

EVANGELISM

Training Seminar

You will be My witnesses...

Acts 1:8

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH | www.fbcdurham.org

Second Edition | Spring 2006

Welcome to Evangelism!

I am so thankful to God for each of you who has taken to heart the responsibility Christ lays on each of His disciples to be a witness for Him. As will become clear in our study together, there can be no more significant commitment one can make, given the immense weight which hangs on the ministry of reconciliation: the eternal destiny of human souls. This is also one of the primary ways we can obey God's Law. When asked by some experts in the Law which was the greatest commandment, Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:37-39) Evangelism, if done properly, is a potent expression of love for God. It is also a tremendously self-sacrificial expression of love for our neighbors.

Although there are significant obstacles to a lifestyle of "risk-taking" evangelism, it is glorifying to God and of saving power for many who will hear our message. I look forward to making this journey with you by the power of the Holy Spirit for the building of Christ's eternal Kingdom.

Andrew Davis
Senior Pastor

WEEK 1 | The Importance of Evangelism

Our goal in this course is to help you be fully equipped and Spirit-empowered for a lifetime of laboring in the harvest fields for Christ.



10 Week Overview

Week #1 The Importance of Evangelism

1. Course introduction
 - Our goal: “laborers for the harvest field”
 - Ten-week overview
2. Doctrinal Instruction
 - The Centrality of God’s Glory
 - Human need, heaven & hell
 - Christ’s commandments: The “Great Commissions”
 - Our accountability: Judgment Day assessment
3. Practical Instruction
 - 3 X 3

Week #2 The Role of the Holy Spirit in Evangelism

1. Doctrinal instruction
 - The Holy Spirit’s role in evangelism
2. Practical instruction
 - Overcoming fear in evangelism: practical steps
 - Personal holiness and evangelism
 - Putting on spiritual armor
3. Overview of the Gospel Outline: “Preparation, Presentation, Invitation” and “God-Man-Christ-Response”

Week #3 What is the Gospel?

1. Doctrinal instruction
 - What is the gospel?
 - What is salvation?
 - Making disciples, not converts
 - Regeneration, justification and true saving faith
2. Practical instruction
 - Avoiding a “canned-presentation”
 - Carrying on a “gospel conversation”... concentric circles
3. Outline work
 - “Preparation”
 - The “Key question”

10 Week Overview

Week #4 Part One of the Evangelistic Outline: “God”

1. Doctrinal instruction & Outline work
 - Why start with God?
 - Outline points:
 - ✓ God the Creator
 - ✓ God the King
 - ✓ God the Judge
 - ✓ The Loving God
 - ✓ The Holy God
2. Practical instruction
 - The practical side of God-centered evangelism
 - Your evangelistic prayer life

Week #5 Part Two of the Evangelistic Outline: “Man”

1. Doctrinal instruction & Outline work
 - Why discuss “man” next?
 - The ravaging effects of sin
 - Human inability
 - Outline points:
 - ✓ Image of God
 - ✓ Sinful
 - ✓ Sin’s Penalty
2. Practical instruction
 - The indispensable role of Scripture memorization

4. Week #6 Part Three of the Evangelistic Outline: “Christ”

1. Doctrinal instruction & Outline work
 - The centrality of Jesus Christ
 - Outline points:
 - ✓ Person: [fully God, fully man]
 - ✓ Works: [supernatural & sinless life, crucifixion, resurrection]
 - ✓ Significance: [death penalty paid]
2. Practical instruction
 - Spiritual warfare and evangelism

10 Week Overview

Week #7 Part Four of the Evangelistic Outline: “Response”

1. Doctrinal instruction & Outline work
 - The need for human response
 - The priority of God’s grace
 - Outline points:
 - ✓ Grace
 - ✓ Repentance
 - ✓ Faith
2. Practical instruction
 - Workplace evangelism

Week #8 “Invitation”

1. Doctrinal instruction
 - The Sovereignty of God in evangelism & salvation
 - Walking aisles & signing cards; the “sinner’s prayer”
 - The parable of the seed and the soils
2. “Invitation”: Calling sinners to repentance and faith
 - Understanding the Gospel
 - Urgency
 - Counting the Cost
3. Practical instruction
 - Evangelistic Bible study groups

Week #9 Follow-up and Assurance

1. Doctrinal instruction
 - Follow-up: gateway to discipleship & church membership
 - “Giving assurance” or “grounds for assurance”?
 - Baptism
 - The parable of the seed and the soils
2. Practical instruction
 - Friendship evangelism

10 Week Overview

Week #10 Dealing with Tough Questions

1. Doctrinal instruction: Apologetics
 - Two greatest arguments: The prophetic Scriptures, the empty tomb
2. Defending the Faith
 - What about creation/evolution?
 - What about other religions?
 - What about cults?
 - What about mushy “truth for me, truth for you” post-modern Americans?

Our Goal

Jesus commanded us to pray faithfully for God to raise up laborers for the work of evangelism: *“The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. Ask the Lord of the Harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.”* (Matthew 9:37-38) The harvest field is a world full of lost sinners who need salvation lest their souls be lost for eternity. The Lord of the Harvest is the Father, and He is ready to answer the very prayer the Son commanded us to pray. The crying need of the day is for prayer and for committed laborers who will stay in the harvest field until the day is done. Jesus had a tremendous sense of urgency about this work: *“As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.”* (John 9:3) He had been sent into the world to do His Father’s work, and that was the work of salvation for His sheep: *“For I have come down from heaven not to do my own will but to do the will of Him who sent me. And this is the will of Him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that He has given me, but raise them up on the last day.”* (John 6:38-39) This work was not drudgery to Jesus, but actually was his very food: *“My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work.”* (John 4:34) Having said that, He then commanded His disciples to join Him in the same harvesting work: *“Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest?’ I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.”* (John 4:35-36)



Our goal in this course is to help you be fully equipped and Spirit-empowered for a lifetime of laboring in the harvest fields for Christ.

Doctrinal Instruction

1. The Centrality of God's Glory

Perhaps the most important doctrinal truth to which we must give wholehearted assent is that God does all things for His own glory, and that nothing in all the universe is more important to God than His own glory. This includes our own salvation:

Isaiah 43:7 *Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth -- everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.*"

Isaiah 48:11 For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this. *How can I let myself be defamed? I will not yield my glory to another.*

Ezekiel 36:22 *"Therefore say to the house of Israel, `This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone.*

- ◆ It is more important that God be _____ than that human beings be _____
- ◆ **Thankfully** our _____ and God's _____ are not at all _____

God is glorified greatly by the salvation of sinners through faith in Christ:

Ephesians 1:11-14 *In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.*

- ◆ Messengers of the gospel = messengers of _____
- ◆ Modern evangelism places _____ over God's glory
- ◆ This tempts us to _____ the message if it seems it's "not working"
- ◆ We must see God as a _____ who has a rightful claim on our lives

Doctrinal Instruction

- ◆ We must see _____ as an amazing offer of forgiveness from a God who has every right to be enraged at persistent rebels such as us
- ◆ We are _____ of the eternal God, proclaiming a _____ that will bring glory and honor to God whether they _____ or not
- ◆ We are confident they WILL _____ because God will be _____ by their faith, and He has _____ that the gospel will be the power of _____ for everyone who believes

Errors removed by keeping God's glory first:

- 1) Fear of people: [Evangelism is worship!! Why be afraid??]
- 2) Laziness and neglect of evangelism: [Evangelism is obedience to the King!! Why disobey??]
- 3) False motives: [Evangelism is not for carnal reasons!! Why do it for pride??]
- 4) Over-preoccupation with results: [Evangelism cannot be truly measured!! Why count prematurely??]
- 5) Pride over fruitfulness: [Evangelism grows only by God!! Why boast in yourself??]
- 6) Exalting human will over God's will: [Evangelism glorifies God's will!! Why boast in man??]

