

# GOOD NEWS!

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By: Phillip Hayes

*"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country" [Proverbs 25:25].*

*"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" [Mark 1:1].*

The Greek word translated "Gospel" is *euangelion*. The definition of this word is: a *good message*, that is, the *gospel*: - gospel. In other words, Mark 1:1 could be written, "The beginning of the good message of Jesus Christ" or the good news of Jesus Christ. A "Good Message" is "Good News"! I have discovered "Good News" will make the dark clouds of bad news evaporate.

There is an old song that has a line that says, "Bad news travels like wild fire, good news travels slow." I have certainly found that to be true as I am sure you have also.

There are magazines and newspapers that thrive on bad news, no matter true or not. There is no way such newspapers as the "Enquirer" or "Star" could survive, much less prosper if it were not for "Bad News".

You have probably seen such publications at the check-out stand of your local food store or

pharmacy. "Baby Born With Three Heads"; Obama Is A Martian In Disguise"; "The World Will End At 12pm May 2, 2025"; "Adolph Hitler Now Living In Hoboken, New Jersey": "All The Fresh Water In America Has Been Poisoned".

I call it, "Gloom, Doom, Despair and Agony" mentality! These and other papers have made billions of dollars off such nonsense. People love bad news! They love sensational stories! These papers have proven that it doesn't matter if what they print is true or not. The bolder and most ridiculous the story line is, the better. Just hype it to the hilt! People will buy it!

Now, you wouldn't think Christians would buy such idiotic publications. Well, you shouldn't but you and I know they do. You probably know someone that buys one of these papers every time a new edition hits the stands. Personally, I think it is a very sad thing that Christians would sink so low as to believe the trash found in these publications.

It is an even sadder thing to know that ministers are also making millions (if not billions) off their own sensationalized publications. Go to your local Bible Book Store and look at all the books on the end time. You will find hundreds of them!

Not only will you find information on the end time; you will find all kinds of so-called Christian books dealing with marriage problems, children problems, financial problems, personality problems, anger problems, etc.

Why cannot Christians understand that all they need is the Bible; the Holy Spirit; and anointed men of God in their respective pulpits. They don't need all the "must have information" found at the Bible Book store.

Some of these characters on television and on the internet that profess to be ministers of God will state that their book is so essential to your salvation and growth in God that you must have it. God has given them a word that every believer must have! They make you feel if you don't order their book, you may wind up in hell, rather than Heaven. "You have got to have this", they will say!

Let me say this, if God really did give them a word, a message that was so essential that every believer would have to have it in order to be saved; wouldn't the man of God do everything in his power to get the message to them? And, if it is that important, why doesn't he just tell us what the message is on his or her broadcast?

Can't you see my friend, it is the same old stuff that the "Enquirer" and the "Star" use to promote their publications. All hype with sensational titles that contain little or no truth. IT IS ALL ABOUT MONEY!

I will tell you the problem. People don't read their Bibles! Your answer is in the Word of God! Throughout my entire ministry I have encouraged new converts to begin their study in God's Word with only three books. They are: a King James Bible, a Strong's Concordance, and a Naves Topical Bible.

Reading God's Word is wonderful and it is essential. It is also most rewarding when you can search out different topics easily with a Naves. When you come across a word that needs defining, there is no greater tool than the Strong's Concordance which gives you the definition of the original Greek or Hebrew word. Having just these three will help you exercise your mind and spirit.

Once you have searched something out by and for yourself, you won't be easily deceived.

I am not against having different translations, commentaries, or other such study materials. I have many such publications in my library. But, do I need them all? No, I don't! After fifty plus years of studying God's Word, I still use those three ninety-nine percent of the time.

Bad news is everywhere. We are bombarded with it! Television, radio, newspapers, your smart phone, the internet! You can't escape it!

You may have lost your job, but you have started feeling good about your future. You have settled it in your heart everything's going to be alright! Something deep inside says to you, "Be encouraged". You tell your wife and children. "We're going to pull out of this. We're going to make it, I just know everything's going to be OK." And then, you turn on the news. The News Anchor starts his broadcast, "More jobs lost; the economy is worse now than last month. The country is heading for bankruptcy. Another great depression is upon us. Social security is bankrupt! Stay tuned for more!"

That "good feeling" you had is now gone! Suddenly, in a matter of a few minutes you have been robbed of every ounce of hope and faith you had. You are going to lose your home, your wife and your children. You are a loser. You just heard it on television! It seems your only answer is possibly committing suicide! You have been seduced by that Gloom, Doom, Despair and Agony spirit I mentioned!

The truth of the matter is we keep listening to what the world is saying, rather than to what God is saying! Word's have power!

My friends, the world may be bankrupt, but Heaven will never go bankrupt. Our Heavenly Father still owns the cattle of a thousand hills and all the silver and the gold. The Word of God has told us plainly that God will supply all our needs through His riches in Glory! I don't want to hear your bad news! As a matter of fact, I am sick of all the bad news hype that are making millionaires out of news paper executives, television personalities and internet goof balls.

I may be in this world, but I am not of this world. Praise God! All is well with me because I am a citizen of the Kingdom, how about you?

There is a little chorus that we sing, "When I wake up in the morning, 'Till I lay my head to rest, I am blessed, I am blessed. Every day that I live I am blessed"!

We must refuse to live by the world's standards and rules!

Bad news comes to everyone. I have had plenty in my life time. But bad news is like a storm, it will pass. No storm lasts forever. No trial lasts forever.

My friend, you can take bad news any way you want. You can have a pity party about how everything went wrong. You can go into your bed room, shut the door, cover your head and refuse to come out for days, if you want. You can walk around depressed and depressing every one you come in contact with, if you want. Or, you can lift up your head, put a smile of your face, thank God for what you do have and announce to everyone that, "All Is Well"! It's a choice we all have!

