

The Gospel is about a Man/King (Rom. 1:1-5)

1. What does verse 3 say about Jesus and where he came from?

2. What two aspects about Jesus are emphasized from your answer above?

a. He was a _____.

b. He was a _____.

Luke 1:32,33

³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Luke 2:1-7 places the birth of Jesus as an historical event.

“The gospel is historical. The Jesus of history is now seated at the right hand of the majesty on high. The one who was born in Bethlehem is the Lord of heaven and earth. He who died on Calvary and rose from the dead will judge the living and the dead. This same Jesus who was descended from David, will return at the end of the age.”

“Any other experience I may have of Jesus is not to be put forward to men and women as the gospel.”

What is the Gospel?

“An understanding of the gospel governs the way we engage in evangelism. A right understanding of the gospel should lead to right methods.”

We want to be able to answer three basic questions:

1. What is the gospel?
2. What response am I looking for to the gospel?
3. For whom is the gospel intended?

Romans 1:1-5

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations

What is the gospel? (Rom. 1:1-5)

a. The Gospel is the gospel of _____ (verse 1)

1. Read Galatians 3:8. Who was the first evangelist?

2. Read Mark 1:14. What gospel did Jesus proclaim?

“No one, not even the Lord Jesus, is at liberty to make up their own gospel.”

3. The gospel is a powerful message because it comes from God.



Memorize Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

4. “Because it is God’s gospel we don’t have to take the responsibility for the reactions of people to it. We didn’t make it up! All we have to do is pass on a message.”

How is this next statement true? “We will have to take full responsibility for the *way* we tell people the gospel but *not the content*.”

The Gospel is not new (Rom.1:1-5)

1. According to verse 2, how do we know the gospel we preach is not new?

2. The gospel today is in conformity with God’s continuing revelation and is the final expression of it.

How does what Simeon said in Luke 2:29-32 show that Jesus is the final expression of the gospel?

How does what Paul said in Acts 3: 18-26 show that Jesus is the final expression of the gospel?

The Gospel is all about Jesus (Rom. 1:1-5)

1. Who does verse 3 say is at the heart of the gospel?

“The gospel is not about humanity and its needs, although these are not unimportant nor are they unrelated. The gospel is all about the Son. It is about Jesus. So when I evangelize someone, I must be speaking about Jesus. If I am not speaking about Jesus, God’s unique Son, then I am not preaching God’s gospel.”

2. Since the gospel is about Jesus, what books in the Bible should we be familiar with?

Repentance and faith are the only proper responses to God's gospel

-We realize by God's grace that we are rebels and don't want Jesus to rule over us. We are made to know that the judgment of God is upon us and repentance of that willful rebellion is the only reasonable way to act. We acknowledge Jesus as Lord and as God's King.

-However, that alone does not deal with the fact that I have been a rebel. What is to happen about the past? We throw ourselves before God and ask for mercy and he, in his mercy, forgives us, because of the death of his Son Jesus on our behalf.

The true Christian response to the gospel is faith in the Lord Jesus which issues in obedience (repentance)

It is unhelpful to think about the work of Jesus apart from the person of Jesus.

The Gospel is about the powerful Son of God (Rom. 1:1-5)

1. What does verse 4 say Jesus was declared to be?

-The term 'Son of God' is a term used by God of the Kings of Israel. See 2 Samuel 7:14, and Psalm 2:7. Psalm 2:7 also looks prophetically to Jesus, the Son of God. This shows that Jesus was not only a king, but he was indeed THE King, and he was God's King! (Heb. 1:5,6; Acts 13:33,34)

2. How does Matthew 17:5 confirm this truth?

3. Psalm 2:8 says that this King will have absolute rulership of the entire world. What in Rom. 1:4 proves this power to rule and shows he is alive to carry this out?

No one can resist him. That is why repentance is in order.

4. Read the following verses and discuss the powerful Son of God and what that power accomplished and accomplishes:

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-3
- Hebrews 2:14-15
- John 12:31-32
- Colossians 2:13-15

The Gospel – Jesus Christ is Lord (Rom. 1:1-5)

1. According to verse 4, Jesus Christ is what?
2. What does Matthew 28:18 say was given to Jesus?
3. Jesus said that his Father was “Lord of heaven and earth” – Matt. 11:25. After the resurrection of Jesus, that title equally belongs to Jesus. So then, Jesus is Lord of _____ and _____.
(This refers back to Matt. 28:18)
4. Read Philippians 2:9-11. What confession about Jesus does God the Father honor and recognize? (See also Heb. 1:3; Rom. 10:9)

“Our present day trend in evangelistic preaching to separate the Jesus who *saved* from the Jesus who *rules* is unbiblical, and because it is unbiblical, is totally unhelpful.”

We cannot have our sins forgiven until we acknowledge Jesus as our King.

What is the Response to the Gospel? (Rom. 1:1-5)

1. As you read verse 5, what does Paul say the desire is to bring about?
 2. The gospel is not a system of doctrine. It is about the person of Jesus Christ. When we grasp the fact that God has declared Jesus to be Lord of heaven and earth, then we are left with only two alternatives.
 - a. We can accept it and fall before him in repentance and faith.
 - b. We can reject him as our rightful ruler and continue in sin.
 - What have all people done? See Romans 3:12
 - How do all wish to run their lives? See Genesis 3:4-6
 - What are all under in relation to God? See Romans 1:18 & John 3:36.
 3. Because of this, what does God call people to do?
 - Romans 6:15-16
 - Acts 17:30

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1. The modern tendency to ask people to respond to the gospel by opening your heart and letting Jesus in, or let Jesus come in and cleanse you from your sin, will leave a person completely open to every possible misunderstanding.

a. What was Paul rejoicing in as seen in 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10? (The only way they could have known this truth was that Paul preached this to them)

b. What was Paul's message in Acts 20:21?

2. Have you noticed in the Bible how often we are called upon to respond to Jesus as Lord (who will save us), but never as Savior *without* Lord?

Luke 2:11 –

Luke 23:42 –

Acts 16:31 –

Romans 10:9 –

Colossians 2:6 –

For whom is the Gospel Intended? (Rom. 1:1-5)

1. In verse 5, this gospel of God is intended for whom?

“Since there is no one who is outside Christ’s authority, then all must be told.”

2. What implication does the above statement have:

a. Yourself:

b. Your Family:

c. Your Neighbors:

d. Your Co-Workers:

e. Your City:

f. In Every Place all Over the World:

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The true Christian response to the gospel is faith in the Lord Jesus which issues in obedience (repentance)

It is unhelpful to think about the work of Jesus apart from the person of Jesus.

3. The death of Jesus and the defeat of Satan cannot be disconnected. Note what the following verses say about Jesus death:

a. Matthew 20:28 –

b. Matthew 26:28 –

c. John 1:29 –

d. Luke 11:22 –

“It is a consequence of his sin-bearing death and resurrection that Jesus is able to say, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” (Matthew 28:18)

CHAPTER TWO

The Gospel and the Kingdom of God

“To understand the gospel clearly is the real key to understanding evangelism. If a person is uncertain about the gospel, then he will not be able to engage in evangelism with any confidence.”

Jesus Theme: The Kingdom of God

1. What did Jesus call the good news in Mark 1:15 and in Luke 4:43?

2. What does Matthew 6:33 say is to be the highest priority of a person?

3. In Luke 11:15 some accused Jesus of casting out demons by the power of the devil. In verse 20, what does Jesus say about the kingdom and his work?

“In the ministry of Jesus, the proclaiming of the kingdom of God in word and action was the same as proclaiming the gospel. To recognize him as King was to recognize the gospel. To believe in him as King was to inherit eternal life.” (Luke 23:42-43)

Paul’s Theme: the kingdom of God

1. In Acts 20:25, how did Paul summarize his teaching and preaching ministry with the church at Ephesus?
2. So then, proclaiming the kingdom in Acts 20:25 is the same as what, in Acts 20:21?
3. In Luke’s mind (the author of Acts), the gospel Paul preached was the same gospel Jesus preached. See Acts 28:23; 28:30-31. How do these verses show that to be true?