2. Christ's commandments & the "Great Commissions"

Christ has given us two great commandments which sum up all the Law and the Prophets:

Matthew 22:37-40 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Discussion Question: How does evangelism help fulfill the two "Great Commandments?"

Doctrinal Instruction

Discussion Question: How does overcoming great difficulties in evangelism show great love?

Two great motivations for evangelism: glory for God, compassion for the lost.

Another great motivation for evangelism: SIMPLE OBEDIENCE!!

Matthew 28:18-20 *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Mark 16:15-16 *He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."*

Luke 24:46-49 *He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."*

John 20:21-23 *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. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."*

Acts 1:8 *"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."*

The "test of love":

John 14:15 *"If you love me, you will obey what I command."*

The "ministry of reconciliation":

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 *All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

Doctrinal Instruction

3. Human need

We must constantly keep in mind as evangelists what the Bible reveals about the spiritual condition of people without Christ. (Realize the Bible must reveal this condition to us, for non-Christians may appear very happy, successful, well-adjusted, generous, loving, religious, and virtuous. The eye cannot perceive what faith instructs through the Scripture!) The Bible reveals the following about people apart from Christ:

- 1) Spiritually dead
- 2) Already under God's wrath
- 3) Storing up ever greater wrath
- 4) Law or conscience constantly accuses
- 5) Not one good deed accounted to their credit
- 6) Incapable of pleasing God
- 7) Enemies of God
- 8) Incapable of atoning for sin
- 9) Blind and deaf to spiritual truth
- 10) Incapable of changing
- 11) Harassed and helpless

- ◆ Powerful motivation: without the gospel of Christ, people will be eternally _____

4. Ultimate issues: Heaven & hell

- ◆ There are _____ high stakes involved in the outcome of evangelism
- ◆ For each soul, _____ in heaven or hell awaits
- ◆ Either a timeless experience of unmeasurable _____ and _____ in God's presence
- ◆ Or a timeless experience of unmeasurable _____ and _____ under God's wrath

Doctrinal Instruction

- ◆ Other than the _____ of God, what could be more important?

Heaven:

The basic idea of heaven can be summed up in one verse of Scripture:

Psalm 16:11 You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

- ◆ The essence of heaven is _____
- ◆ It is also a place of incredible _____

Revelation 21:10-11 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

- ◆ The Bible also says God will create a new _____ and _____

Revelation 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

Ten treasures awaiting believers in heaven:

- 1) We shall be with Christ

John 17:24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world."

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."

- 2) We shall be like Christ

1 John 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Doctrinal Instruction

3) We shall be glorious ourselves

- Perfect resurrection bodies, incapable of being corrupted

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 *So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.*

- Perfect souls, incapable of evil

Hebrews 12:22-23 *But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect*

- Shining brilliant radiance

Matthew 13:43 *Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.*

4) We shall in some sense be fed, feasted or entertained

Matthew 8:11 *I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.*

5) We shall have some sort of official duties of ruling

2 Timothy 2:11-12 *Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him.*

Revelation 5:10 *You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.*

1 Corinthians 6:3 *Do you not know that we will judge angels?*

6) We shall know God intimately and perfectly

1 Corinthians 13:12 *Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.*

Doctrinal Instruction

7) We shall be rewarded and praised by God in proportion to our service

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.

1 Corinthians 4:5 At that time each will receive his praise from God.

8) We shall be perfectly one with all other believers from all history

John 17:20-21 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.

9) We shall worship God continuously

Revelation 5:13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

10) We shall be free forever from all evil things

Revelation 21:4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Double blessing OR double curse:

This future is so bright, the promises so immense that I wonder why we ever fear or get discouraged in any way in our present lives! Since all this is kept in heaven for us, what can man do to us? We should be utterly fearless in witnessing. We should also realize how tragic it would be if anyone missed such a lavish treasure box of blessings. Even if there were no hell at all, it would be unspeakable misery simply to be eternally on the outside looking in at this experience.

But there is a hell. Scripture makes this plain, and therefore there is a double penalty for all who reject the gospel: 1) they miss out eternally on these incredible blessings; 2) they suffer eternally the torment of the active wrath of God.

Doctrinal Instruction

Hell:

What Jesus taught...

- ◆ Hell is not a _____ or a _____; it is the most terrifying threat we face
- ◆ So great is the danger, Jesus said gaining the _____ if it meant losing our soul _____.

Matthew 16:26 *What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?*

- ◆ He urged us to fear _____, who has power to throw us into hell:

Luke 12:4-5 *"I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him."*

- ◆ He said it would be better to be horribly _____ in life than to be thrown into hell:

Matthew 18:7-9 *"Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come! If your hand or your foot causes you to sin cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell."*

- ◆ He taught that hell is a place of eternal _____, of a burning which will never cease:

Mark 9:44-48 *... hell, where the fire never goes out; hell, where "their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched."*

Luke 16:23-24 *In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, "Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire."*

- ◆ It is a place of eternal _____ about the way they lived their lives

Doctrinal Instruction

Matthew 8:12 *But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

Matthew 22:13 **Matthew 25:30**

Luke 16:25 *"But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony."*

- ◆ Jesus stated that hell was created originally for the _____ and his _____. The Scripture also reveals that the devils live in abject terror of hell

Matthew 25:41 *"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.*

- ◆ Jesus _____ in our place that we might avoid this terrible destiny.
- ◆ Most of the people we will witness to _____ how horrible hell will be

The Bible clearly warns us of the condemnation that awaits all who have not repented and trusted Christ. The language is so consistent that it cannot be misinterpreted, and so terrible that it cannot be ignored. If Christ spoke so much of hell, we must also. We must also allow it to motivate us in our passion for the lost.

