

# THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL

## Brazhnikov M.Yu.<sup>1</sup>, Kavinsky V.V.<sup>2</sup>, Volodchenkov M.I.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Brazhnikov, Maxim Yurievich — Independent Researcher;

<sup>2</sup>Kavinsky, Veniamin Vitalievich — Independent Researcher;

<sup>3</sup>Volodchenkov, Mikhail Ivanovich — Compiler and editor; Independent Researcher.

VORONEZH

**Abstract:** *the article explores the theological theme of “The Preaching of the Gospel.” It also examines an analysis of the verses from the New Testament Scriptures—the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 16 (Mark 16:15–20). The study is based on an analysis of specific chapters from the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments of the New King James Version (Nelson’s NKJV Study Bible). The result of the examination leads to the main conclusion: by hearing the preaching of the Gospel and believing in Jesus Christ, people receive salvation and eternal life. This research was conducted using the biblical method known as “proof by the Scriptures.”*

**Keywords:** *Bible; Gospel; faith; salvation; eternal life.*

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### Special Abbreviations

f., ff. — following verse, following verses.

### Quotes

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the New King James Version (*Nelson’s NKJV Study Bible*).

### Introduction

*The purpose of this work is to explore the theological theme of “The Preaching of the Gospel.” Moreover, the article presents an analysis of the verses from the New Testament Scriptures—the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 16 (Mk. 16:15–20). The study is based on an analysis of specific chapters from the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments of the New King James Version (Nelson’s NKJV Study Bible). The result of the analysis is the conclusion: by hearing the preaching of the Gospel and believing in Jesus Christ, people receive salvation and eternal life. This study was conducted using the biblical method and is based on compelling arguments from the Bible verses—“proof by the Scriptures...” (Acts 18:28f.) [7].*

*The presented work is thematically related to previously conducted studies [1-5, 8-9].*

*The faith of each person in Jesus Christ is the result of “hearing the word of God,” as convincingly demonstrated in the works [1-2].*

*By hearing the preaching of the Gospel and receiving Jesus Christ by faith, people receive salvation and eternal life, as demonstrated in the work [3].*

*To believe in Jesus Christ, it is necessary to cultivate obedience to the Lord and humility in everything, which is proven in the work [4].*

*For a person’s salvation, faith and baptism by faith are necessary—the “water covenant” between the individual and the Lord, as demonstrated in the works [5, 8-9].*

*This study differs from article [3] in that it examines a different manuscript, the Nelson’s NKJV Study Bible. Additionally, the article and bibliography are edited exclusively for an English-language audience.*

### NKJV STUDY BIBLE

The main purpose of the preaching of the Gospel (according to Scripture) is for people, by hearing the words of the Good News and believing in Jesus Christ, to receive through this salvation and eternal life (see [1-3, 5, 8-9]).

#### 1 Definition of terms

Let us define the terms: “Gospel,” “Faith,” “Eternal life,” and “Salvation.”

**“Gospel** – (*Gr. euangelion, “good news”; Anglo-Saxon godspell, “good story”*) *The central message of the Christian church to the world, centered on God’s provision of salvation for the world in Jesus Christ. Also Gospel, one of the first four books in the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.* [6, 119].

**Gospel (Good News):** *The message of God’s grace, salvation, and reconciliation offered through Jesus Christ, proclaiming that through faith in Him, people can be saved from sin and eternal separation from God (i.e. from death).*

**“Faith** – (*Gr. pistis, Lat. fides, “trust,” “belief”*) *In Christianity, belief, trust, and obedience to God as revealed in Jesus Christ. It is the means of salvation (Eph. 2:8) or eternal life (John 6:40). Faith affects all dimensions of one’s existence: intellect, emotions, and will.* [6, 100].

**“Eternal life** – (Lat. *vita aeterna*) Present participation in God's reign and in the benefits of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ by the work of the Holy Spirit (John 3:16). After death, it is consummated by life in heaven in God's presence, which lasts forever. Also everlasting life.” [6, 94].

**“Salvation** – (Lat. *salvatio*, from *salvare*, “to save”) God's activities in bringing humans into a right relationship with God and with one another through Jesus Christ. They are saved from the consequences of their sin and given eternal life. Biblical images for salvation vary widely.” [6, 247].

**Summary.** *These terms form the foundation of Christian doctrine regarding redemption and the Christian's relationship with God.*

## **2 The Preaching of God's Word in the Old Testament**

From the Holy Scriptures (the Bible), we know that during the times of the Old Testament, God's word was also preached. Moreover, even in the antediluvian times, the *word of God was preached*.

The patriarch Noah, who was 500 years old (**Gen. 5:32**), having received a revelation from God about the flood, began to build the ark of salvation together with his sons (**Gen. 6:10-14ff.**). Noah was obedient to the Lord in everything.

All these hundred years of building the ark, Noah was 600 years old when the flood began (**Gen. 7:11ff.**), he preached to people about the truth of God (that is, salvation from the flood), but they did not believe him.

The Apostle Peter writes about this in detail:

*“and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;”* (**2 Pet. 2:5**).

All the prophets of the Old Testament also preached God's righteousness concerning the coming of the Messiah, who was to save the world.

The Prophet Isaiah writes about this in **Chapter 53**:

*“Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed...”* (**Is. 53:1-5ff.**).

**Summary.** *In the times of the Old Testament, Noah and all the prophets preached about God's righteousness.*

## **3 The Preaching of the Gospel in the New Testament**

The full preaching of the Gospel began only with the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to our earth.

