

The Full Gospel

The Pentecostal/charismatic movement

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Ralph Martin, 1994

“Today, 1 of 4 Christians in the world identifies as Pentecostal or charismatic, with Pentecostalism growing at roughly four times the rate of the world’s population itself”

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What has gone wrong with the Gospel?

Some “name dropping”

Two US authors put their finger on the problem:

- Scott McKnight (Northern Baptist Seminary)
- Matthew Bates (Quincy University, Il)

Following

- N. T. Wright (Oxford UK, Anglican Bishop)

Also there is

- Graham Twelftree (London School of Theology)

I am not alone in what I am going to tell you

A reduced gospel produces powerless Christianity

The atonement project

Atonement and the Kingdom, 6 co-authors (USA, UK, RSA, Ethiopia)

- We defended “penal substitution”,
- We decided that the gospel has been distorted.

A big word: reductionism.

- One step: Calvin said the miracles and charismatic gifts had ceased.

Defining reductionism

It is not that what is being affirmed, believed and confessed is wrong in itself. The problem is when elements are reduced and then elevated to such an extent that the truth they represent is presented as the whole truth. Then, when that small, though important, element of the truth is communicated as the gospel, it is not only less than the whole truth, but in a certain sense becomes untruth, not the truth.

The “gospel”:

Jesus died on the cross so that I can have my sins forgiven and that when I die I will go to heaven.

I can secure this instantly by praying the sinners prayer.

Some quotes

“For many people, ‘the gospel’ has shrunk right down to a statement about Jesus’ death and its meaning, and a prayer with which people accept it”.

N. T. Wright

“We are so singularly focused on the personal-Plan-of-Salvation and how-we-get-saved that we eliminate the Story of Israel and the Story of Jesus altogether.”

Jesus believed that the kingdom of God was breaking into history and that he was the centre of the kingdom of God. Proclaiming this event was the single, consistent meaning of the gospel.

“There is one and only one gospel, and it was preached by Jesus, by Paul, and by Peter.”

Scot McKnight

Yes to the saving power of the cross



For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures ...

1 Corinthians 15

Two crucial points about the resurrection

The risen body of Jesus, the prototype

Born again life

The resurrection of Jesus

Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' And with that **he breathed on them** and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit (John 20:21-22).

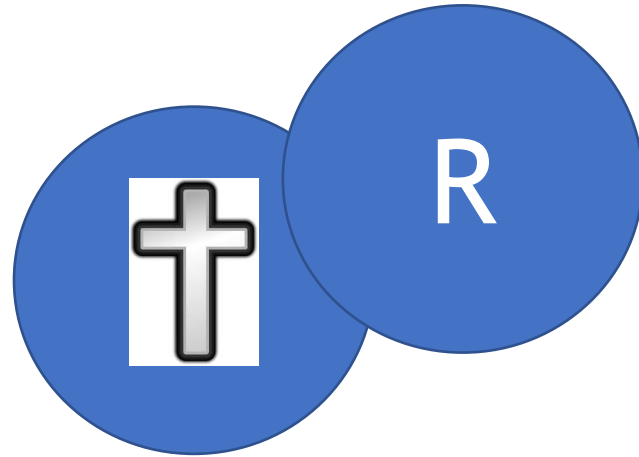
Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us **new birth into a living hope through the resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade (1 Peter 1:3-4).

This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought **life and immortality to light** through the gospel (2 Timothy 1:9-10).

The new nature in Christ

Christian identity

Death and resurrection



The ministry and message of Jesus

Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the **good news of God**. ‘The time has come,’ he said. ‘The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe **the good news!**’ (Mark 1:14-15).

Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim **good news** to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, ‘Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.’ (Luke 4: 17-21).