5. Urgency: Today is the Day!!

- ◆ God has not promised any of us that we will be _____ tomorrow

John 9:4 *"We must work as long as it is day," said Jesus, "for night is coming when no man can work."*

James 4:13-17 *Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." ¹⁴ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶ As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.*

Hebrews 3:15 *"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion."*

Doctrinal Instruction

2 Corinthians 6:1-2 *As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.*

◆ The apostles preached with _____ , _____ , and _____

Acts 2:40 *With many other words [Peter] warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."*

Romans 9:1-2 *I speak the truth in Christ--I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit-- I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.*

2 Corinthians 5:11, 20 *Since, then, we know the terror of the Lord, we try to persuade men...We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

Acts 20:31 *Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.*

Philippians 3:18-19 *For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.*

6. Our accountability: Judgment Day assessment

- ◆ On Judgment Day, we will have to give an _____ for every decision made on earth
- ◆ We must seek, by the power of the Spirit, to minimize our _____ on that Day, and to maximize our _____
- ◆ Not only will we have to account for wrongdoing, we will also be _____ for whatever we have done by faith
- ◆ God expects us to do specific _____ _____ which He has prepared for us:

Doctrinal Instruction

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

◆ As we do these, we store up _____ in heaven:

Matthew 6:18-20 "...your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal".

◆ Our "reward" is nothing less than _____ from Almighty God Himself!!:

1 Corinthians 4:5 At that time each will receive his praise from God.

Matthew 25:21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

◆ Paul spoke of his converts as his _____

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

Summary of Motivations:

We evangelize:

- 1) for the glory of God
- 2) out of love and obedience to Christ
- 3) because people have no hope without the gospel
- 4) because infinite issues of heaven or hell await the outcome
- 5) because time is urgent
- 6) because of our own Judgment Day assessment

Practical Instruction

The 3 X 3 Ministry

Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. 2 Thessalonians 3:1

I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. Romans 15:30

Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. Ephesians 6:19-20

God has left us with a great responsibility, one far too great for any of us to face alone. That responsibility is to proclaim the Good News of salvation through faith in Christ to the lost of our generation. Jesus came to seek and to save what was lost, and He has sent us to accomplish His task: “As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” (John 20:21) The scope of our concern should reach to the distant shores, for God has stated that He will be glorified to the ends of the earth, and that some from every tribe, language, people, and nation will be saved. This is a great burden, although also a great privilege. But this burden is not one we should bear alone.

First, we should regularly come to God with this burden, and pray for the lost we know personally, and the lost we have never met (in unreached people groups on the distant shores). We should lay this burden back on the God who gave it to us, for He alone has the power both to convert dead sinners and to raise up the laborers who will take the gospel to them.

Second, we should gather other believers around us to pray together for the advance of the gospel. This burden is laid upon the whole church, not merely individuals within the church. Paul prayed for the Israelites, that they might be saved (Romans 10:1, above). He also asked prayer from the Thessalonians that the word would “spread rapidly and be honored...” (2 Thessalonians 3:1). “Be honored” is passive, and it clearly means “be honored by lost people to the end that they will believe its message and be saved.” Amazing that Paul turns to the Thessalonians to join him in the success of his own evangelistic ministry. Amazing also that Paul considered the way lost people respected and honored the word to be in the hands of the sovereign God! Intercessory prayer to a sovereign God for Paul to preach boldly and clearly, and for the gospel to be held in honor by formerly rebellious people. That is Paul’s recipe.

Practical Instruction

A practical way to live out the great responsibility laid upon us is through 3 X 3. It is a wonderfully simple program for prayer evangelism and accountability. It works like this: three people covenant together to pray daily for three lost people of their choosing, and the six lost people chosen by the other two partners. So each person is praying daily for nine lost people. The groups then hold each other accountable on the prayer, and also on actually witnessing to the nine lost people.

3 X 3

1. Ask God to show you 3 unsaved people to pray for.
2. Find 2 partners to pray with.
3. Meet and pray for your 3 people and for your partners' 3 people.
4. Hold each other accountable to witness to those you are praying for.

Main Heading

Secondary Heading

The purpose of a catalog is to sell products or services to a targeted audience, or to advertise upcoming classes or events. Catalogs can be a great way to market your products or services, and also build your organization's identity.

Secondary Heading

First, determine the audience of the catalog. This could be anyone who might benefit from the products or services it contains. Next, establish how much time and money you can spend on your catalog. These factors will help determine the length of the catalog and how frequently you publish it. It's recommended that you publish your catalog at least quarterly so that it's considered a consistent source of information. Your customers or employees will look forward to its arrival.

Also consider how you want to print your catalog. You can print it on a desktop printer, at a copy shop, or at a commercial printing service. In addition to your budget, the complexity of the publication—including whether you print it as a black and white or a color publication—will help determine the best method for printing your publication.

Before you print your catalog, consider how you will bind your pages. The number of pages, how the reader will use it, and whether you mail it will help you determine the type of binding. For example, if you have only a few pages and your catalog is meant to be held, you might consider folding the pages and stapling the spine. Larger catalogs that are meant to be folded flat work best with a plastic binding with punched holes, while larger publications meant to be held like a book are best served by gluing the pages, or "perfect binding."

WEEK 2 | The Role of the Holy Spirit in Evangelism

“The Holy Spirit is given to the Church to empower it to witness for Christ. The Spirit actually testifies about Christ through us to the unsaved world.”



Week 2 Contents:

- ✓ Team Time
- ✓ Doctrinal Instruction:
 - ✓The Gift of the Holy Spirit
 - ✓The Spirit’s Evangelistic Power
 - ✓Power for the Evangelists
 - ✓Power on the Evangelized
 - ✓The Gifts of the Spirit
- ✓Practical Instruction
- ✓Overview of the Gospel Outline

Team Time



- ◆ **Reviewing our covenant together (Page 15)**
- ◆ **Going over testimony**
- ◆ **Next week: going out on visitation**

Doctrinal Instruction

1. The Gift of the Holy Spirit

- ◆ For the daily life of a believer, the greatest difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant is the _____
- ◆ The Spirit enables the believer to live an _____ life by writing the Law of God on his/her heart, and by _____ the believer to choose the right way.
- ◆ Part of that new life of Spirit-filled obedience is _____ to the world of the saving power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ The Holy Spirit is given to the Church to _____ it to witness for Christ.
- ◆ The Spirit actually testifies about Christ _____ us to the _____ world. We join the Spirit's testimony with our lives: our _____ and our _____
- ◆ Without the Spirit's work in us, we would never have become _____ in the first place
- ◆ Without the Spirit's work in us, we will never be _____ for Christ now
- ◆ In fact, without the Spirit's continual work in us, we would _____ _____ in Christ altogether and would sink back into the mass of unbelievers in the world

We are thus totally dependent on the Spirit for everything!