In Jesus’ teaching there is an indispensable connection between the establishing of his kingly rule, and the defeat of Satan which is brought about by his death and resurrection.

1. In Luke 11:14-23, Jesus is accused of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebul (a name for Satan). In verses 21 & 22, what does Jesus claim that He is actually doing to Satan, rather than what these people were claiming?
2. The ultimate victory Jesus saw, was to be accomplished through His death. Read John 12:21-33. What event of Jesus defeats Satan, the ruler of this world?

“Let us be done with the truncated gospel which presents only part of the true person and work of Jesus. Praise God He is both Savior and Lord. He is able to effect a permanent salvation for us.”

3. If we only preach and witness that Jesus is Savior without being Lord, what error may that produce in someone who claims to believe?

4. If we only preach and witness that Jesus is Lord while neglecting His saving work, what error may that produce in someone who claims to believe?

5. How did Paul put both truths together in Romans 10:9?

Paul’s teaching: the death of Jesus and His Lordship

1. How does Paul describe what Jesus did in His death in Colossians 2:13-15?

2. What does the author of Hebrews say happened to the devil because of the death of Jesus? See Hebrews 2:14,15

Savior and Lord: not one without the other

“It is not possible to accept Jesus as Savior and not as Lord since He saved us by being Lord.”

1. What two things about Jesus do you see in Matthew 1:1 and Matthew 1:21?

2. Matthew 16:16 declares Jesus to be the anointed One (The King). What does verse 21 say the King will do?

3. How did Luke tie King and Savior together in Luke 2:10-11?

4. What difference do you see in the people's response in John 1:11, and John 1:12? Notice the emphasis is on receiving Him, all of Him – He cannot be separated!

5. "To receive Jesus means to recognize Him to be the Word (John 1:1,14) and to act accordingly. It is another way of speaking about repentance, and it is important when using John's Gospel in evangelism to remember that he does not use the word 'repentance' at all."

But note that when John uses the word 'believe', and 'obey', they are often used as synonyms.

-How does John 3:36 show this truth?

"It is not possible to believe and not obey, or to obey and not believe."

The Gospel: good for all times?

The message of the Lordship of Christ through His sin-bearing death and resurrection is a message appropriate for believers and non-believers.

a. Believer: When a believer hears the gospel that Jesus is Lord they are encouraged to continue in repentance and faith since their obedience is not perfect in this life. The believer will always be called to renewed commitment.

b. Unbeliever: When an unbeliever hears the gospel that Jesus is Lord, that too is a call to a life of repentance and faith.

1. How does Colossians 2:6 show that there is not a two-stage coming to Christ such as receiving Him as Savior and then later acknowledge Him as Lord?

2. What was Paul's message about Jesus in 2 Corinthians 4:5?

3. What did Paul go about preaching in Acts 20:25?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-22

a. What is the overall approach to Paul's life related to the lost?

b. How would the word "flexible" fit in to Paul's life philosophy in reaching the lost?

c. When being flexible, what areas cannot be violated in attempts to reach the lost?

3. In discussing the hot-bed issue of eating meat offered to idols and Christian liberty, Paul stresses the importance of putting others first, even if it means denying our Christian liberty. Read 1 Corinthians 10:32,33. What was Paul's motivation for living in this way toward all people?

CHAPTER THREE

Who Should do the Work of Evangelism?

One might easily think that since the Great Commission was given to the Apostles (Matthew 28:18-20), and evangelists are given as a gift to the church (Ephesians 4:11), then the work of evangelism should only be done by the "professionals". This lesson will examine that thought and show that all followers of Christ are to be evangelizing the lost.

Just the Apostles?



Memorize Matthew 28:18,19

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...

1. What promise is given these disciples in Matthew 28:20? Since none of the 11 disciples lived until the end of the age, what does that tell you about the directive in 18, 19 and the promise in verse 20?

2. In Luke 24:33 the group is described as “the eleven and those with them.”

What announcement did Christ say to them when He appeared to them? See Luke 24:46-48

Therefore, the witnesses to these things would involve who?

3. Read John 14:9-12.

Who will be doing the same works as Jesus and even more?

The greater work described here is not physical miracles but rather the witnessing of the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ to the world. After the cross, the revelation of the Father through the message of Jesus is even greater.

4. Who was spreading the Gospel in Acts 8:1-4

Just the Evangelists?

Evangelists are only mentioned three times in the New Testament

Ephesians 4:11 - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the *evangelists*, the shepherds and teachers.

Acts 21:8 - On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the *evangelist*, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.

2 Timothy 4:5 - As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an *evangelist*, fulfill your ministry.

That there were people in the NT who were known as ‘evangelists’ by no means excludes all Christians from having a role to play in the activity of evangelizing.

The Bible and Personal Evangelism

1. Read 1 Corinthians 14:23-25. As believers conduct a church service, what does this passage teach concerning who should be kept in mind as the service or meeting is being conducted?

2. In addressing the divisions in the church at Corinth, Paul informs them of an important truth to grasp. Read 1 Corinthians 3:4-9. What principle expressed here encourages us to worship God and not men, and also to be faithful in whatever place in the body He has placed us?

3. The church is made up of all kinds of different people and personalities. As you examine your personality and gifts, where do you see yourself fitting in the ministry of evangelism? What can you do with how God made you, and where do you need to grow to use your gifts in sharing the Gospel?

4. Some may say that only applied to the Apostle Paul. However, what principle do we learn from 1 Corinthians 11:1?

This attitude of life which 'seeks and saves the lost' is to be the attitude of all Christians. It is simply love, and it is evangelistic in its thrust.

5. How does Jesus show this self-sacrificing purpose in the following verses?

a. 2 Corinthians 8:9 -

b. Matthew 9:36 –

6. What do the following verses highlight concerning the telling of the Gospel?

a. Acts 4:31 –

b. Philippians 1:14 –

c. 1 Peter 2:9-10 -

d. 1 Peter 2:11-12 -

e. Matthew 5:16 –

When our good works shine before men, and we do not speak the gospel and explain the source of our good works, the praise for those good works is directed to us and we are glorified rather than God.

7. Suffering and persecution may be a result of telling the gospel. What are Peter's instructions in 1 Peter 3:14-16?

Part of the Team

We look for opportunities to tell people about Jesus because we love them, and because the gospel is so good.

1. The gospel message will never change but the way we go about being involved in evangelism will be different for different people.

a. Describe what makes a good sports team and the goal of that team.

b. How does the church body reflect the sports team?

3. The seriousness of life

What happens in the end?

1. God has graciously warned humanity of the coming judgment. He will not let rebellion against Christ's rule continue indefinitely and because of that He commands all people everywhere to repent. What do the following verses say concerning this?

a. Hebrews 9:27 –

b. Acts 17:30,31 –

c. John 5:22 –

d. Matthew 10:28 –

e. John 3:36 –

f. 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

CHAPTER FOUR

Why Should We Bother?

“I always thought that there was something wrong with me because I found evangelism so difficult—especially on a one-to-one basis. I thought that other Christians found it easy, and I was hardly ever brave enough to admit how I really felt. It was years before I came to understand that we all find evangelism hard.”

God does want us to be actively engaged in this work. This lesson will discuss five reasons to encourage us of God's desire for us to tell His gospel.

1. The purpose of the world in which we live

1. Read Ephesians 1:9-10. What is God's ultimate purpose for His creation related to Jesus Christ?

2. Read Philippians 2:10-11. What will everything in God's creation, in one way or another, acknowledge, according to God's purpose?

Since God has disclosed His purpose for the world, the Christians' aim should exactly coincide with God's.

2. The Character of God

God longs for men and women to turn back to Him in repentance. What do the following verses say to confirm that truth?