There is a little woman in the Bible that was very gracious to a man of God. When the man of

God journeyed her way, she fed him. She also provided him a place to stay whenever he came her way. She made him a little chamber and placed a bed, a stool, and a candlestick in it. She blessed the man of God!

This man of God was Elisha the Prophet. He wanted to bless this woman for her kindness. He asked his servant to find out what he could do for her. His servant discovered that she did not have a child and her husband was old. The man of God prophesied to her that she indeed would have a child and that child would be a son.

Now, let's look at 2 Kings, chapter four for the rest of her story: *"And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life. And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers. And he said unto his father, My head, my head. And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother. And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died. And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out"* [2 Kings 4:17-21].

This woman had experienced the most dreadful bad news any mother could ever hear. Her son died in her lap!

I remember my mother telling me that she would not be able to bear it if one of her children died before her. I know that I would be devastated if one of my children died. How horrible this experience would be! No doubt some of you may have experienced this or you know someone that has. There should be no question, it would be heart breaking.

But notice, she did not lay the child in his own bed, she laid him on the Man of God's bed!

In her mind the prophet Elisha's prayers had given her this child when it was impossible for her to have one. When she laid her son on the man of God's bed, she was going to the source of life. That man of God spoke a miracle to her and she was going to believe God for another impossible miracle.

Look at her attitude. First of all, I cannot find her weeping at all! Her attitude was extremely positive!

*"And she called unto her husband, and said, Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men, and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God, and come again. And he said, Wherefore wilt thou go to him to day? it is neither new moon, nor sabbath. And she said, It shall be well" [2 Kings 4:22-23].*

She didn't even tell her husband that his son was dead! Although her son lay dead, her attitude was, *"It shall be well."* Her focus wasn't on the bad news that was evident, but on Good News that would be coming! Where did this come from? How could she possibly be in such high expectation that everything would be well?

It is because she had faith! Perhaps the reason she didn't tell her husband was she knew he may have lacked faith and would have tried to prevent her from going to the man of God. After all, their son was dead! Faith will always defeat fear!

*"So she went and came unto the man of God to mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi his servant, Behold, yonder is that Shunammite: Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well*

*with the child? And she answered, It is well" [2 Kings 4:25-26].*

Please notice the prophets question, *"Is it well with thee, thy husband, thy child?"* Now look closely at her answer, *"It is well"*.

My friends, she did not look at the problem, she was looking at the solution. Remember the woman with the issue of blood in the New Testament? She said within herself, "If I touch the hem of His garment I will be made whole". Jesus told her that her faith had made her whole! Her faith! Jesus is a miracle worker, but it is going to take your faith to produce a miracle.

As far as this Shunammite woman was concerned, her child was going to live and all was well with her, her husband, and her child; although the child was dead. She refused to accept bad news, and focused on good news. God gave her this child and God would raise him from the dead. To her, this was a fact! Elisha the prophet raised the child from the dead!

The devil has taken a lot from some of you! Yes he has! But, I am telling you to have faith in God! Our God is a restorer. Whatever the devil has stolen from you, I believe God can and will restore if you will believe. All things are possible to him that believeth!

In the beginning of this article I talked about reading the Word of God. If you want faith, it only comes one way. *"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" [Romans 10:17].*

There is nothing that reinforces my faith more than the Word of God. If I am discouraged, or oppressed, give me the Word of God. The Word of



God is life! It is peace! It is joy! It is Faith! It is Good News!

When I read or meditate upon the Word, I can't help but shout the victory! When I read, I remember that I am a child of the King. I remember, I am anointed. I remember, I am blessed wherever I go no matter if it is in the country or in the city. Get into the Word, read it, hear it, consume it and above all *practice it*.

Yes, bad news is out there. It's everywhere! But, I have discovered "Good News" truly makes the dark clouds of bad news disappear. And it's all in the Bible! That's right! You don't need any self help books. You don't need any books about the purpose for your life.

Don't forget, the word "Gospel" means "Good News"? Jesus said, this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached into all the world. He is saying this "good news" of the kingdom shall be preached!

I've got Good News! All is well! We are going to make it! Not only are we going to make it, we are going to be the head and not the tail. God's promises are upon us. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life! Glory to God!

Cheer up my brother, live in the Son shine!! We are not children of darkness, we are children of light. Come on, renew your mind, change your thought patterns! Put the Word of Faith in your heart every day.

Get away from negative thinking people and surround yourself with positive people of faith. All is well!

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was beaten and crucified that we might have an abundant life. Was it all in vain for you? Make up your mind RIGHT

NOW that you are going to be a man or woman of faith. Your confession every day is, "All is well". Your answer to the question, "How are you?" will forever be, "Oh, thank you for asking, I've got Good News, I AM BLESSED!"

When we read the Old Testament, we are thrilled how God always took very good care of His people. He fed them manna from Heaven and sustained them in the wilderness with miracle after miracle. In Elijah and Elisha's time, the meal barrel stayed, and the oil cruise never failed.

Jesus demonstrated that God had not changed when He fed the multitudes with five loaves of bread and two fishes. *"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" [Hebrews 13:8].*

*"And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 1:6)*

He hath made us kings and priests. That word "hath" is passed tense, it means "has already" You and I are kings and priests *now!* We are not only going to be, we are! Praise God! Let's begin living like it!

My closing scripture is a good place to begin believing and sharing: *"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" [3John 1:2].* God is not a respecter of persons. This is God's will for you also!

Be an Encourager instead of a Discourager! Most likely, everyone around you has heard plenty of Bad News. Give somebody some "Good News"! Do it today!