2. The Spirit's Evangelistic Power

- ◆ Great evidence for the Spirit's constant power and drive to _____ the Great Commission is found in the book of Acts:

Acts 1:8 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

The Old Testament prophets had spoken very clearly of Christ's worldwide kingdom:

Psalm 2:7-8 I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. [see also Psalm 22:27, Isaiah 45:22]

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- ◆ Now it was time for the church to move out and fulfill these _____
- ◆ But it could not do so unless God sent His _____ through the Holy Spirit
- ◆ That the Spirit was given to accomplish this _____ _____ is one of the major themes of the Book of Acts

3. Power for the Evangelists

The Spirit's power in evangelism works both on the **evangelists** and on the **evangelized**. The accounts in Acts show the first of these (i.e. power for the evangelists) in at least fourteen ways:

- 1) Power for bold proclamation of the gospel:

Acts 5:32 *"We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."* [See also Acts 4:8, 4:31]

- 2) Power for miracles to gain a hearing for the gospel:

Acts 2:4 *All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.* [See also Acts 4:30, 10:38; Hebrews 2:3-4; Romans 15:18-19]

- 3) Power for courage in the face of vicious persecution:

Acts 4:29-31 *Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*

- 4) Power for the Church to grow in numbers:

Acts 9:31 *Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.*

- 5) Power and wisdom to organize the Church with human leadership:

Acts 20:28 *Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.*

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6) Power for wisdom in contending for the gospel truth with unbelievers:

Acts 6:9-10 *These men began to argue with Stephen, but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.*

7) Power for guidance in mission strategy and direction:

Acts 8:29 *The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."*

Acts 13:2 *While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."*

Acts 16:6-7 *Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.*

8) Power for resolution of doctrinal differences:

Acts 15:28 *It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements:*

9) Power for taking bold new steps in mission frontiers:

Acts 10:19-20 *While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."*

10) Power for encouragement and even joy during difficult trials:

Acts 13:52 *And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.*

11) Power to compel evangelists to keep going despite immense trials:

Acts 20:22-23 *"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.*

12) Power through inspiring the Scriptures:

Acts 4:25 *You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David*

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13) Power in prayer:

Acts 4:31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

14) Power for sanctification:

Acts 5:9 Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord?"

- ◆ There is one more way the Spirit empowers Christians for evangelism: by _____
- ◆ Sanctification is the work of the Spirit in the heart of a Christian causing that person to _____ in God's Laws (love God and neighbor), and to put sin to _____
- ◆ Personal _____ greatly hinders our effectiveness in evangelism, so the Spirit was given to keep us holy
- ◆ He warns us against sin, and teaches us to say "No!!" to _____ (Titus 2:12)
- ◆ When we do sin, He _____ us of it, causes us to _____ over it, to _____ it, to _____ and _____ from it, and to bring forth _____ in keeping with repentance

Paul speaks even more directly about the Spirit's role in sanctification in Romans 8 and Galatians 5:

Romans 8:4 ...in order that the righteous requirements of the Law may be fully met in us who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:13-14 For if you live according to the sinful nature you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Galatians 5:24-25 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Pure Vessels: God will use only use vessels that are pure.

- ◆ This does not mean He can only use _____ people, for then evangelism would

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never occur

- ◆ But it does mean that, if we _____ sin in our hearts and do not fight it with hatred, we will become progressively _____ to God. Eventually we will have _____ ourselves from service by our sin.

This is precisely why Paul says *"I beat my body and make it my slave so that, after I have preached to others, I myself may not be disqualified for the prize."* (1 Corinthians 9:27) The Spirit lives within us to make us holy. This is essential to a life of fruitful evangelism.

Growing in Love:

- ◆ The Spirit also makes us _____ God and our lost neighbor more and more.

This is essential to enable us to evangelize properly and to be courageous over the long haul. Love, and love alone is the best motive for bold evangelism. Since we do not naturally love God or neighbor, the Spirit must work this in us. That process is called sanctification, a growth of love by the Spirit:

Galatians 5:22 The fruit of the Spirit is love...

Summary: These fourteen ministries demonstrate the Spirit's power for evangelism. That is why Jesus commanded them to wait for the Holy Spirit before they would begin conquering the world for Christ:

Luke 24:48-49 You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised (i.e. the Holy Spirit); but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

- ◆ The Church today must also _____ on the Holy Spirit for every aspect of evangelism
- ◆ We can do _____ apart from Christ (John 15:5), and He enables us to be _____ witnesses through His Holy Spirit.

If you feel overwhelmed by the task of evangelism, or if fear, or ignorance, or intimidation, or your own sinfulness have conspired to eliminate you from effectiveness as a witness, the Holy Spirit's power is the only answer for you. The Spirit has come to give you power to evangelize!

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4. Power on the Evangelized

The Holy Spirit also works within the hearts of the people we're evangelizing. In fact, without that work, none of the people we will proclaim the gospel to will EVER believe. Remember from last week that unsaved people are "dead in transgressions and sins" (Ephesians 2:1), and must be "born by the Spirit" (John 3:5) or they cannot enter heaven. The Spirit does many things in the hearts of the hearer:

1) Orchestration

- ◆ The Holy Spirit shows His sovereignty over daily life by _____ witnessing opportunities in amazing ways
- ◆ He prepares the hearer by leading him/her through specific _____ which till the soil of their hearts for the seed they're about to receive. On that particular day, perhaps they heard something on the radio, or had the worst day on the job, or received some specific news, the net effect of which prepares them for the witness they'll hear from the evangelists.
- ◆ The Spirit's orchestration of events stretches back in _____ as well, going deep into their formative years. He has been working in their hearts since they were born, orchestrating them for the moment of faith in Christ.
- ◆ Furthermore, the Spirit specifically picks the _____ and the _____ the evangelist will use. Everything seems to "click into place," but it's not an accident. No, it's the Spirit's orchestration.
- ◆ Finally, the Spirit orchestrates the actual _____: normally noisy children quietly sit on the couch and read, the phone either rings or doesn't depending on the Spirit's perfect plan.

Example: The Ethiopian Eunuch Perhaps the best illustration of the Spirit's orchestration of the witnessing event is in the account of the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8. The eunuch had been prepared for the gospel by his trip to Jerusalem to worship. We have no idea why he went, but this itself was the result of years of preparation by the Spirit on his heart. On the way home, he "happened" to be reading Isaiah 53, the clearest reference to Christ in the Old Testament. The Spirit also orchestrated the witness, telling Philip to "go south to the road, the desert road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza," and telling him to "go to that chariot and stay near it." (Acts 8:26, 29) The witness proceeded from there, but everything had been perfectly laid in place by the Spirit's orchestration. [See a similar orchestration in Acts 10 with Cornelius and Peter. The Spirit plays "matchmaker" between the evangelist and the evangelized, all for His own glory

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and the eternal joy of the hearer.]

2) Conviction

- ◆ The Holy Spirit is specifically given to _____ the hearer of sin. Jesus said:

John 16:7-11 Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

- ◆ Unsaved people must come to grips with their _____; they must see themselves as under a curse from God, as guilty and in danger of the fire of hell
- ◆ They must understand that, without a _____, they will never survive the intense scrutiny of Judgment Day.
- ◆ Part of the _____ of sin is that sinners never see their sin as _____: they make excuses for it, laugh it off, consider it a minor issue. The more they are pressed about it, the more they tend to respond with humor or with anger and defensiveness. None of these things lead to salvation.
- ◆ Furthermore, since repentance from sin is _____ for _____, the sinner who is not convicted of personal sin CANNOT be saved.
- ◆ They must come to realize that sin is, more than anything, an _____ against the eternal and holy God who created them and who holds their lives in His hand.