1. Ezekiel 33:11 –

2. Luke 19:41-44 –

3. 2 Peter 3:8-9 –

4. Matthew 9:36-38 –

God's concern of love resulted in action. It was not passive.

5. What does 1 John 4:9 say about God's love? Is it action or passive?

6. What does Galatians 2:20 Jesus did because He loved us?

Our concern cannot be real if it remains passive. It must result in action.

7. Ponder Paul's statement in Romans 9:2-4. What stirs in your heart as you read this statement?

Most of us need a new work of the Holy Spirit within us to soften our hard hearts and cause us to grow more and more like Jesus in this respect.

Why not pray that He will do that for you right now?

4. The nature of the gospel

There is better news to be told than that of judgment. God has intervened and there is a gospel for sinful people under judgment.



Memorize John 3:36

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal Life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

1. The gospel is powerful

-Romans 1:16, 17 states that the gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

-We would not doubt that statement in our theology but do we doubt it in practice? Do we sometimes not share the gospel because we are afraid that nothing will happen? Have we excluded some people because we simply don't believe the power is available to save them? If it changed you, why can't it change others? Spend time in your group discussing these thoughts.

2. The gospel is right. “For in it the righteousness of God is revealed” –Rom. 1:17a

God is able to treat us as if we were not sinful, although we are. He remains perfectly just and righteous Himself in doing so!

He does this through the death of His Son – “the Just for the unjust.”

It is in the gospel that we see God’s righteousness revealed and imputed to those who believe.

That’s worth telling.

3. The gospel is good news to those who will accept it.

-What kind of news did the angel announce to the Shepherds? (Luke 2:10-11)

-Why is this such Good news?

5. The purpose of humanity

-The purpose of humanity is concern for God’s glory.

-What burdened Paul’s heart in Acts 17:16?

-There was much worship and religion, what was missing?

-What did Paul preach to these people who had given God’s glory to idols? See Acts 17:17-20

-How distressed are you when you see the idolatry of those living around you?

-Praying “Hallowed by Thy Name”, is really a prayer for evangelism. What is the only way unbelievers can accomplish that goal of worshipping God and giving Him glory?”

Who Does What? God's Work and Ours

The work of evangelism is a work which God and people do together. We are called God's fellow workers when we engage in it.

1 Corinthians 3:9 - For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

2 Corinthians 6:1 - Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

However, we do not do the same work. We need to be clear what is God's role, and what is our role in this work, so that we do not become confused.

God and His world

The Bible's worldview is that God is Sovereign Lord and ruler over His universe.

It also shows that humanity was created in the image of God. (Genesis 1:26)

Illustrations of God and man associated together without being diminished:

a. The incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ. What do we see in the incarnation? (Philippians 2:5-9)

b. In the writing of Scripture. What do we see in the writing of Scripture? (Acts 4:25; 2 Peter 1:21)

God's part and humanity's part

Because of this relationship, any action we engage in can at any given moment be described from God's point of view or from a person's point of view.

1. How is the above statement shown to be true in Exodus 8:15 and Exodus 10:27?

2. How is this relationship between God and man seen between God and Titus in 2 Corinthians 8:16-17?

3. When people come to Christ, how is this relationship between God and man seen in Acts 13:48?

Humanity has been given dominion over the world (Genesis 1:26) and is called upon by God to exercise authority over the creation (Psalm 8)

This authority is not an independent one, but is to be exercised under God's rule.

1. In Genesis 3:4, what was proposed by Satan?

2. According to Genesis 3:19, were they able to act independently in authority over God?

According to God's authority and plan, what occurred after they sinned?

3. Read Colossians 1:17. According to this verse, is the following statement true or false? "*Believers and unbelievers alike are dependent upon God for life and exercise their choices within the mind of God.*"

(This does not mean that unbelievers recognize this fact, however it remains a fact whether recognized or not.)

Humans, responsible agents

God's power and rule over his creation does not obliterate people's will.

God has made us responsible beings. We have real wills. We make choices and are responsible for them.

1. How does Matthew 11:21-22 show that people are held responsible for their actions and they are to blame?

The fact that they are responsible for their response does not make God less sovereign, nor does it diminish God's control over His world any more than God's control over the world diminished humanity's responsibility for its actions.

This is difficult to understand because the relationship is described but not explained.

The interaction between God and humanity is unique. It will always raise a question, '*Can God be truly God if humans are truly human?*' Does not one, in some way, cancel the other? The answer is no.

It is not that humanity does not have any choice at all; we exercise our will and do exactly what we want. Yet without God changing us we never want what we ought.

2. What do the following verses teach about the need to be changed by God from within before a person can say “yes” to God through the gospel?

a. John 6:44

b. John 1:13

c. John 3:3,8

d. 2 Corinthians 4:6

e. Ephesians 1:3-6

f. John 16:8-11

God initiates the gospel

That God and humanity operate together in evangelism is a fact, but it is God who takes the initiative.

1. God is the Lord of creation (Job 38-40), the Lord of history (Isaiah 41-45), the Lord over humanity (Acts 13:48), and the Lord of _____ (Matthew 9:38).

2. How does 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 show that God initiates the gospel?



Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:18

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation

God initiates evangelism

1. How does Matthew 28:18-20 show that God initiates evangelism in His world?

2. How does Luke 24:44-48 show that God initiates evangelism in His world?

3. How does 2 Corinthians 5:20 show that God initiates evangelism in his world?

4. How does Acts 13:1-3 show that God directs specific acts of evangelism? What did they report after this missionary journey in Acts 14:27?

God initiates response

Sinful people left to themselves are unable to turn back to God. People need God to change them.

1. Note what the following verses teach about the natural condition of lost man.

a. 2 Corinthians 4:4-6

b. Luke 19:10

c. Ephesians 2:4-5

d. Romans 5:6

e. 2 Corinthians 5:20

Not one without the other

There are some people who try to make a part response to the gospel.

1. They seem to have exercised faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins but there has been no accompanying change in behavior, and no real repentance. There may be a real desire to go to heaven but the idea that God should rule their lives is completely foreign to them. They want the benefit of Jesus' death without the accompanying fellowship with Him. There can be no faith in the Lord Jesus without repentance towards God.

(Note: This does not mean that when a person repents that they are perfect. Spiritual growth is still a necessity. However, the heart of genuine faith will produce change)

2. There are also those who effect a real reformation in life, thinking that such a change is repentance, but who never trust the Lord Jesus for forgiveness. They genuinely seek to obey God and live under His authority, and believe that by doing so they will earn God's approval. This error also shows that there has been no genuine regeneration. There can be no repentance towards God without faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Such an attitude would render the death of the Lord Jesus quite unnecessary.

(Note: The attempt to work one's way to satisfy the wrath of God for sin is an absolute impossibility no matter how sincere the person may be.)

g. John 15:16

h. Acts 16:14

i. Titus 3:4-7

Humanity's part – a genuine response

*The evidence that the new birth
has taken place is a proper
response to God and the gospel.*

The response-repentance and faith

1. What response was Paul aiming for in his preaching? See Acts 20:21

Repentance is exercised when a person comes to terms with God as God. They recognize they have rebelled against God and deserve God's anger. They turn from this position to one of submission. They acknowledge Jesus as their Lord and seek to live under His authority. Repentance is more than feeling sorry; it involves a complete change of attitude towards God, and the Lord Jesus.

2. Note how the following verses describe repentance in different ways:

a. 1 Thessalonians 1:9

b. John 20:28

c. Mark 10:21

d. Romans 1:5

e. Luke 14:26-27

The important thing about faith in the Bible, is not so much the act of believing as it is the person in whom we believe.

3. What does God say about His Son in the following verses?

a. Philippians 2:9-11

b. 1 John 2:1-2

c. Matthew 20:28

d. John 14:6

e. Matthew 1:21 & Luke 2:11,32

So to exercise faith in the Lord Jesus is to believe that He is who He is and to believe that He has done what He has done. That is, I believe what God says about Jesus.

