

## AN ESSAY

### ON THE GOSPEL.

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THE gospel of Christ, though the most important of all subjects, has been very much misunderstood and perverted in the present age. The word gospel is in every one's mouth---professed and spoken of by every sect, yet it is to be feared that very few in reality understand the true application of the term as used in the scriptures. If we attend to the great mass of sermons delivered from the pulpit, or written, by those called preachers of the gospel, and compare them with the apostolic gospel, as recorded in the New Testament, we shall find an astonishing difference between them---and if we take a view of the effects which these gentlemen's gospel have, upon themselves, and upon their hearers, are we not ready to exclaim, surely this cannot be the gospel of Christ! No! The gospel of Christ produces holy fruit like itself in all its preachers, and believers. All who believe it, preachers and hearers, are devoted to the service of God. They love God and keep his commandments. They walk, "Not according to the flesh, but according to the spirit." Rom. 8. 1.

In order then to correct this evil, I shall endeavour to point out the *nature and effects* of the gospel of Jesus Christ---its import as preached by the **APOSTLES** and recorded in the New Testament---and its effects as pointed out in the commandments given by Christ and his Apostles and exemplified in the first christians.

In this attempt, let me observe, I shall pay no regard to the writings of men of any description. Those writings which explain and enforce the true gospel, cannot be hurt by an additional essay upon the subject---and those that oppose the pure gospel, will I trust, be exposed and confuted.

I do not design this essay as a piece of controversy, though I may occasionally oppose error in it; but only as an exposition of plain truth which of course must overturn all the errors opposed thereto.

I. The first thing that claims our attention on this subject is the explanation of the term gospel. This is the more necessary because few can give a scriptural answer to the question. What is the gospel?

The Greek word (euangelion) generally translated gospel, means glad tidings, good or joyful news; hence its translation in our common version of