No words on the part of the evangelist can accomplish this! No matter how much we may try to warn and persuade the sinner to “flee the wrath to come” (Matthew 3:7), our words will have no effect. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, and He is able to do it! Without His work of conviction, no one would ever be saved. A good example of the Spirit’s convicting work is seen in Acts 2:31, on the day of Pentecost. Peter had spoken pointedly about the Jews’ guilt in condemning Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to death:

Acts 2:37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

The words, “they were cut to the heart” is exactly what the Spirit does by way of conviction of sin. The evangelist cannot reach the heart, but the Spirit can and does, when

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He is saving someone. Once the hearer is convinced that he/she is a sinner under the judgment of God, the heart cries out for a Savior. In the passage just cited, Peter's hearers cried out "Brothers, what shall we do?" So also the Philippian jailer, terrified after an earthquake, was even more frightened about his eternal soul:

Acts 16:29-30 The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Such a person is ready to turn away from sin and toward a Savior. This is the Spirit's next work: illumination.

3) Illumination

The heart is crying out against itself because of sin, and deeply yearns for a Savior. But who can save? And how can *I* be saved? The Scriptures make it clear that only faith in Christ saves souls, and that saving faith comes only by hearing the word of Christ (Romans 10:17). But clearly this is not simply a "hearing with the ear," but rather a deep reception of the word into the heart.

- ◆ Many "hear" the word of Christ without ever truly hearing; this does not _____ them
- ◆ What's the difference? The _____ of the word by the Spirit! He drives the word home to the heart.
- ◆ Paul speaks of this in terms of a "veil over their hearts" which is _____ by the Spirit whenever anyone turns to the Lord. He also speaks of giving sight to the blind:

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

- ◆ What does it mean that God "made His light shine in our hearts"? This is the _____ of the Spirit when the person hears the Word of Christ.
- ◆ What is the outcome of this _____ action? By it the Spirit gives us "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."

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In other words, the Spirit makes Christ appear glorious, appear desirable, appear to be what He is: God in the flesh. Before that illumination, Christ was none of those things to the hearer. The Holy Spirit makes the truth of the gospel come alive with compelling force, so He is rightly called the “Spirit of truth” (John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13) who is sent to guide us into all truth.

- ◆ Having seen with the heart their own sinfulness, they now see the _____ of Christ’s blood, shed on the cross, as an atonement before God.
- ◆ They now see the _____ of Christ as sufficient to cover them on Judgment Day.

As a result of this “heart-work,” a new believer is about to be born. That is the work of regeneration.

4) Regeneration

- ◆ The word “regeneration” implies a “new creation,” akin to the creation of the _____ out of nothing by the mere word of God.
- ◆ Now God speaks light into the _____, faith and repentance into the _____. The sinner’s very nature is transformed.
- ◆ What was confusing becomes _____, what was repulsive becomes _____, what was terrifying becomes saving, what could only be perceived by faith is now as real as the physical world.

The sinner is “born again” by the Holy Spirit, and begins to cry “Abba, Father.” This is reflected in “calling on the name of the Lord,” perhaps through an audible prayer.

John 3:5-8 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

- ◆ We cannot _____ new; we cannot love God where we ignored Him before; we cannot yearn for holiness where we hated it before; we cannot hate sin where we loved it before. But the Spirit can do all of this inside us, and He does when He is saving a sinner.

It is at this moment that the Triune God comes to live within the new believer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit take up their residence within this new Christian, and they will be

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together with that person forever:

Acts 2:38-39 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."

John 14:16-17 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

John 14:23 My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Thus the Spirit has been working to make a dwelling place for the Trinity within the soul of a sinner, and to that end He has used us as evangelists. To that end also, He has done His own sovereign work: orchestrating, convicting, illuminating, and regenerating.

5. The Gifts of the Spirit

The Spirit does one other major work to accomplish evangelism. He equips the Church intelligently through specific spiritual gifts so that the Church is able to meet the challenges of a lost and dying world. Some are gifted as teachers, some as evangelists, some as generous givers, some as encouragers, some as administrators, some showing hospitality, some with faith, etc.

- ◆ Spiritual gifts are not a major _____ for average Christians to jump through to avoid their personal responsibility in evangelism: "That's not my gift!" Not at all!!
- ◆ Rather, they show the healthiest and best way the _____ of faith works together to help save people. When the givers give, the teachers teach, the prayers pray, the encouragers encourage, etc. there is an amazing power to convert a sinner.

My best analogy to this comes from considering two momentous battles in the history of our country.

The Alamo: During the Mexican-American war, some Texas settlers were surrounded and vastly outnumbered by Santa Ana's Mexican troops at the Alamo mission in San Antonio. Because of the dire circumstances, every available person had to take a rifle and take a position on the wall. It would make no sense for a man to say, "That's not my job, I'm a cook!" Everyone had to do the same thing.

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D-Day: During World War II, the Nazi forces had swept Europe of all opposing armies, dominating France for over three years. They had built a wall of protection in northern France, with their seasoned troops defending against an Allied invasion from England. That invasion force was being built up in England, and it was an immense and complex operation: quartermaster corps had to be sure the troops had their rations and all necessities, the Navy had to protect the invasion fleet, the Air Corps had to keep the air clear of German warplanes, the meteorologists had to tell General Eisenhower when the best time for the invasion would be, the communications department had to keep the lines open between the commanders and the troops. On June 6, 1944, this massive, complex undertaking moved out and re-conquered Europe from the Nazis.

- ◆ Too many churches take the “_____” approach to evangelism, as though all that mattered was “getting people saved.”
- ◆ The problem with that is that Christ called on us to “make disciples,” and the whole church, with its marvelously complex systems of spiritual gifts, is much more like the “_____” approach... able to make disciples when each part does its work.

Certainly, to some degree we function like the Alamo in that each of us is called to be personal witnesses. However, I am saying that the Church is most effective as a gifted whole, each part doing what it is tasked to do, creating a “covenant community of faith,” the total effect of which enables us to fulfill the Great Commission.

Romans 12:1-8, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4:1-16 all discuss this concept at length, and it is the Spirit who gifts the church to function as a Body, so maximizing its impact on the unsaved world. As the Church functions together as a Spirit-gifted and empowered community, it has maximum power for evangelism.

Practical Instruction

Overcoming fear in evangelism: practical steps

A. Win the Battle for the Mind

- ◆ _____ is Satan's great "smoke and mirrors" show to keep you from winning the lost. He has duped us into silence by his vain threats. The way to conquer is to win the battle for the mind... your own thoughts must be brought under the control of the Scriptures.

Reason with yourself through the following Scriptures:

1. "Perfect love casts out fear"

1 John 4:18 "There is no fear in love but perfect love drives out fear... the one who fears is not made perfect in love."

- ◆ Fear of evangelism is essentially _____: "What will they think of **me**?"; "What will happen to **me**?"; "I feel so inadequate!"; "What if I can't answer?"; "What if they yell at **me**?"; "What if I lose **my** job?"
- ◆ Satan's key step is to get your eyes off of _____ and onto yourself. This cuts you off from the greatest two motivators for evangelism: love for God, love for neighbor.
- ◆ The Bible's _____ is to fill your heart with love; love for God as shown by obedience to His commands ("If you love me, you'll obey what I command." John 14:15), love for neighbor as shown by a willingness to suffer for his/her eternal good.