4. What is the only correct answer to the question, “If God were to say to you, ‘Is there any reason why I should let you into heaven, what would you say?’

Jesus, the perfect example

-Read Matthew 11:20-24

-In their midst was the best of communicators and the finest miracle worker, yet there was no positive response.

1. According to Jesus response, whose fault was it? Who did Jesus hold responsible for their actions?

2. No doubt this rejection caused Jesus much sorrow and distress but He was sustained by the sovereign work of God in evangelism. What was Jesus response to this rejection in Matthew 11:25-26?

3. Read Matthew 11:28. Did Jesus quit just because many rejected Him?

This view of God's sovereignty in evangelism does not lead to laziness and lack of real zeal on our part. Rather it increases our zeal to faithfulness

'How' is not 'that'

That God calls men and women to Himself is a fact

How God does it is through our preaching of the gospel and our prayers

1. What does Romans 10:14-17 & 1 Corinthians 1:21 say about how God works to advance His gospel?

2. What does Colossians 4:3-4 say about how God works to advance His gospel?

3. If faith comes by the Word of God, what must we share with others and what and who must we trust to do the work of regeneration?

4. Since prayer is an essential part of evangelism, what must we be praying for? (See again Colossians 4:3,4 & 2 Corinthians 4:6)

Since evangelism is a spiritual activity, it must be approached spiritually. It is never a matter of learning a technique nor is it just a matter of preaching the gospel.

Faithfulness is what matters

To see both God's work and ours in proper perspective should relieve us of the pressure to 'get results' in terms of the number of people converted, and as such should free us to get on and do the work of evangelism more and more.

1. According to 1 Corinthians 4:2, our effectiveness must never be gauged on how many people respond, but rather on what?

2. The danger to water down the message of the cross and the offense of the cross and wrath of God on sinners is a great one for many. The gospel is often substituted for promises of a better marriage, more money, better physical health, and an abundance of material blessings.

What did Paul say about this in 2 Corinthians 4:2?

3. Believers and followers of Christ who desire to be faithful have a great enemy against them. Who is this enemy and what has he done and what is he doing? See 2 Corinthians 4:4

4. With the temptation to make the gospel "easy", or to cower down against such an enemy, what did Paul say his resolve was? See 2 Corinthians 4:5

a. Joseph –

Why Doesn't God Choose Everyone

Salvation is a work which God does, and man's positive response to the gospel depends on it (John 6:35-44). We know that God loves the world (John 3:16) and is broken when He is rejected (Luke 13: 34). Given this truth, why doesn't God choose everyone?

Why is there an apparent contradiction between God's character and God's unfolding plan for the world?

b. The death of Jesus –

An unexplained mystery

1. What kind of a world was created by God as seen in Genesis 1:31?
2. In this very good world, who shows up without any explanation? See Genesis 3:1
3. What is the serpent's goal and desire? See Genesis 3:4-5

It is here that we have the unexplained mystery. Why did God allow into His plan that which is obviously against His character?

4. Before humanity rebels against God, there has been warfare in the spirit world. “2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6 tell us that some angels rebelled against God and became hostile opponents to his Word. Their sin seems to have been pride, a refusal to accept their assigned place. It is also possible that Isaiah 14:12-15 is a reference to the fall of Satan”
Wayne Grudem

In this battle between God and Satan, what does God call humans to do?

-Acts 17:30

-Matthew 3:2

We do not know why God allowed this to take place but we do know that He allowed it. It happened within His control. It didn't overtake Him and catch Him by surprise.

Why does God appear to do (His plan) what is unlike Himself (His character)? The Bible does not resolve this problem; consequently we cannot know the reason.

However, we do know that all is done for His glory and all that He does is right and just.

5. If the Bible presents this apparent contradiction or a truth that we cannot fully understand, what is the danger we may fall too?

God uses good and evil

God uses both repentant people and good events, and sinful people and unhappy events, to bring His plans to completion.

1. How is this seen in Job 1:12 & 2:6 in regard to Satan?

2. How does the life of Joseph (Genesis 37-50) and Acts 2:22-24 show that sin is not less sinful because it is used by God to fulfill His purposes and that it does not excuse the person who does the action as if he was not responsible? List some areas on the following page to show the actions of the evil that was done and God's control over them.

How should we react?

What effect should this have on our evangelism?

*It should cause us to be like God
and long that all people will be
saved.*

1. We should pray that God will open the ‘eyes’ of those we speak to.
2. We should be eager to preach the gospel to people because we know this is the way God calls people to Himself.
3. We should trust God when we are confronted with this mystery and not attribute wrong motives to Him.

*God is not mocking us when He
calls on “all men everywhere to
repent.” (Acts 17:30)*

-If this is the heart of God, “for all men everywhere to repent”, should our limited ability to answer every question alter or diminish our heart to be like God’s?

d. Mercy –

e. Justice –

2. What would you say to someone who said that God’s elective purpose is not fair?

3. What does Romans 9:9-13 tell us about God’s electing purpose? What do we know it is not based on?

4. What does Romans 3:12 say about all people?

5. Is God’s choice wrong, simply because we as humans cannot work out the basis on which it was made? Why or why not?

6. What character of God is highlighted in Romans 9:19-24 in God’s electing purpose?

*Some refer to the verses in 2 Peter 3:8-10 to refer to the elect only, which according to the context is correct; however, the heart of God, or the character of God is also seen in these verses, as well as in many more verses, for all mankind to repent.

It is possible to discriminate and act rightly

It is a mystery to us as to why God doesn't choose everyone.

Take a few moments now in your group, or on your own, and consider your struggles with this mystery. Share them with your group.

1. When it comes to God's elective purpose we must look at the person and character of God and never bring God down to our level of thinking, understanding, and holiness. What do the following attributes or characteristics of God say about His elective choices?

a. Holiness –

b. Righteousness –

c. Love –

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When people are invited to give a testimony at an evangelistic rally, what kind of people are normally sought out? Those that are seen as “great” in the world’s eyes are usually sought out such as sports figures, actors, singers, etc... The run of the mill ordinary Christian is often unimpressive to the world.

-What does 1 Corinthians 1:26-32 say about this?

The church which is called into being by the gospel bears the marks of the gospel.

Opposition is irrational

- 1. What did Jesus warn His disciples just before he died? See John 15:18,20, 24-25

- 2. The Jews had every reason to believe and recognize Jesus as their Messiah yet He was hated without cause. What can His disciples expect as well? (See verses in question 1)

Why is Evangelism Always so Hard?

For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. Mark 8:38

⁸Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.

2 Timothy 1:8-9

- 1. If a person is tempted toward any sin, what should they do? If we are tempted with being ashamed of the gospel at times, what should we do with that temptation?

-We are always under pressure to be ashamed of the gospel and the Bible tells us how to resist such temptation.

The gospel is divisive

1. Read Matthew 10:34-36. What will be the results when someone repents and believes the gospel according to Jesus' words?

The gospel appears weak and foolish

1. What does 1 Corinthians 1:18 inform us on how the perishing view the message of the cross?

2. If the perishing believe the gospel is foolish, what else will they think are fools?

3. What does 1 Corinthians 1:23 say the gospel is to the Gentile and to the Jew?

a. Why would a Jew think this way?

b. Why would a Gentile think this way?

From an ordinary point of view the gospel will always appear feeble and unimpressive, and any one of the following often helps people view it in this way:

a. The incarnation

-If you had been in Bethlehem when Jesus was born, would you have been impressed with the event?

b. A dying God?

-In Matthew 20:24, two of the disciples desire a high position in Jesus' kingdom. Jesus informs them that He did not come for what? Few are impressed with a God who served and died.
-Did Jesus look like a King on the cross?

c. The church

-Who, driving by small churches full of ordinary people, would ever think that they have the power to change the world and the power to make known God's wisdom to "the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms?" (Eph. 3:10). Do most churches impress the world?

