THE GOSPEL AND THE GOSPELS:
THE PRODUCT OF THE EARLIEST PREACHING

By
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I. Presuppositions

1. The Gospels Are Not Diaries
2. The Gospels Are Not Biographies
3. The Gospels and Various Pericopes (Paragraphs) Have Theological Purposes
4. The Gospels Are Primarily Theological Documents

II. Why Are at Least Three of the Gospels So Similar?

2. Many Believe That They May Have Copied One Another!
3. A “Full-blown” Theory Says That There Were 4 Sources:
   A. Mark (Most of Mark Appears in Luke & Matthew)
   B. “Q” (Where Matthew & Luke Are the Same and Not in Mark)
   C. Special Matthew (Only in Matthew)

THE FOUR SOURCE THEORY
FOR
THE SOURCES OF
THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS
4. Therefore, Not Authors in the Sense That We Would Normally Think of Them!
5. But What If the Similarities Reflect a Common Message and No Evidence of Literary Dependence!
   A. Many Believe That Allowing for Oral Tradition Can Explain the Similarities!
   B. Many Stories Had Been “Floating Around” in the Preaching and Teaching of the Apostles and Early Preachers.

III. If They Were Dependent on One Another, Why Are There So Many Differences?
1. Perhaps the Authors Had Different Purposes in Selecting the Materials That They Used and Also the Order in Which They Put It!
2. Perhaps the Authors Had a Theological Purpose in Making What Changes They Did (e.g., “Kingdom of Heaven” in Matthew and “Kingdom of God” in Mark and Luke).

IV. What We Have Been Discussing Is a Type of Interpreting the Bible (Gospels in Particular) as Literature.
1. Some Values of Literary Analysis
   A. To See Gospels as Theological Treatises
   B. To Seek to Determine Why Certain Pericopes Are Used and Why Differences
   C. To Seek the Value of Each Section Individually
2. Weaknesses of Literary Analysis
   A. Some Have Tried to Get More out of it than it Can Produce
   B. Negative Decisions about the Historicity and Reliability of the Gospel Records

V. What Is the Relationship Between the Gospels and the Earliest Preaching as Recorded in the New Testament?
1. Study of the Earliest Preaching as Recorded in the Book of Acts and Epistles Shows a Certain Pattern and Similarity
2. We Call this the Kerygma, the Greek Word Meaning the Preaching--not the Act of Preaching, but the Content of Preaching!
3. Four or Five Elements
   A. Fulfillment of OT Expectation
   B. Jesus of Nazareth--life, Miracles, and Teachings
   C. Death, Burial, & Resurrection
   D. Invitation/commission
4. Synoptic Gospels Are Examples of the NT Kerygma with Details (“Flesh”) Added--they Follow Basically the Outline of the Kerygma!

   (1) Acts 2:14-39
   (2) 3:13-26
   (3) 4:10-12
   (4) 5:30-32
   (5) 10:36-43
   (6) 13:17-41
   (7) Gal. 3:1; 1:3-4
   (8) 4:6
   (9) 1 Cor. 15:1-7
   (10) Rom. 1:1-4; 8:34; 2:16; 10:8-9
   (11) 1 Thess. 1:10