

the New Testament in the following passages, Luke 1. 19. & 2. 10. & 8. 1. Acts 13. 32. Rom. 10. 15. Compare Isa. 40. 9. & 41. 27. & 52. 7. & 61. 1. Gal. 3. 8.

In our explanations of the word of God we must abide by the plain meaning of words---otherwise, we must let the Holy Spirit explain his own meaning by comparing one part of his diction with another. It is very unfair to admit that the term gospel means glad tidings in many passages, such as the above cited, and to fix another meaning to the same word, without any foundation, in other passages of scripture.

The original Greek word, which occurs about a hundred times in the New Testament, might with the greatest propriety of language, in every instance be translated good news or glad tidings. Thus the Apostles preached the glad tidings of salvation through the sufferings and death of the Lord Jesus Christ, and those who believed this gospel obtained eternal life.

II. SECONDLY. I shall point out what the gospel of *Christ* is. It is called the gospel of Christ, Rom. 1. 16. & 1 Cor. 9. 13. not merely because Christ himself proclaimed it, but because it consists of glad tidings concerning his person and work. It is called the gospel of the Son of God, because it is good news respecting him---news of his having come into this world "to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19. 10. It is called the gospel of peace, Eph. 6. 15. because it consists of glad tidings of "peace on earth, and good will towards the children of men," Luke 2. 14. It is the gospel of the grace of God Acts 20. 24. In other words, it is the joyful news of the manifestation of the free, sovereign, favour of Jehovah towards the children of men. Herein the justice of God in the salvation of sinners, through the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ is clearly exhibited, *through faith to the faithful*. Rom. 1. 17. It is the gospel of salvation. Eph. 1. 13. because it reveals a free and full salvation to the vilest of transgressors; and because all who really understand and believe the gospel are immediately justified and freed from every condemnation. "Be it known unto you therefore men and brethren, that through "this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins; and by him all that "believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by "the law of Moses. Acts 13. 38, 39. There is now no condemnation to them "which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit."--Rom. 8. 1.

From the meaning of the term gospel, the epithets applied to it, and the result of receiving it, we must infer; that it consists in some particular declaration, or testimony, which is calculated to give joy to the mind of a sinner; and to the reception or rejection of which important consequences are attached.

It is on the import of this declaration or testimony that men have so much opposed one another. While one thinks the term gospel means all the points of doctrine taught by Jesus Christ, and all his laws and institutions: another maintains it is some private declaration made to himself personally of his be-