4. Know what to say

-Skill in knowing what to say and how to say it is a great help in overcoming fear. The remainder of this study will concentrate on practical ways to evangelize and to train others.

3. What does Paul tell believers to expect in 2 Timothy 3:12?

4. Would you say most people want to be liked and accepted? How does this tempt us to be ashamed of the gospel?

5. Do you think it is popular to engage in regular evangelism and expect to be popular? Why or why not?

Popularity must not be elevated to a virtue or a prerequisite for effective evangelism.

6. How does meeting in a group with other Christians who might be struggling with being ashamed help one another?

The gospel works – no need to be ashamed

1. What is in Paul's heart in Romans 1:15?
2. Why is Paul not ashamed of the gospel? See Romans 1:16

It is not my ability to persuade people in the end which changes them, but God.

The gospel is right – no need to be ashamed

1. What does Romans 1:16 say the gospel displays?
2. How can God act rightly and say that I am acceptable to Him when I am sinful and unacceptable to Him? (1 John 2:1,2)

Some practical helps for evangelists

1. Pray for boldness

-Acts 4:29 - And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,

-Ephesians 6:18-20 - ¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

2. Seek fellowship support

-Ask your Christian friends to pray for you.

-Colossians 4:2 - Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

3. Work with others

-It is a personal responsibility, but it often helps to work with someone else. You can give each other courage and support.

c. What can be a danger in having so many church activities?

d. What can be an advantage of joining a non-church group?

Often we have been so busy at church activities that we have allowed no time to be with people.

Person to Person Evangelism

Be Prepared

Many think that if something happens with spontaneity that it is more likely to be of the Holy Spirit than that which is carefully planned. This is nonsense. Preparation for personal evangelism should be done in three areas.

1. Preparation of a godly life

If the gospel has not 'grabbed' me, then there is no reason why I should expect it will 'grab' others.

a. How is the above statement true?

b. Whose character are we to reflect? See Romans 8:29

c. What has called his elect to be? See Ephesians 1:4

d. According to Ephesians 2:10 what are God's people created for? See also Titus 3:8.

2. Prepare to know the gospel and explain it

No one who feels that he doesn't know what to say will ever try to speak about Jesus

a. How is the above statement true?

b. When talking to another person and sharing the gospel, what does a clear understanding of the gospel enable you to do as related to what the other person might be saying to you?

3. Be prepared to answer questions

Here is a list of the most frequently asked questions by non-believers.

- “How do you know God exists?”
- “Are the New Testament documents reliable?”
- “Why does God allow suffering/ wars, etc.?”
- “What about those who have never heard the gospel?”
- “Aren't all religions just different ways to get back to God?”
- “Do you have to go to church to be a Christian?”
- “Isn't faith psychological?”
- “Aren't all good people Christians?”

*These questions will be addressed later in our study so that we will be able to answer them biblically and in a way that brings glory to God.

a. Since person to person evangelism is done with people, it stands to reason that we need to be where _____ are.

b. How does being in a sufficiently close relationship with people enable us to speak more freely?

d. Someone brings up the latest headline in the news which might include a tragedy, something to fear, or something they find troubling?

Remember you do not have to say everything at once. You will get other opportunities and you are not the only Christian they will meet.

Example 1

Putting Out the Garbage Bin

A neighbor pointed out that vandals had chopped down several shrubs in the park next to the houses. He was very angry about it.

Him: "What a hopeless action that is".

Me: "We had better get used to it, I suspect it will get worse, not better."

Him: "That's a fairly pessimistic view."

Me: "It's inevitable I think."

Him: "It's crazy behavior."

Me: "When you say goodbye to God, it's difficult to teach people not to give full expression to anything they want to do."

Him: "I don't believe in God and I don't chop down trees."

Me: "Why shouldn't the person who did it fo it if he feels like it.?"

Start Speaking

If we are to engage in personal evangelism we have to learn to be conversationalists.

-Telling someone about Jesus is done in the context of a conversation which has already started and also in the context of a relationship which is friendly.

We need to learn to initiate conversation.

1. As you examine your own personality and natural tendencies, how would you describe yourself as being a conversationalist?

a. With people you know:

b. With people you do not know:

2. How do we know if people want us to speak with them... or if they are not interested in conversing at all?

3. What spiritual activity should you do when you are in a potential opportunity for a conversation?

Helpful Illustration:

“I remember the day that I picked up two hitchhikers. One in the morning and one later in the day. I got into friendly and enjoyable conversation with both and I was able to share the gospel with one. With the other it didn’t seem appropriate to do so within any of the things we discussed. I was willing to share the gospel with both. I had prayed for both men as they got in and during the conversation. With one it seemed the most natural thing to do. With the other, every time I vaguely moved towards saying something Christian the conversation took a different turn. Can I trust the sovereign God in both situations? I can, and in both cases I did. Rejoicing that both opportunities had come my way, I committed both situations to God in prayer. I sought to be obedient to God on both occasions and I had treated both men like persons and not things.”

The weather or the gospel?

We need to give serious thought to how to get around to Christian truths. It is possible to talk about the weather and football indefinitely but never get around to any matters of substance, and if we are ever going to do so again we will have to take the initiative.

1. In what ways can you take the following statements and answer them in a way that will introduce the gospel and spiritual truths and initiate the gospel conversation?
 - a. “I saw your pastor on TV last night.”
 - b. The man next to you at work tells you his wife has cancer.
 - c. “What sort of weekend did you have?”

3. Remember God is well able to keep the conversation going for as long as we have everything to say which he wants us to say on that occasion.

4. Remember we may be the first link in a chain of events which will lead that person to Christ. Sometimes we may be the middle link and sometimes we may be the last link when God gives life and light to the one you are speaking to.

Something to read

It can be helpful to have a tract to give away when it seems appropriate after a conversation.

Start now

The hardest part in all evangelism is starting

We will do almost anything except begin. We will do another training course, read another book, and pray about it.

The best way to learn is to do it.

Him: "Because the rest of us can't enjoy them."

Me: "But why should he worry about us?"

Him: "Because that is how we ought to live."

Me: "Who says so? I agree with you, but I do so because God says so. But if it is just a matter of your opinion plus my opinion verses the vandal's opinion, I cannot see why ours is right and his is wrong. Only God is able to make statements about what is ultimately right and wrong."

From here the conversation moved into the general area of the existence of God and to the person of the Lord Jesus. Much more profitable that the park and the vandals!

Example 2

Political Upheaval in Australia

I was giving a lift to a university undergraduate who was also a scientist. Naturally, we spoke about the government and the elections.

Me: "It is very difficult in the western world, at present, to be a leader."

Him: "Do you think it is more difficult not than before?"

Me: "Much! In the past we believed in absolutes and so we agreed on what was right and wrong. Now a leader makes a statement on one issue and people flock to him. He makes another statement and they all rush away to another leader. We have lost our 'body of truth' and do not seem to know how to arrive at truth."

Him: "I don't believe that sort of truth exists. I don't think there are absolutes."

Me: "Surely that statement is an absolute."

Him: “Well, I believe that is the only absolute.”

Me: “Where did you get it from?”

Him: “It’s what I live by”

Me: “Surely it is God’s role to make up absolutes.”

We had a long and fruitful conversation about the existence of God and the Lord Jesus

A careful answer

1. Read Colossians 4:5-6. How is what is said in these verses support the fact that we are to engage unbelievers in conversation and also how we are to engage them?

2. Often times we are put in situations where we immediately think, “What will I say”? In Colossians 4:3, why do you think Paul asked for prayer related to evangelism?

3. What should we immediately do when we are put by God in those situations of not knowing exactly what to say?

Like an oyster

On speech day at a school the last speaker spoke after a very long list of speakers. He spoke these words, “I have always thought the oyster had a great deal going for it, It always knows when to shut up.” With that he sat down! The applause was sustained and deafening.