### **3.1 The Preaching of the Gospel by Jesus Christ**

From the Holy Scriptures (the Bible) We know that God foretold the anointing of Jesus Christ to preach the gospel to people.

The prophet Isaiah writes about this in **Chapter 61**:

*“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, ...”* (**Is. 61:1-2ff.**).

The Lord, while preaching the Gospel, confirmed these prophetic words:

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord ...”* (**Luke 4:18-19ff.**).

Jesus Christ was sent to proclaim the Gospel to the people.

*“Now when it was day, He departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowd sought Him and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from leaving them; but He said to them, ‘I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent.’ ”* (**Luke 4:42-43**).

The Lord strictly rebuked the Pharisees, who were lovers of money:

*“And He said to them, ‘You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God. ‘The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.’ ”* (**Luke 16:15-16**).

The Lord also rebuked the Pharisees for not believing Moses:

*“Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.”* (**John 5:45-46**).

The Word of God spiritually cleanses the hearts of those who eagerly listen to the *preaching of the Gospel*.

*“You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.”* (**John 15:3**).

It is also known that the Lord Jesus Christ entrusted His disciples with the task of preaching the Gospel. The Evangelist Matthew writes about this command of Jesus Christ.

*“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.” (Matt. 28:18-20).*

Listening to the words of the **Good News—the preaching of the Gospel**—people will believe and receive salvation. (see [1-3, 5, 8-9]).

In work [3], the sermons of Jesus Christ (**Mark 1:14-15ff**) and His teaching on God's faith (**Mark 11:22-24**) were already examined. Therefore, we will focus more on the preaching of the Gospel by the Apostles and the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Summary.** *From the above, we see that one of the main conditions for a person's salvation is to hear the preaching of the Gospel and believe in Jesus Christ.*

### **3.2 The Preaching of the Gospel by the Apostle Peter**

The Apostle Peter, in his epistles, teaches about the preaching of the Gospel—how one should properly proclaim the Good News:

*“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God.” (1 Pet. 4:11).*

In order to successfully proclaim the Gospel (the word of God), people need, first of all, to love this word themselves.

*“as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby” (1 Pet. 2:2).*

The Apostle Peter greatly loved the Word of God (the pure spiritual milk), and because of this, when he preached the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit, about three thousand souls repented at first (**Acts 2:37-42**), and then five thousand souls (**Acts 4:4**) (see [2]).

Christians are born again through the Word of God:

*“having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because ‘All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, But the word of the Lord endures forever.’ Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.” (1 Pet. 1:23-25).*

The result of the preaching of the Apostles—Peter and the other disciples—was a **great thirst to hear the Gospel**.

*“Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.” (Acts 6:7).*

**Summary.** *The preaching of the Gospel leads people to repentance.*

### **3.3 The Preaching of the Gospel by the Apostle Paul**

From the Holy Scriptures (the Bible), we know that when the Apostle Paul and Barnabas **preached the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit**, almost the whole city gathered to hear the Word of God.

*“Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses... On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. ...” (Acts 13:38-39, 44ff.).*

In the Epistle to the Romans, the Apostle Paul writes that God desires His name to be proclaimed throughout the whole earth:

*“For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, ‘For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.’ ” (Rom. 9:17).*

The Apostle Paul writes about God's revelation:

*“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, **Preached among the Gentiles**, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.” (1 Tim. 3:16).*

The purpose of the Apostle Paul's life was to preach the Gospel.

*“But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.” (Acts 20:24).*

**Summary.** *Listening to the sermon about Jesus Christ, people receive revelations from the Lord about salvation and eternal life.*

## **4 The Evangelist Mark (Mark 16:15-20)**

Let's examine these verses of the Evangelist Mark:

*“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and **preach the gospel** to every creature. **He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.** And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will*

recover.’ So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and **preached everywhere**, ...” (Mark 16:15-20f.).

Let's provide a brief commentary on these verses.

– **Verses 15.** The Church has a special mission given to it by the Lord Jesus Christ—to preach the Gospel to all people.

– **v. 16.** Faith and entering into the “**water covenant**” with the Lord (1 Pet. 3:21), as a confirmation of this faith, grants a person salvation (see [5, 8-9]).

– **v. 17–18.** Believers, when necessary, will always be accompanied by God's signs.

– **v. 19.** The Lord is in heaven—at the right hand of God.

– **v. 20.** The Apostles and the early Church fulfilled the commission of the Lord Jesus Christ—to preach the Gospel to all people.

The work of God, the preaching of the Gospel to all people, continues in our time. The Church today, like the first Apostolic Church, continues this mission throughout the earth. The Lord Jesus Christ continues His work to save all people for the glory of God.

**Summary.** *Our Lord's desire is for all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4). However, as we have shown, this salvation is achieved through hearing the preaching about the Lord, accepting Him by faith, and then following Him by doing His will (Matt. 16:24ff.).*

#### **Conclusion**

Summing up this study of the Holy Scriptures from the Nelson's NKJV Study Bible, the following important conclusions can be drawn.

1. In the times of the Old Testament, Noah and all the prophets preached about God's righteousness.
2. The Lord Jesus Christ preached the Gospel to all people.
3. The Apostles preached the Gospel to all people.
4. The Church preaches the Gospel to all people.

The **main conclusion**, proven by Scriptures:

***By hearing the preaching of the Gospel and believing in Jesus Christ, people receive salvation and eternal life.***

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