Good News or Fake News?

Introduction

Fake News

One of the more popular phrases being tossed around today is "fake news". This term is used to identify a narrative that is presented as factual news but which is, in reality, not true.

Good News

Anyone who is familiar with the teachings of Jesus Christ has heard the term "good news" (the term "Gospel" means "good news").

Christianity, in pretty much all its various forms (or denominations), has replaced the good news that Jesus taught with its own version of "good news".

Christianity's version of the gospel is not what Christ preached.

The Teachings of Jesus About the Good News

Good News Defined

How did Jesus define "good news"? A search throughout the 4 Gospel narratives, which contain the direct teachings of Christ, will reveal that "good news" is specifically defined in some of the contexts, but in other instances "good news" is mentioned but not specifically defined.

For example, here are some instances in which "good news" is defined (italics added):

Jesus went about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the *Good News of the Kingdom*, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people. (Matthew 4:23)

Jesus went about all the cities and the villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the *Good News of the Kingdom*, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people. (Matthew 9:35)

This *Good News of the Kingdom* will be preached in the whole world for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14)

Now after John was taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Good News of the Kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the *Kingdom of God* is at hand! Repent, and *believe in the Good News.*" (Mark 1:14-15)

But he said to them, "I must preach the *good news of the Kingdom of God* to the other cities also. For this reason I have been sent." (Luke 4:43)

Good News Not Specifically Defined

Here are some instances in which the term "good news" is used but not specifically defined:

"the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them." (Matthew 11:5)

"For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; and whoever will lose his life for my sake and the sake of the Good News will save it." (Mark 8:35)

He said to them, "Go into all the world, and preach the Good News to the whole creation." (Mark 16:15)

On one of those days, as he was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the Good News, the priests and scribes came to him with the elders. (Luke 20:1)

Here's a bit of a breakdown of how the term "good news" is used in the 4 Gospels.

- There are 23 instances of "good news"

- 1 of these instances was by John the Baptizer

- 8 times the good news is specifically identified as being the "good news of the kingdom"

- In the remaining instances, "good news" is not defined

Note the following facts:

- Over 1/3 of the time in which the term "good news" is used, it is defined as being about the Kingdom.

- There are **zero** instances in which the term "good news" is defined as anything other than being about the kingdom.

Conclusion:

Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom; he had no other definition!

The Teachings of Christianity About the Good News

The "good news", as defined by Christianity, is taken from bits and pieces of writings from all throughout the Bible as well as from human thoughts and conclusions. These were all put together to form a "good news" that is completely different from what Jesus taught.

In essence, Christianity defines "good news" as the concept that Jesus died on the cross as a sacrifice to pay for our sins.

Jesus and Christianity Disagree

Jesus: The good news is about the Kingdom

Christianity: The good news is about Jesus sacrificing his life to pay for our sins

It is plain to see that these definitions are different!

Jesus' Mission According to Jesus

Consider the story of Jesus for a moment. God the Father had a mission for His son. He told Jesus to go to earth and take on a human body in order to fulfill that mission.

Let's frame this scenario in a way that we might be better able to identify with:

Imagine that your father asked you to give up your comfortable life in order to live among primitive people. Your mission would be to improve their lives by telling them about things such as good sanitation, how to drill water wells for clean water, improved methods for growing, preparing and preserving food, etc. You would also take medicines with you to help overcome diseases. Your father is doing this because he loves these people and wants the best for them. You agree to go because your father asked you to do this and because you also have a heart for these people.

So, you go and focus on fulfilling the mission as defined by your father. You teach them and help to heal their diseases. And, of course, you tell them about the love that your father has for them and that is the reason you were sent.

Of course, humans being humans, not everyone will trust you or your motives. Some will be skeptical. Some will be offended because others are turning away from following their advice in order to follow your advice. In fact, some are so furious about having their positions of authority and power threatened that they get you out of the way by murdering you.

Now think about this scenario in terms of Jesus' mission. Jesus came to earth at the direction of his Father:

"Therefore Jesus said to them, "If God were your father, you would love me, for I came out and have come from God. For I haven't come of myself, but he sent me." (John 8:42)

He told us what his mission was:

"he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim release to the captives, recovering of sight to the blind, to deliver those who are crushed, and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4:16-21)

He stayed focused on his mission:

Jesus went about all the cities and the villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the Good News of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people. (Matthew 9:35)

When people tried to get him distracted from his mission, he said:

"I must preach the good news of the Kingdom of God to the other cities also. For this reason I have been sent." (Luke 4:43)

Jesus completed his mission. When the time was at hand for him to return to the Father, he said:

"This is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and him whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on the earth. I have accomplished the work which you have given me to do." (John 17:1-4) (Notice that Jesus stated that the mission was completed at this point.)

It is clear what Jesus' mission was. He told us again and again. And he told us when the mission was completed.

Jesus' Mission According to Christianity

Christianity teaches that Jesus' primary mission was to die, paying a sacrifice for our sins. However, it is worth noting that **Jesus himself never said this was his mission**! If that was the real reason that he came, why didn't he say so?

What more needs to be said? Christianity has replaced Jesus' good news about the Kingdom with fake news.

Who are You Going To Listen To?

So, are you going to listen to Jesus or to Christianity?

PLEASE, do not run to other "spiritual" people to get their answers. Jesus' teachings are clear and simple. You don't need the "wisdom" of humans. Jesus said:

"I thank you, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for so it was well-pleasing in your sight." (Luke 10:21)

Listen to Jesus:

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give eternal life to them." (John 10:27-28)