Sermon: **“The Gospel I preach is not of human origin”** (Galatians 1.11)

Is rainy weather good news or not? Depends upon whom you ask.

What makes the gospel good news? Does it also depend upon whom you ask? Eg Lk 1.53 **‘he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away with empty hands’** – the good news for the hungry might not be so for the rich. TEXT. But what is the gospel?

Have you ever tried to understand a legal document? Hard to tell if there is good news!

Surely God’s good news is simple so all can understand.

Take a different example. What is marriage? Sounds simple, but is it?

What makes it hard to define is that everyone’s experience of marriage is different. This is also true of our experience of God – God is known in creation, the Bible and in each other, but we have different experiences of creation, we resonate with different stories about Jesus, and we know many different people in whom God is perceived.

As well as experience, our application of the Gospel varies – slavery was OK, but is not now.

Reading a well-known Bible passage can still yield fresh insight – new experience, new application.

Following from last week, God is not limited to the world around us, nor what was written about the person of Jesus, nor what we see in each other.

But what has God got to do with the gospel except that it is God’s? TEXT.

For me the Gospel is this: there is a God, thus we are not alone. And that this God genuinely cares about us and wants us to be transformed so that we are caring too.

We do not all experience God in the same way, nor need to apply the gospel in the same way.

But since God is alive we must be open to the new, as well as treasuring the old, for we might find God in unexpected places, fresh readings of the gospels, different people. May God help us awaken our senses!