If the hardest part in personal evangelism is getting around to saying something Christian, the next most difficult aspect is to know when to stop.

We must remember that we are in a conversation, not a monologue.

Guidelines:

1. At all times during the conversation we should be seeking to be sensitive to the signs which show when the other person no longer wishes to continue the discussion.

2. If you sense the person is done or even if you are not sure, you may say something like this, “We might be able to speak about this some other time.”

When the method and the message are at strong variance, not only does the behavior of the person make it difficult for people to hear the message, but other Christians are embarrassed and are also discouraged from speaking about their own Christian faith.

-How does Paul's testimony in 2 Corinthians 4:2,5 show that the godly living is essential to proclaiming the message of the gospel?

What leads to godliness?

1. Studying the Bible

a. According to John 14:15, how should the Bible be studied?

b. According to Psalm 1:2, how should the Bible be studied?

Training Yourself and Others

This chapter is presented in seven sections, each dealing with some aspect of training yourself or others to be effective in evangelism.

1. A model to follow-general principles
2. Growth in Christian living
3. Instruction in an easily memorized gospel outline
4. How to answer questions related to the gospel or life
5. Choosing suitable methods
6. Finding special methods for individuals
7. Instruction on nurture groups

1. A model to follow

-Instruction is an absolute necessity and cannot be bypassed, but demonstration is also an aspect of evangelism that can be very beneficial.

-Being told how to do something is important, but being shown how to do something by observing it in action is a vital part of learning.

-Actually going with someone, such as a door to door call, or other situations, will give you an opportunity to watch, listen, and observe. After the visit, both can discuss what they encountered, what was said, what questions were asked, how they could have done better, and so on.

The question we need to answer is this: “Am I willing to go with someone to observe and learn and be trained in order to be better equipped to share the gospel and then eventually help and train others.”

2. Training in Christian Growth

Evangelism is never a matter of simply learning the right techniques.

Evangelism is a part of the Christian life and it should flow from the life which is given over to God and in service to Him.

Whether we are training ourselves or training others, it must begin with godly living.

-In Matthew 4:19, what command precedes the phrase, “and I will make you fishers of men.”?

-Their response was immediate and total (Matt. 4:20-22), but what followed was the Sermon on the Mount with instruction on godly living. It was some time before they were sent out. So then, what was a vital part of their becoming “fishers of men”?

Why is stressing godly living so important?

1. Read Romans 8:29. What is God’s purpose for saving us?

If godliness is not the purpose of our life, how will one respond to our message if they know that what we are calling them to is not the aim of our life?

2. If godliness is not the aim of your life, you will engage in evangelistic methods which do not reflect the character of God.

Which method do you think reflects the character of God and also can be the most beneficial to the hearer?

a. A person who walks up and down a busy city block yelling out the gospel in an aggressive manner and having to get louder when the noise of the traffic increased.

b. A person who goes to that same busy city block and attempts to start up a friendly conversation with people on the block in order to share the gospel with them.

Give the reasons for your answer:

Outline number one

1. This is God's world. He made it and is in charge of it. God has declared His Son, Jesus to be in charge of His world. We know this because God brought Jesus back to life again after He was dead. Jesus has the right to run our lives. He is our rightful ruler.

2. Everyone is rebellious to the fact that Jesus should run their lives. They may express this in open hostility, or by passive indifference. In either case, the rebellion is real.

3. God calls on us to stop rebelling and to turn back and submit to Jesus as our rightful ruler.

4. If a person will not submit to Jesus, but continues to rebel, in the end they will be overthrown because Jesus is Ruler in God's world, and the rightful Ruler in each person's life.

5. If a person does stop rebelling and turns back to submit to Jesus as their Ruler, they are treated as if they had never rebelled. They are forgiven because of the death of Jesus on their behalf.

Non-technical terms

In this outline, technical terms such as sovereignty, sin, guilt, repentance, justification, propitiation, hell, etc. have been avoided.

One problem is that even when these words are in common usage, they rarely convey to people the meaning that they have in the Bible.

c. The Bible should be studied systematically.

You may try to read through the Bible once a year.

If we read four chapters a day we could read through the Old Testament once and the New Testament twice each year.

There are many daily Bible reading schedules available and can be found on the internet and usually are found in good study Bibles.

d. The Bible should be studied with others.

We can gain much listening to others as they share their insights with us and together we can encourage each other to obey God's Word.

e. The Bible should be studied humbly and prayerfully.

The Holy Spirit is the author of the Bible (2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16) and He is our teacher. Therefore, we need to come humbly to the Bible praying that the Holy Spirit will teach us how to understand it so that we may obey it

2. Prayer

a. What does Philippians 4:6 say our prayers should include?

b. What does 1 John 1:9 say our prayers should include?

c. What does 1 Timothy 2:1-2 & Ephesians 6:18 say should be included in our prayers?

d. What does Colossians 4:2-3 say should be included in our prayers?

What can be an advantage(s) of keeping a prayer diary or journal?

-If Bible study and prayer are so vital for godly living, what can we be certain of in regard to Satan and his desire for us?

3. *Fellowshipping with the church*

-What does Hebrews 10:24-25 encourage the church to do and why?

4. *Telling others*

The sharing of the gospel itself is a Christlike activity.

-What does Luke 19:10 say about this ministry of Jesus?

-Read Paul's instruction to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:7-8. What was Paul's concern for this young minister of the gospel?

3. **A gospel outline**

Christians need to learn a gospel outline which can be learned and reproduced with ease and skill.

This outline should:

- (a) Be able to be remembered easily
- (b) Be expressed in non-technical terms
- (c) Contain sufficient information to achieve a response
- (d) Be uncomplicated

5. God raised Jesus to life again as the ruler of the world. Jesus has conquered death, now gives new life, and will return to judge.

1 Peter 1:3 *“According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”*

6. We can live our way and reject the Ruler and try to run our own life which will result in being condemned by God facing death and judgment. We can trust God’s new way, submit to Jesus as our Ruler and rely on Jesus’ death and resurrection resulting in being forgiven by God and being given eternal life.

John 3:36 *“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”*

Outline number three

“The good news is that the one and only God, who is holy, made us into His image to know Him. But we sinned and cut ourselves off from Him. In His great love, God became a man in Jesus, lived a perfect life, and died on the cross, thus fulfilling the law Himself and taking on Himself the punishment for the sins of all those who would ever turn and trust in Him. He rose again from the dead, showing that God accepted Christ’s sacrifice and that God’s wrath against us had been exhausted. He now calls us to repent of our sins and to trust in Christ alone for our forgiveness. If we repent of our sins and trust in Christ, we are born again into a new life, an eternal life with God.”

(Mark Dever – The Gospel and Personal Evangelism)

Substituted phrases:

Sin - *Rebel against the right of Jesus to rule over you.*

Guilt – *All people have rebelled*

Repentance – *God calls on us to stop rebelling and to submit to Jesus*

Justification – *He is treated as if he had never rebelled*

Hell – *In the end he will be overthrown*

*Note: This is in no way an attempt to skirt around these vital truths in Scripture. It is a way of using the truth of Scripture in a way that can be easily understood by the listener. You are basically defining the word for the listener to avoid a misunderstanding that may occur from a wrong understanding of what a word means in their mind. Should the conversation develop, which hopefully it does, further explanation can be given, and questions answered.

A way to help you remember this gospel outline is to remember these key words and phrases in its progression. (Relate these back to the truth shared on the previous page)

1. God
2. People
3. God
4. What if a person won't?
5. What if a person does?

It is also crucial to be able to support what is conveyed in the outline with Scripture.

1. God – Genesis 1:1; Philipians 2:9,11
2. People – Romans 3:12; 1 John 3:4
3. God – Acts 17:30
4. What if a person won't? – 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9
5. What if a person does? – John 3:16

(These are but a few of the verses you could use. You may choose to use others)

It can also be helpful to have real life illustrations to go along with each point in the outline.