To drive out your fear of evangelism, focus your mind on God: His purposes in the world, His goals in building Christ's church, His compassion for the lost. Pray that God's love may fill your heart. Then meditate on what your life would be like apart from Christ. Realize that the people you are trying to reach are living every day without forgiveness of sins, without the guidance of the Spirit, without the Scriptures. Perhaps they're having marital troubles, perhaps a substance abuse problem. Fill your mind with the thoughts that, one year from now, they may stand and testify to God's grace with tears in their eyes, and bless the day you came with the gospel. Also, think what grief and agony a mother of a child with cancer would go through in order to get that child well. She does it for love. Your witness will be less traumatic than her efforts. Pretty soon, love has driven out fear.

- ◆ Love for _____ and for the _____ drives out fear!

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2. “Who are you that you fear mortal man... and forget the Lord?”

Isaiah 50:12-13 “I, even I, am He who comforts you. Who are you that you fear mortal man, the sons of man who are but grass, that you forget the Lord, your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth...?”

- ◆ Isaiah gives a different powerful remedy to fear of evangelism: fear God _____!!

We are afraid of some person’s “facial expressions,” “angry tone,” “harsh reaction.” But we’ve completely forgotten that we will have to give an account to God for our lives, and a big part of that account is whether or not we’ve been faithful in evangelism. How dare we care more what people think of us than what God thinks of us? God used this same argument with Jeremiah, when he gave him his difficult message to proclaim:

Jeremiah 1:17 “Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them.”

In other words, “Jeremiah, you should fear me more than you fear them!” Faith alone can help make this argument stick in our hearts. Faith comes from God through the Scriptures.

- ◆ Meditate much on Judgment Day, and your need to give _____ to Him. Ask Him to help you fear God more than you fear man.

3. “I will be with you”

Hebrews 13:5 God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

Matthew 28:20 “And surely I will be with you always, even to the end of the age.”

The greatest encouragement God has given us in facing our fear in evangelism is that He will be with us. This is the same encouragement He gave Moses in Exodus 3:12 when Moses asked “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?” The issue is not, “Who are you?” but “Who is the Lord?” “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31)

- ◆ God has _____ to walk with us through all the trials, rejection, persecution, and difficulties. We will not be alone!

4. “What can man do to me?”

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Hebrews 13:6 *So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"*

- ◆ Our _____ comes from the fact that God's power dwarfs anything man can do to us.

So, what can man do to me? Much, actually. He can hurt us physically, take possessions from us, take loved ones from us, take our freedom from us, even take our lives from us. But "What can man do to me ETERNALLY?" Nothing. Absolutely nothing. He cannot hurt us in eternity. And all those evil things he can do to us in this world only increase our rewards in the next world (see below).

5. "O Lord, open his eyes so he may see."

2 Kings 6:15-17 When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked. "Don't be afraid," the prophet [Elisha] answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open his eyes so he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes and he saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

- ◆ Fear can be driven out when we realize that God has given us the power of _____ in the spiritual realms.
- ◆ _____ and the power of God Himself surround us, and nothing can stop our success. Our forces are stronger than those opposing us. But we need eyes of faith to see that. Faith drives out fear.

6. "Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven"

Matthew 5:11-12 *"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."*

Even if "the worst" happens, and people persecute you, you should rejoice, according to Jesus.

- ◆ God will reward our _____ and _____ service to Him once we get to heaven.
- ◆ Satan tried to _____ the early Church this way, and he utterly failed because they were too filled with faith to be intimidated by persecution.

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- ◆ They wanted whatever _____ rewards God had promised, and they were willing to pay for their witness with their lives.

7. “The Spirit of glory and of God rests on you”

1 Peter 4:14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

- ◆ Peter promises a blessing to us if we are _____ because of the name of Christ: the “Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.”
- ◆ This means that the _____ will result in a closer experience of God’s fellowship.

Just as Jesus got close to the formerly blind man who had just been evicted with curses from the synagogue in John 9, so Jesus will draw close to us by His Spirit if we are insulted for His name’s sake.

B. Pray in the Spirit

- ◆ Having “won the battle of the mind” by the power of these Scripture verses, we must drive these truths still deeper into us by means of _____.

Just as the early church resorted to prayer during a time of persecution in Acts 4:23-31, so we must also. We should pray specifically about whatever we most fear, and give that fear directly to God. We should pray for the power of the Spirit to be with us as we go witnessing. We should pray for the enemies of the gospel to be silenced so those God is calling can be free to come to Christ. We should cover the whole enterprise in prayer. And we should pray for others we know are witnessing, so that they may be bold and free from fear. In Ephesians 6:19-20, Paul says “Pray that I may declare it boldly as I should.” If Paul needed prayer for boldness, we certainly do!

C. Work in teams

Jesus sent His disciples out witnessing in teams of two:

Mark 6:7 Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.

Luke 10:1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.

The reason for this was probably two-fold: for the encouragement of the evangelists

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themselves, that they might have fellowship during the work; for the authority of the message, for “every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.” We also should go out in teams, and rely on each other. This will reduce fear in witnessing.

D. View evangelism as worship

- ◆ One of the biggest helps I’ve ever found in overcoming fear in evangelism is to view it as _____.
- ◆ Go and declare the _____ of God before them. Honor God, and give Him glory for His mighty works and His powerful nature. Speak of His promises and His rewards. Fearlessly declare His purity and hatred of sin.
- ◆ As we declare such a majestic God, we are _____ from fear because God is honored whether the “audience” is pleased or not.

The first evangelistic outpouring from the church came on Pentecost in Acts 2. The hearers were amazed when they heard all the Christians speaking in tongues and revealed the content of the message: “...we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” (Acts 2:10) Worship evangelism drives out fear! Talk about the “wonders of God,” the mighty words and deeds of Jesus Christ!

E. Put on spiritual armor

- Since fear is a weapon of the Devil, we must use our spiritual _____ as described in detail in Ephesians 6:10-18.

The articles are: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the readiness of the Gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit (the word of God). These are all mighty weapons with which we can defeat our enemy the devil. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 also describes the nature of the warfare in that we are destroying falsehoods and false arguments with a steady dose of the truth. All of this gives us power against fear.

F. Go in faith

- ◆ When we have made all these preparations, the time has simply come to _____ in faith.
- ◆ The longer we delay going in faith, the larger the _____ seem to become.

Practical Instruction

We should “run quickly to the battle” as David did when moving up to meet Goliath (1 Kings 17:48). We should sing praise songs in anticipation of the victory, as the head group in Jehoshaphat’s army did while marching out to face the invaders in 2 Chronicles 20:21. We should realize that courage is not the absence of fear, but the presence of commitment and resolution to do what is right despite the obstacles. Don’t wait for the “scary tingle” in your stomach to go away... go out in spite of it, and God will be honored by your faith and courage.