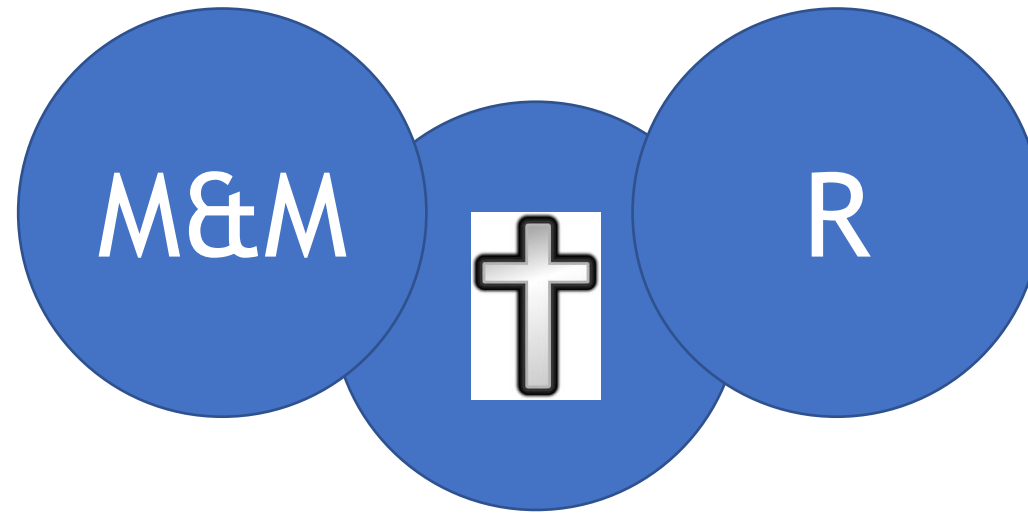
Message and Ministry

1. Demons were exorcised
2. The sick were healed
3. Sinners were forgiven
4. Those previously excluded were welcomed to his table: Sinners, Gentiles, Women and Children
5. The ritually impure were cleansed
6. Justice was brought to the poor
7. The dead were raised
8. The creation began to come under the rule of God

The inauguration of the new creation

Yesterday, today, forever, Jesus is the same

Message & Ministry, Death and resurrection



The ascension of Jesus/Pentecost

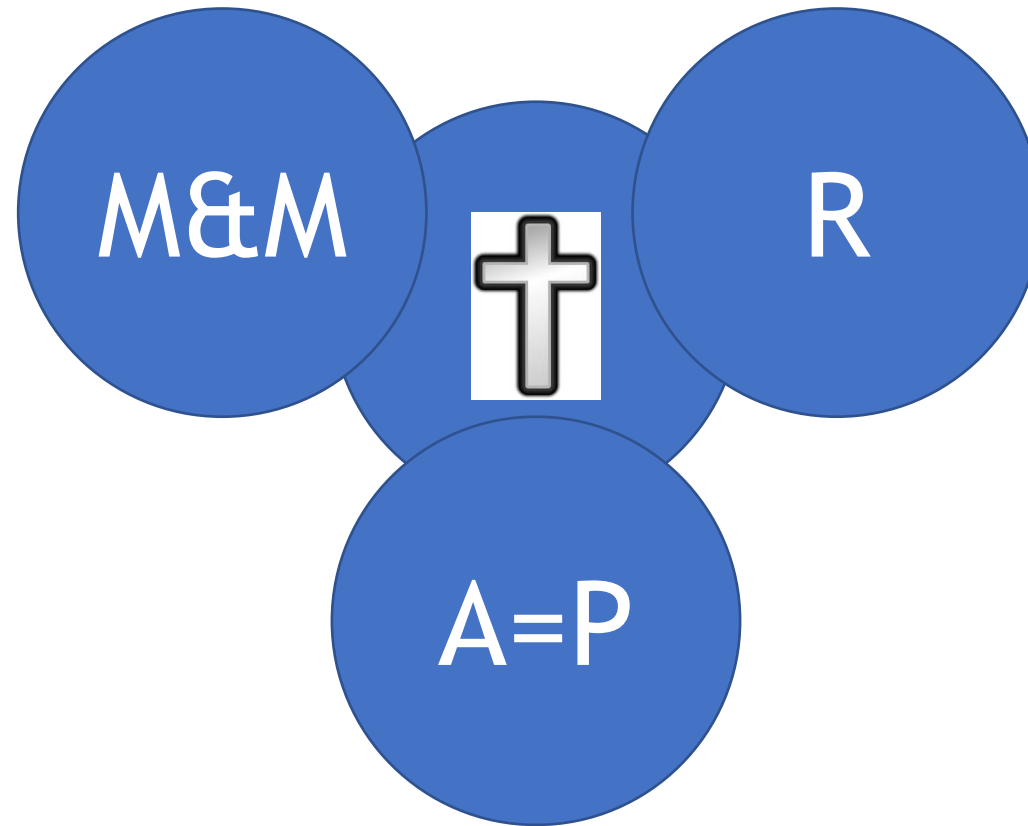
Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has **poured out** what you now see and hear (Acts 2.33).

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 (Acts 1.8).

