

"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mark 1:1).

The beginning of the *gospel*. There are 4 "gospel" writers in the Bible – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Mark begins his writing with the words above.

The word "gospel" basically means "good news." In fact, a number of the newer translations of the Bible will use the term "good news" rather than the word "gospel".

So much of the news we get today is *bad news* – whether we get our news through a newspaper (as fewer people are doing today), or by watching TV, or by going online. TV news programs, for example, seem to focus on three news items: fires, accidents, or criminal activity. No wonder so little news today is good news!

But there is another source for news that is much more uplifting, encouraging, honest, and certainly more *truthful and accurate*. That is the message of the gospel, the good news of Jesus, the Son of God.

Why is this good news? What marks the story of Jesus as a much better source of good news than other contemporary news outlets?

It's a narrative that tells about a God who not only created us and everything that there is, but who loves what God has created, including us, including you. It's a story about a Man named Jesus, who had a unique and special relationship with God and was the embodiment of Truth. It's an amazing account of a Jesus who was honest enough to tell us humans where we've gone wrong but who also shows us the Way to a better life that lasts forever, who told us and showed us that life is never just about ourselves, but about caring deeply for others.

I don't know about you, but I think all of that is a lot more life affirming and positive than hearing the latest about fires, accidents and crime.

So, even if you're not especially fond of Christians, or don't think much positive about the church today, don't write Jesus off. Before you decide what you want to do with your life and where you want to put the weight of your soul down, please take seriously the good news Jesus has to offer. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John have quite a story to tell!

Pastor Harry