

The Beginning Of "Good News"

How nice it is to get good news! A young couple hears that they are going to have their first baby. Good News! Your child is in a car accident; the car is destroyed, and she comes out without a scratch. Good News! That risky investment years ago finally brings in the "mother-load." Good News! "Look mom, I got all A's." Good News! My soldier-boy came home. Good News!

We know about good news, and love to get it. In a world where it appears that most news is bad, we can use all the good news we can get.

How would one go about comparing good news? Is some news better than others? Depending on your sense of values, good news can be somewhat subjective. What may be good news for one person may not be news that is considered good or bad to someone else. For instance, if a millionaire gets out of his car and sees a dollar bill on the ground, he may not consider it worth running the risk of back injury by bending over to pick up a dollar. But put that same dollar on the ground next to a homeless person, and that dollar all the sudden has new and greatly appreciated meaning.

When did good news start? Some may quickly say that good news has always been around. Since the dawn of creation people have heard good news from time to time. Yes! It is true! But when did GOOD NEWS really begin? When did the best news begin? The first four books of the New Testament proclaim the best news ever. Note the first words of Mark. "The beginning of the **gospel** of Jesus Christ, the Son of God," Mark 1:1. The word "gospel" means good news! Think about what is being said by this statement.

Mark is saying that up until the Christian age, good news may have been around, but when Christ came into the world, good news took on an all new meaning. In other words, if you could take all the good news since the very first good news and build a mountain with it, all of it would pail in comparison to the good news of Jesus Christ. Another way of thinking about it is this! Take all the people in history, place them in a room, and let them relate all the good news they have ever heard. Listen to all the heart-warming stories of history, and after shedding all the tears and enjoying all the laughter that good information gives your heart, then wait for it! Wait for it! The best news is yet to come!

Just think about what Mark said. "The beginning!" OK! You have got to sit down for this one! Get comfortable! "The beginning!" I am going to start telling you something like no other thing that has been started. I am telling something like nothing that has ever been told.

"Of the gospel" This is good news! This is great news! You have never heard news like this news before. This is the kind of news that will warm your heart. It will change your life. You will never be the same after hearing it.

"Of Jesus Christ, the Son Of God." You can not compare any news to news about God! Has anyone heard an update on God? Had anyone in the history of man been able to hug God? Had anyone shaken his hand? Had anyone eaten with God, heard him tell a story, or watched him produce a miracle? Had humanity been told about the splendor of heaven, or anything about life beyond

this one? Had anyone been told how they could be released from the bondage of their sin? No, not until Jesus came into the world.

When Mark said, "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God," he spoke from the highest pentacle of humanity, proclaiming the loudest, most blessed, and enduring message. He proclaimed a message to a dead world in the slumber of their own self-indulgence, and said, I have got GOOD NEWS!
—Scott