Overview of the Gospel Outline

1. Preparation

In this section, we are beginning a conversation about spiritual things, seeking to move from general topics to spiritual things. It is composed of four parts:

Introduction, Interests, Involvement, Inquiry

2. Presentation

This is the presentation of the gospel message itself, with the supporting Scriptures and illustrations. It breaks into four parts as well:

God, Man, Christ, Response

3. Invitation

This overlaps with the final section of the Presentation portion. It is the time in which the person is made to understand most clearly the need for and cost of a commitment to trust and obey Christ.

◆ **Assignment of Homework:**

Memorize three-part “over-outline”, four-part “presentation outline”



Overview of the Gospel Outline

Preparation

Introduction

Interests

Involvement

Inquiry

Presentation

God

Man

Christ

Response

Invitation

WEEK 3 | What is the Gospel?

“The Gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ has come into the world to save us from our sins.”



Week 3 Contents:

- ✓ Team Time
- ✓ Doctrinal Instruction:
 - ✓What the gospel is NOT
 - ✓What IS the gospel?
 - ✓A Full Salvation from Sin: The Four P's
- ✓Practical Instruction
 - ✓Avoiding a “canned-presentation”
 - ✓Carrying on a “gospel conversation”
- ✓Overview of the Gospel Outline & the Key Question

Team Time



- ◆ **Reviewing our covenant together (Page 15)**
- ◆ **Going over outline learned thus far**
 - ✓ **Three-part “Over Outline”**
 - ✓ **Four-part “Presentation Outline”**

Doctrinal Instruction

What the gospel is NOT

Story of Dr. Mudge

It's easy to get the gospel muddled up if we're not careful. And it's disheartening to hear the muddled gospel proclaimed by many televangelists or so-called evangelical preachers or witnesses. A good illustration of how badly a story can be muddled is found in the experience of the editor of an English newspaper more than a century ago. He opened the daily paper to find that they had hopelessly conflated and mixed together two stories: one about a newly patented pig-killing and sausage-making machine, and the other about a local clergyman, the Rev. Dr. Mudge, who was being presented with a gold-headed cane. The muddled story read as follows:

“Several of Dr. Mudge’s friends called upon him yesterday, and, after a conversation the unsuspecting pig was seized by the hind leg, and slid along a beam until he reached the hot-water tank.... Thereupon he came forward and said there were times when the feelings overpowered one, and for that reason he would not attempt to do more than thank those around him for the manner in which such a huge animal was cut into pieces was simply astonishing. The doctor concluded his remarks, when the machine seized him and, in less time than it takes to write it, the pig was cut into fragments and worked up into a delicious sausage. The occasion will long be remembered by the doctor’s friends as one of the most delightful of their lives. The best pieces can be procured for tenpence a pound, and we are sure that those who have sat so long under his ministry will rejoice that he has been treated so handsomely.” (quoted in Mark Dever’s *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*, p. 64-65)

We need to be sure we don't confuse the gospel message. Therefore, it's helpful to declare what the gospel is NOT: (the headings come from Dever, p. 66-81)

1) NOT “I’m okay, you’re okay!”

- ◆ Some people think of Christianity as something of a religious _____, little more than one of many ways to help people feel better about themselves.
- ◆ The gospel is then a message of _____, “good news” that we’re basically fine and that we just need some “help along the way.”

Doctrinal Instruction

- ◆ Or, if we do need some reformation, the power for that reformation is _____ us, if we'd only realize it. We just need some motivation to unlock the goodness we all basically possess, and the gospel helps provide that motivation.

This is fundamentally wrong, as we've already discussed in Week 1. As we saw then, the Bible says people apart from Christ are 1) spiritually dead; 2) already under God's wrath; 3) storing up ever greater wrath; 4) constantly accused (not saved) by law and conscience; 5) without a single good deed on their account; 6) incapable of pleasing God; 7) enemies of God; 8) incapable of atoning for sin; 9) blind and deaf to spiritual truth; 10) incapable of changing.

- ◆ Furthermore, the fact that everyone will _____ physically proves that "I'm okay, you're okay" is not true. The gospel must offer more to us than this, or it is not "good news."

2) NOT simply "God is love"

- ◆ This is a popular _____. J.I. Packer says "A half truth passed off as the whole truth becomes a complete untruth."

If the message of the gospel is simply that "God loves you," then we're no better off than before. God has always been love, yet lost people apart from Christ are still in need of a radical transformation in order to avoid eternity in hell.

- ◆ The fact is, many people see God's love as _____ and _____, as though God were little more than a well-meaning Grandfather. This is not the message of the Gospel, although God's love is a major component of our proclamation. Rather, we need to declare what kind of God He is and how such a God loves. God's love is different than human love, and it's up to us to proclaim the whole counsel of God to lost sinners.

3) NOT simply "Jesus wants to be your friend"

- ◆ Some of the most damaging counterfeit gospels available today portray Christ as little more than a _____ and loving _____ to help us through life's trials.
- ◆ This false picture completely misses the fact that Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and that He comes to _____ over the lives of sinners for their benefit.
- ◆ This view also omits Christ's violent _____ on the cross in our place under the _____ of God.
- ◆ Furthermore, this false gospel misses the element of _____ and _____

Doctrinal Instruction

which each person must make to follow Christ.

Jesus said “anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.” (Matthew 10:38) Jesus did not simply come to help us through life’s ups and downs, or to give meaning to life, or to be a friend in need, or even to clean up the mess we’ve made of our lives.

4) NOT simply “You should live right”

- ◆ The most common false gospel in the world is a “gospel” of human _____, of morality and good deeds.
- ◆ For such people, to be a _____ is to “follow the Golden Rule,” to live a “good life,” to go to church, and obey the Ten Commandments. The gospel is then seen as an additive to help us do what we’re already capable of doing. This is completely wrong.
- ◆ The gospel calls us to _____ and _____ Christ, not to go out and clean up your life. The gospel is also confirmed by the power of the Holy Spirit to produce good works in us later by faith.
- ◆ The true gospel proclaims a different _____: “Saved in order to do good deeds,” rather than “Good deeds in order to be saved.”

What is the gospel?

- ◆ The word “gospel” means “good news,” and it is essentially a _____ we proclaim. What makes the news good?
- ◆ It is good news because it comes from a good God and it results in incredible _____ for everyone who believes this good message.
- ◆ At its heart, the gospel concerns God’s gracious work to save sinners from their _____. The angel announced it first to Joseph:

Matthew 1:21 “You will give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins.”

Thus, the gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ has come into the world to save us from our sins. The gospel, then, can only be understood properly by understanding “salvation” properly.

- ◆ Salvation is a _____ in which rebellious sinners are _____ for their acts of

Doctrinal Instruction

rebellion against the King (God), and are _____ into gloriously obedient subjects of the Kingdom of God. Thus the gospel is called the “gospel of the kingdom,” and the word “kingdom” and “gospel” can sometimes be used interchangeably:

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

- ◆ Thus, if we’re not calling people into a whole-hearted _____ to the King and a _____ for past rebellions, we’re not preaching the gospel Jesus preached.

In order to understand the gospel better, therefore, we must understand the “salvation process” properly:

What is salvation?