Not regeneration, but empowering

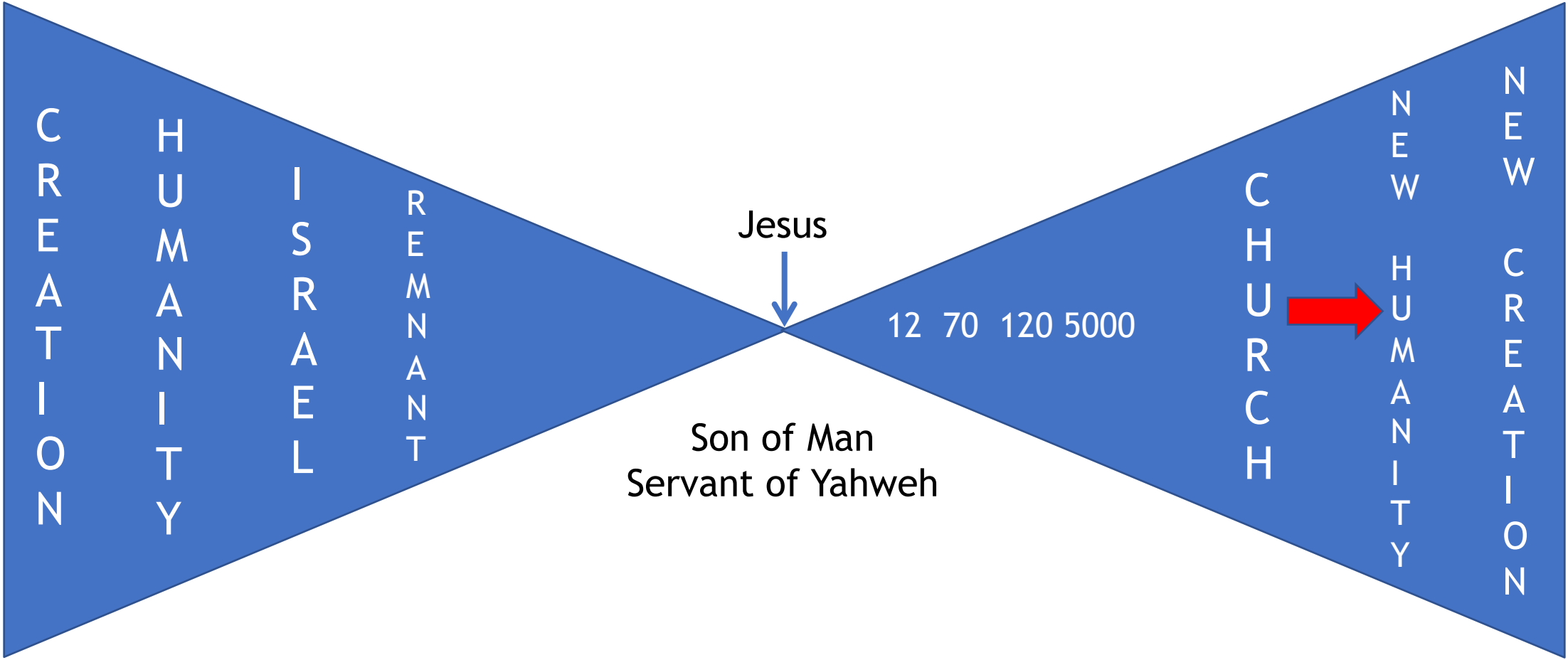
A succession narrative, replicating Jesus' ministry

Message & Ministry, Death, Resurrection and Ascension



Vocation and Representation

The glory of God in all creation



The Gospel

The good news is that:

1. **God has come**, as he promised he would.
2. God has come, **to renew all things**, including a renewed humanity in his image and a renewed creation.
3. In order to renew all things, God has come **to reign**, to let his kingdom come.
4. In order to renew all things, God has come, to reign, **through anointing Jesus as the Christ/king**.
5. God has come, to reign, through **the life, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension** of Jesus the Christ/king.
6. God has come through the **ministry and message** of Jesus, to confront the power of Satan and liberate humanity from sin, sickness, demons, religious oppression, death and injustice/poverty.
7. God has come through the **death** of Jesus as the Day of Judgment occurring in advance, to liberate humanity from the penalty of sin.
8. God has come through the **resurrection** of Jesus the Christ/king, to triumph over the powers of darkness and to give new life (rebirth) or the life of the coming ages (eternal life) to humanity.
9. God has come, through the **ascension** of Jesus the Christ/King, to pour out on his disciples the same anointing of the Spirit that was on him, empowering them to announce and demonstrate the kingdom to all nations and peoples, to the ends of the earth and to the end of the age.
10. **God will come**, at the end of the age, to execute final judgment, raise the dead in Christ to eternal life and create a new heaven and a new earth.