Example Illustration: (2nd point – *All people have rebelled against the right of Jesus to run their lives. Some people express it in open opposition, and others in passive indifference, but in either way it is an expression of a rebellion which is real.*)

“Suppose the two of us were in an army unit and we both received an order from a superior. One is openly critical of the order and disobeys it. The other just ignores it. Neither of us obeys, but we demonstrate our rebellion to authority in different ways. Rebellion to Jesus’ right to rule over us is similar; some are active in opposition others just ignore Him.”

Outline number two

(Each person will receive the booklet, Two Ways to Live: Know and share the gospel) Below is a basic outline from this booklet

1. God is the loving ruler of the world. He made the world. He made us rulers of the world under Him.
Revelation 4:11 - *“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”*
2. We all reject the ruler God – by trying to run life our own way without Him. But we fail to rule ourselves or society or the world.
Romans 3:10-12 *“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside.”*
3. God won't let us rebel forever. God's punishment for rebellion is death and judgment.
Hebrews 9:27 *“It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.”*
4. Because of His love, God sent His Son into the world: the God –Man Jesus Christ. Jesus always lived under God's rule. Yet by dying in our place He took our punishment and brought forgiveness.
1 Peter 3:18 *“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God.”*

5. Principles involved when choosing a method

Each of us must find a method which we can use with the gifts we have, given the opportunities which come our way.

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4. What to say when

Often people are inhibited about trying to evangelize in case they are asked questions for which they don't have the answers.

The following is a list of the most common questions asked by unbelievers:

1. How do you know God exists?
2. Can you trust the New Testament Documents?
3. Why does God allow suffering?
4. What happens to those who have never heard the gospel?
5. What about other religions?
6. Aren't all good people Christian?
7. Do you have to go to church to be a Christian?
8. Isn't faith only psychological?
9. Hasn't science disproved Christianity?

Before answering a question, ask these 'questions' of your answer.

1. Does it bring glory to God?
2. Does it lead to the Gospel?
3. Does it answer the question behind the question?

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1. *Does it bring glory to God?*

One of the most important aspects of bringing glory to God is to be sure that the answer is truth (Ephesians 4:25)

God is not glorified in us when we act in a way which is unlike God's character.

It is far better to walk away from a conversation having said, "I don't know", than to try to walk through the "quicksand" of half-truths.

Don't exaggerate your own spiritual experience or salvation testimony to try and make it look more spectacular. God's grace is spectacular and amazing for all He gives life to, no matter how their sin was played out. All, apart from Christ, are equally dead and in need of the same grace.

Another aspect of bringing glory to God is to be loving. The answers we give are not designed to show how smart we are or how clever we are but so that the other might have eternal life.

2. *Does it lead to the gospel?*

Will my answer lead the discussion toward the gospel or away from it?

3. *Does it answer the question beyond the question?*

Does this really answer the question that was asked?

People are never converted by our answers to their questions; they are converted only through the gospel (Romans 1:16). However, the truthful, loving answering of questions can make the person able to listen to the gospel.

Example of a question behind the question:

a. If they ask a question about the ultimate state of someone who has never heard about Jesus, they are asking for more than a doctrinal explanation. They may really be saying, "If those who have never heard about Jesus go to hell, then the whole show is completely unjust."

b. If they ask about getting to heaven by some other method than by faith in Christ, then so can I.

c. They may ask about innocent children suffering but what they do not tell you is that their child died last week – why the child and not us?

d. If you cannot detect a question behind the question, it may be wise to ask, "May I ask why that question is of interest to you?"

5. Aren't all good people Christian?

2. Can you trust the New Testament Documents?

6. Do you have to go to church to be a Christian?

3. Why does God allow suffering?

4. What happens to those who have never heard the gospel?

2. *Is the gospel truly preached?*

Great caution must be exercised in whatever method we use to gather unbelievers around us, to not fill the time with so much other activity, that there is no time for the gospel.

Example: A church decides to hold a gathering for husbands and invites a well-known Christian athlete or famous person and invites the city to come. The room is filled with unbelievers; the speaker shares some great truth and insights, but fails to preach the gospel.

Example: A young evangelist is well known for the great crowds that are flocking to his meetings. Churches in one town desire to bring this man in to preach at a special service. One minister suggests that they listen to the young man preach to be sure he is preaching the gospel. This minister is over-ruled because of the knowledge of the crowds and the people who were flocking forward after the service. The ministers didn't think it that important to be sure the gospel was the message of the young evangelist.

The number of people who respond is not the test that the gospel is preached.

Example: Unbelievers were scattered throughout the church's Thanksgiving Dinner, but the gospel was never preached.

7. Isn't faith only psychological?

8. Hasn't science disproved Christianity?

5. Principles involved when choosing a method

Each of us must find a method which we can use with the gifts we have, given the opportunities which come our way.

What does constitute a good evangelistic method?

1. *Are unbelievers present?*

Whether it is a home meeting, a personal conversation, at a mission somewhere in town, or a large crusade, the first question to ask is whether unbelievers and 'outsiders' will, in fact, be present.

Let's be done with the 'someone might walk in off the street' idea.

If the method we are using doesn't reach out to unbelievers, what we are doing is not evangelism

The effectiveness of all evangelistic methods changes from time to time, place to place and person to person. What works in one place may not work in another

3. Passing out Bibles or New Testaments in a neighborhood

4. Using your home for evangelism. The occasion for this includes many opportunities:

- Lunch, Dinner, Cook-Out
- Lunch after a church service
- Dinner during Holiday times
- Dessert and Coffee after some other church service, or activity.
- (The purpose of scheduling this after a church event is to open an opportunity to talk about what they heard)
- The possibilities of using your home for evangelism are many and not to be limited only to eating

What other ways can you use your home?

5. Going to a busy place such as the mall or a park or a river front with the purpose of sharing the gospel.

Using a series of questions, after asking them if they would like to participate, is a great way to find out where they are and to lead to the gospel.

3. *Can the preacher be understood?*

Illustration:

A church was located at a busy intersection and for months the church sign was used to advertise a Day Nursery run by the church. However, a month before Easter the sign was changed to read, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY".

a. Are unbelievers present at this busy intersection?

b. Is the gospel truly preached?

c. Can it be understood?

A believer in Christ would easily understand the great truth that the sign displayed, but what about a person who was not a follower of Christ?

We must express the gospel in a way that can be understood. Words that we are very familiar with may not be understood at all by the one we are talking with.

4. *Does the atmosphere encourage listening?*

We can be present with an unbeliever, preach the gospel and share it where it can be easily understood and still find our efforts less than successful.

-You might be in a coffee shop where the music is loud and the crowd noise is loud and distracting.

-Sometimes a person may feel “tricked” as they were invited to a home and not told that someone would speak and share their “religious views”. The listener is turned off.

-A church service can contain so much activity, even good activity, that little time is left for the preaching of the gospel, or people are weary to listen any longer.

-In a personal conversation we need to be sensitive enough to stop when the person does not want us to speak any more.

-Trying to witness to a mother with small children in her home who are constantly vying for her attention, getting into things, crying, fighting, and etc. can make it almost impossible to hold a meaningful conversation

6. **Finding a method for you**

We are all gifted in different ways with different personalities but in no way do our gifts and personality exempt us from the ministry of sharing the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our gifts and personalities can and should be used to shine the light of the gospel in the darkness.

Finding a method that best works for you can be very beneficial while at the same time growing in areas where you sense a weakness.

The following are suggestions for sharing the gospel. (The possibilities are limitless, but here are a few suggestions)

1. *Door-to door visiting* – It is always wise to go with another Christian. This may include direct speaking to others about the gospel, or leaving a gospel tract or a Bible, or an invitation to a church service.

2. *Specific house visiting*

This may include the elderly and shut-ins, and those in a nursing home.

You may serve this person(s) in practical ways, get to know them, all with the purpose of sharing the gospel.

