1. Biblical encounters with Jesus help describe the gospel.
  - a. Zacchaeus (Luke 19)

## B. The Descriptions of the Gospel

1. Biblical encounters with Jesus help describe the gospel.
  - a. Zacchaeus (Luke 19)
  - b. The Woman Caught in the Act of Adultery (John 8)

## B. The Descriptions of the Gospel

1. Biblical encounters with Jesus help describe the gospel.
  - a. Zacchaeus (Luke 19)
  - b. The Woman Caught in the Act of Adultery (John 8)
  - c. The Thief on Cross (Luke 23)



## B. The Descriptions of the Gospel

1. Biblical encounters with Jesus help describe the gospel.
  - a. Zacchaeus (Luke 19)
  - b. The Woman Caught in the Act of Adultery (John 8)
  - c. The Thief on Cross (Luke 23)
  - d. The Wayward Sons (Luke 15)

## B. The Descriptions of the Gospel

1. Biblical encounters with Jesus help describe the gospel.
  - a. Zacchaeus (Luke 19)
  - b. The Woman Caught in the Act of Adultery (John 8)
  - c. The Thief on Cross (Luke 23)
  - d. The Wayward Sons (Luke 15)
  - e. The Healing Miracles (Various)

2. Biblical images from the ancient world help describe the gospel.

## 2. Biblical images from the ancient world help describe the gospel.

<b>Image or Metaphor:</b>	<b>We Were Spiritually:</b>	<b>Now in Christ We Are:</b>
Courts.....	Accused .....	Acquitted
Orphanages.....	Homeless.....	Adopted
Banks .....	Impoverished .....	Enriched
Prisons.....	Shackled.....	Set free
Slave Auctions .....	In Bondage.....	Redeemed
Leper Colonies .....	Diseased.....	Healed
Public Baths.....	Dirty .....	Cleansed
Inns .....	Hungry/Thirsty.....	Filled
Temples .....	Far from God .....	Brought near
Broken Relationships .....	Estranged.....	Reconciled

## C. The Drama of the Gospel

## C. The Drama of the Gospel

1. Christ was victorious over death.  
(1 Cor 15:4, 20)

## C. The Drama of the Gospel

1. Christ was victorious over death.  
(1 Cor 15:4, 20)
2. Christ's followers will be  
victorious over death. (1 Cor  
15:21-22, 49, 51-53)

# Some Perspectives on “What is the gospel?”

- [Michael Horton \(3:11\)](#)
- [Ravi Zacharias \(3:49\)](#)
- [Ray Ortund \(1:26\)](#)
- [Tim Keller \(5:03\)](#)
- [Doug Wilson \(2:54\)](#)
- [The Bible Project \(5:46\)](#)

More to come next week!





# ICL Evangelism and Discipleship

Timothy R. Valentino