
Transmission of the Gospel

Prepared for: Church of Christ, Brookfield Evening Assembly

Prepared by: Barry G. Johnson, Sr.

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1 John 1:1–4 (NIV)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ²The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴We write this to make our joy complete.

Synopsis

The gospel has been passed down through the NT witness to Jesus Christ, through the proclamation of the good news about Jesus Christ, and through the providential guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Objectives:

1. Transmitted by the NT Witness to Jesus Christ
2. Transmitted by the Apostles who bore witness to the Gospel
3. Transmitted by the Proclamation of the Gospel
4. Transmitted by the Guidance of the Holy Spirit

Introduction:

The Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is one that has been transmitted to us down through the ages. We have a written record that can easily be put to many tests. We have eyewitnesses whose testimony has been proven true. We have the power of the Holy Spirit, which cannot be overcome. We should also do our part to transmit this Gospel to a world in need of good news.

Transmitted by the NT Witness to Jesus Christ

- **The events of Jesus Christ's life were carefully recorded**

Luke 1:1–4 (NIV) — **1** Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, **2** just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. **3** With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, **4** so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

John 21:24 (NIV) — **24** This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

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Acts 1:1–2 (NIV) — **1** In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach **2** until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

Transmitted by the Apostles who bore witness to the Gospel

- Paul records for us...

1 Corinthians 15:3–8 (NIV) — **3** For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, **5** and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. **6** After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. **7** Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, **8** and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

- Peter records...

2 Peter 1:16 (NIV) — **16** For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

- Luke records how the Apostles were told by Jesus they would be his witnesses...

Luke 24:45–48 (NIV) — **45** Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. **46** He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, **47** and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things.

- Jesus tells the Apostles that when the Holy Spirit comes He will testify of Jesus and so must they...

John 15:27 (NIV) — **27** And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

- Power from God will enable the Apostles to witness about Jesus to the ends of the earth...

Acts 1:8 (NIV) — **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

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- In choosing another Apostle to stand with the twelve it needed to be one who was with them the whole time, in order to give testimony of Jesus...

Acts 1:21–22 (NIV) — 21 Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, **22** beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”

- The Gospel is transmitted through the Apostles testimony...

Acts 2:32 (NIV) — 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

- Peter and John were teaching the people, transmitting the Gospel...

Acts 4:1–20 (NIV) — 1 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. **2** They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. **3** They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. **4** But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand. **5** The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. **6** Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest’s family. **7** They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: “By what power or what name did you do this?” **8** Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! **9** If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, **10** then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. **11** Jesus is “ ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’ **12** Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” **13** When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. **14** But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. **15** So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. **16** “What are we going to do with these men?” they asked. “Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. **17** But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.” **18** Then they called

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them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. **19** But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! **20** As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

- The Apostles and the Holy Spirit transmit the Gospel they are witnesses to...

Acts 5:32 (NIV) — 32 We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

- The Apostles confirm the resurrection of Jesus and there by transmit the Gospel...

Acts 13:30–31 (NIV) — 30 But God raised him from the dead, **31** and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people.

Hebrews 2:3–4 (NIV) — 3 how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. **4** God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

1 Peter 5:1 (NIV) — 1 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed:

1 John 4:14 (NIV) — 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

Transmitted by the Proclamation of the Gospel

- Very simply the Gospel is transmitted by preaching it...

Acts 5:42 (NIV) — 42 Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

- One cannot be saved if the Gospel is not transmitted ...

Romans 10:14–15 (NIV) — 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone

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preaching to them? **15** And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

- Salvation is the result of the proclamation of the Gospel...

1 Corinthians 15:1–2 (NIV) — **1** Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. **2** By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

- The Gospel once hidden is now transmitted for all...

Ephesians 3:8–9 (NIV) — **8** Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, **9** and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

Acts 8:12 (NIV) — **12** But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

1 Corinthians 1:21 (NIV) — **21** For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

Galatians 1:23 (NIV) — **23** They only heard the report: “The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.”

2 Timothy 4:2 (NIV) — **2** Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

Hebrews 13:7 (NIV) — **7** Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Transmitted by the Guidance of the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit guided the Apostles in their transmission of the Gospel...

John 14:26 (NIV) — **26** But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

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- It was the Holy Spirit who reminded the Apostles of the things Jesus taught them...

John 16:12–15 (NIV) — **12** “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. **13** But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. **14** He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. **15** All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

- Gifts of the Spirit testified to the Gospel...

Hebrews 2:3–4 (NIV) — **3** how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. **4** God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

- In transmitting the Gospel the Holy Spirit keeps it true...

1 John 5:6 (NIV) — **6** This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

Conclusion:

Many avenues these have transmitted down the Gospel through the ages for you and I. Remain true and obey its teachings that you might take advantage of its promises. Be sure to play your role in transmitting the Gospel today and forever more.

Invitation:

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Romans 10:17 (KJV 1900)

¹⁷ So then faith *cometh* by **hearing**, and hearing by the word of God.

Hebrews 11:6 (KJV 1900)

⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that *cometh* to God must **believe** that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Acts 17:30 (KJV 1900)

³⁰ And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to **repent**:

1 Timothy 6:12 (KJV 1900)

¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good **profession** before many witnesses.

Acts 2:38 (KJV 1900)

³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Revelation 2:10 (KJV 1900)

¹⁰ Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou **faithful** unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.