This may also include parents who do not attend the church but their children do.

11. How do your religious beliefs influence the way you live?

- In every way
- In most things
- In some things
- Very little
- Not at all

12. Do you seek to tell your acquaintances about your religious beliefs?

- Never
- Seldom
- Sometimes
- Regularly

13. Do you feel that your religion is the only true religion?

- Yes
- No

14. Are you certain that if you died tonight you would achieve "salvation" in your religion?

- Yes
- Hope so
- No

15. If you stood before the Supreme Being and He asked you, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" what would you answer?

- Lived a good life
- Did my best
- Don't know
- I believe
- Other

16. Can I show you a pamphlet which may assist you in your religious journey?

- Yes
- No

1. What do you think is the greatest need in the world?

- Peace
- Love
- Other

2. What is the most important thing in your life?

- Family
- Friend
- Job/Money
- Religion
- Other

3. Where or to whom would you go if you had spiritual questions?

- Friends
- Parents
- Pastor/Priest
- Bible
- Other

4. What do you think of Jesus?

- Good Man
- Myth
- Son of God
- Other
- Don't Know

5. Do you think it is possible to know God personally?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

6. Have you come to the place in your spiritual life where you are certain that if you died tonight you would go to heaven?

- Yes
- Hope So
- No

7. If you stood before God and He asked you, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" what would you answer?

- Lived a good life
- Don't know
- I believe
- Jesus died for me
- Other

1. Are you the member of any religious group?

Yes

No

Used to be

Joining

2. What religious group is this? If not, were you brought up in the beliefs of a religious group?

Christian

Islam

Hindu

Individual

Other

3. Where you brought up in this religion? If not, skip.

Yes

No

4. At what period of your life did you become interested in this religion? If not, at what period did you become disinterested?

Childhood

Adolescence

Early adulthood

Middle life

Later life

5. Do you ever participate in religious services?

Yes

No

6. How often do you participate in religious services?

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

Annually

7. How far do you travel to these religious services?

1-5 miles

5-10 miles

10-20 miles

20 or more miles

8. If you had children, would you rear them in this religion?

Yes

No

9. To what religious writings do you adhere to, if any?

Bible

Koran

Torah

Other

10. How often do you refer to this religious book?

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

Annually

Write out your testimony

(You might practice on a separate sheet first)

6. Passing out gospel tracts

7. Passing out church brochures which contain a gospel tract.

8. Sharing your salvation testimony to an individual or in a church service. Others may have heard it before but unbeliever's present need to hear it.

There are countless ways to share your faith even though there is just one gospel message. Find the method that works best for you and begin. Also allow God to grow you in your boldness and courage when all types of opportunities arise.

7. Nurturing new converts

New converts need to be established in the Christian life, integrated into a church, and be equipped to lead people to Christ.

The following elements are important to nurture the new convert:

1. Studying the Bible (Systematic study of fundamental truths of God's word.)
2. Praying
3. Fellowship with other Christians
4. Witnessing

Much more in depth will be said on nurturing and discipling new converts in our next Community Group Study.

8. How was Christ's love seen in Matthew 9:36?

9. How is our reaction when we see the crowds?

10. How does Paul's heart as seen in Romans 10:1 & Romans 9:2-3 reveal the hardness of our hearts?

To grow like Jesus is to love people and to seek ways to bring the gospel to them.

Power for Evangelism

There is available for each of us all that we need to be obedient to God's call to share in His gospeling of the world

The Holy Spirit and the believer

1. What was Jesus promise to his disciples in Acts 1:8?

2. What did Jesus declare about a future promise in John 7:37-39 for all who believe?

3. What does the Holy Spirit do in the following verses?

-John 16:8-11 -

-John 3:5 & Titus 3:5 -

-2 Corinthians 3:18 -

-Galatians 5:22 -

-Romans 5:5 -

All believers have received the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:3), and we need to co-operate with Him and not to grieve Him or quench Him, as He creates in us love for God and love for people.

Love – a powerful force

1. What does John 3:16 say about how God views His world?
2. According to 1 John 4:16, what is a part of God's character?
3. What does 1 John 4:19 say about the reason people should love God?
4. How is true love for God demonstrated? See John 14:15

Evangelism is one of the ways in which we can obey Christ.

5. What does Matthew 28:19 say about Christ's desire related to the gospel?

If we fail to meditate often about God's love for us we will begin to take it for granted and our love for God will grow cold. We will find obedience a terrible drudgery instead of a grateful response.

6. What does 1 John 4:10 say about our motivation to love God?

7. What did God's love for the world cause Him to do as seen in John 3:16? So then, our love for God must result in _____, not just feelings.

If God just felt like loving us and did nothing about it, where would all mankind be today?

Jesus a classic example

1. What is Jesus prayer in John 17:1-5?
2. What is Jesus prayer for His disciples in john 17:6-19?
3. What is Jesus prayer for us today in John 17:20-26

Prayer –is powerful and effective

James encourages us to continue praying by reminding us of the power of prayer.

See James 5:16-18

How does this verse encourage you to live and how dos it encourage you to persevere when praying for those who need Christ but have yet to respond?

Because evangelism is a spiritual activity it is to be engaged in spiritually.

1. Read Psalm 127:1. What principle is conveyed in this verse?

2. We are totally dependent upon God for the results that flow from the privilege He gives us to be a part of His work in His harvest field. Nothing reminds us more of this than the activity of prayer.

In 2 Thessalonians 3:1, what emphasis do you see from Paul related to prayer and the work of evangelism?

3. James 4:2-3 is written in the context of quarreling and wanting other people's property, but the general principle is true as well. How does this principle relate to evangelism?

4. What is the emphasis in 1 Timothy 2:1-8?

Two breath-taking promises

John 14:13-14

¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

In the context of this passage Jesus is with His disciples in the upper room and He has just told them that they will do the same works and even greater works than He had done. These works refer to the content and the extent of the preaching of the gospel.

We are not alone in this effort. We are to ask the Lord Jesus in prayer for anything according to His character.

So much evangelism may be powerless and fruitless because we have paid too little attention to such a promise as this.

God delights to answer prayer and especially when it is with regards to the spread of the gospel.

John 15:7-8

⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

This comes in the context of Jesus having declared Himself to be the true vine and His disciples are the branches.

God refers to Israel in the Old Testament as ‘the vine’.

He looks to them to bear fruit as His covenant people but so often He sees their behavior is not different than any other nation. (Isaiah 5:7)

Jesus declares that He is the true Vine and it is in abiding in Him which will make us abundant fruit bearers.

For this work, which scares most of us, He gives us the promise that he will grant our requests.

How many training courses have you done?
How many books have you read?
Has it resulted in evangelism?
Why don't you make this a matter of prayer?

1. Pray that God will cause you to love Him more.

2. Pray that you will love people more.

3. Pray that God will give you a boldness to do the work of evangelism.

a. What was the prayer of the disciples after they had experienced suffering in the name of Jesus for proclaiming the gospel? See Acts 4:29

b. What was their answer in Acts 4:31?

c. What was Paul's prayer and desire for others to pray also as seen in Ephesians 6:19-20?

Pray for boldness and make it a priority!

God's people – a powerful agency

*God has given us the presence of
His family of people to honor
Him in the way we help and love
each other.*

-How can the family of God that meets in a local church encourage one another to evangelism?

-Read Colossians 4:12. What was the testimony of Epaphras for the Christians in Colosse?

*We should be faithfully praying
for each other for boldness and
courage to witness but also for
the lost souls that are the
burdens of the family of God.*

Joy – a powerful motive

What does Luke 15:7 say occurs in heaven when a sinner repents?

In Hebrews 12:2, what was Jesus looking forward to in being obedient to His Father's call to suffer and give His life to provide salvation?

*There are no greater moments in
the life of a Christian than the joy
of experiencing his friends and
family turning to Christ.*

-May we all experience this joy time and time again.