- ◆ Christians are frequently surprised to find out that salvation is a _____ that has more parts than justification (i.e. forgiveness of sins).
- ◆ In order to understand the true _____, we must understand true _____. The Bible declares that there are four major milestones or events of our salvation, and that they do not happen all at once.
- ◆ The Bible also declares that everyone who is truly _____ by the Spirit will definitely finish the process and end up glorified in heaven:

Romans 8:29-30 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

The four main theological divisions of the salvation process are:

Regeneration

Justification

Sanctification

Glorification

Doctrinal Instruction

◆ Regeneration

- ◆ ***“I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit... so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*** John 3:5-8
- ◆ The Holy Spirit moves inside us, making us spiritually alive when we were spiritually dead before

◆ Justification

- ◆ ***“We maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.”*** Romans 3:28
- ◆ Justification: completely forgiven for all sin, clothed positionally before God with the righteousness of Jesus Christ, given freely as a gift to believers in Christ

◆ Sanctification

- ◆ ***“Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.”*** Romans 6:19
- ◆ Sanctification: progressive growth of a Christian by obedience to God through the power of the Spirit... growth into righteousness by putting sin to death

◆ Glorification

- ◆ ***“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”*** Romans 8:18
- ◆ Glorification: instantaneous transformation of believers by the power of God into total moral and physical perfection eternally in the presence of God in heaven

Doctrinal Instruction

A Full Salvation from Sin: The Four P's

Salvation is God's gracious activity in Christ by which He frees sinners from the penalty, power, practice, and presence of sin. Salvation is thus a process which is begun here on earth and will not be fully completed until Judgment Day.

1. Saved from sin's **penalty**

- ◆ The penalty of sin is clear: eternal _____ under the wrath of God in hell. We have already discussed this (in session 1).
- ◆ On Judgment Day, God will demand an accurate _____ for every sin a person apart from Christ has ever committed:

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

- ◆ Any who have a single _____ sin will be cast into the lake of fire forever and ever. This is called the "second death," and it is the most terrifying penalty of our sin:

Romans 6:23 "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus, our Lord."

- ◆ The only way to avoid this _____ is faith in Christ. Christ suffered on the cross in our place, that we might not have to suffer this penalty.
- ◆ He also came to give us a perfect _____ as a free gift. On Judgment Day, God will require perfect righteousness from each person in order to enter heaven. The only source of perfect righteousness is Jesus Christ, and the only way to receive that gift is faith:

2 Corinthians 5:21 "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us so that, in Him, we might become the righteousness of God."

Romans 1:17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

- ◆ The moment a sinner puts faith in Christ, he/she is immediately _____, declared "Not guilty!" for all sins. This is called _____.

Doctrinal Instruction

- ◆ Justification happens in a moment, simply by _____ apart from works. It can never be taken away from the true believer, it can never be improved upon, it can never spoil or fade, it is “kept in heaven” for us (1 Peter 1:3-4). We do not feel or see it at all, and we will not experience its full effects until Judgment Day itself when our verdict is read for all to hear.

This is salvation from sin’s **penalty**.

2. Saved from sin’s **power**

- ◆ At the same moment that a sinner repents and trusts Christ, that person is freed forever from the _____ of sin over them. They never need sin again, but are free forever from sin’s power:

Romans 6:17-18 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

- ◆ To be a slave to sin means we have no authority to deny its _____ over us. We were at sin’s mercy and sin could command us to act out rebellion against God’s commands.
- ◆ The salvation that God brings gives us total _____ from the authority of sin forever, enabling us to refuse whenever sin commands us to disobey God. Perhaps the best illustration of this power is in the story of Cain and Abel. Both had brought offerings to God, but God had only accepted Abel’s. Cain got angry at both Abel and God, prompting God to speak to Cain:

Genesis 4:6-7 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

Sin crouches daily at the door of every sinner apart from Christ. We are challenged to “master” it, to defeat it, to dominate it. However, apart from Christ, we have no power or authority to say “No!” The glorious good news of the Gospel is stated plainly by the Apostle Paul in our “Emancipation Proclamation” from sin’s power:

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

Sin has no **power** over us in terms of authority if we have trusted Christ!

Doctrinal Instruction

3. Saved from sin's practice

- ◆ However, there is a power of sin in our _____ in that they have been _____ to sin through years of experience.
- ◆ This power of sin is that of _____, and it is incited by external temptations, by the devil, and by the body's own weakness.
- ◆ This is the next step of salvation: saved from sin's practice. The Bible calls this gradual growth into daily Christ-like holiness "_____." We have to be taught step by step to live in the freedom from sin that Christ purchased for us.
- ◆ The grace of God is that _____, working a gradual crushing of the habits and practices of sin over the lifetime of the believer:

Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age...

- ◆ We say "No!!" to sin by the power of the Holy Spirit, putting sin to _____ every time we refuse a temptation. This is precisely the work the indwelling Spirit does for every believer:

Romans 8:13-14 ...if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

- ◆ This work is a _____ between the Spirit and the believer, and it goes on for the rest of your life. We can still fail and lurch into sin where we have no business being and where we do not belong.
- ◆ When we do, the Spirit _____ us of His revulsion against it, we confess it and repent from it, and walk again as new creatures in Christ. **However, anyone who is not regularly putting sin to death by the Holy Spirit is not a Christian.**

4. Saved from sin's presence

- ◆ This is the final step of our salvation, and the Bible calls it "_____." It involves a total freedom from the very presence of sin in heaven.
- ◆ No more indwelling _____, no more "body of death" (Romans 7:24) in which resides our proclivity to sin, no more external temptations, no more devil! What glorious freedom! It also includes a resurrection body, perfect in every respect.

Doctrinal Instruction

- ◆ It involves an instantaneous _____ the moment we see Christ face to face, and it is accomplished completely by the power of God and by His grace:

Romans 8:29-30 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

1 John 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Our gospel message is the wonderful news that full salvation from sin in all its devastating consequences is available through faith in Christ.

The **penalty** of sin... The **power** of sin... The **practice** of sin... The **presence** of sin

All removed through faith in Christ!!

- ◆ We understand that these things are accomplished for us only by Jesus Christ. They are won for us through His victory at the _____.
- ◆ In order to understand the gospel, we must understand the full _____ of Christ on the cross. The accomplishments of the cross are so immense and sweeping that the Bible uses a wide variety of _____ to cover them

The Accomplishments of the Cross

Doctrinal Instruction

Mr.	Mr.	Mr.	Mr.	Mr.
Mr.	Mr.	Mr.	Mr.	Mr.
Mr.	Mr.	Mr.	Mr.	Mr.
Mr.	Mr.	Mr.	Mr.	Mr.
Mr.	Mr.	Mr.	Mr.	Mr.
Mr.	Mr.	Mr.	Mr.	Mr.
Mr.	Mr.	Mr.	Mr.	Mr.

Avoiding a “canned-presentation”

Practical Instruction

- ◆ It is very important that we avoid giving a canned-sounding _____ of the gospel. Some people memorize an approach to witnessing, then push “play” on the tape recorder of their minds and out comes the sound from their mouths.
- ◆ Jesus shared the gospel differently in almost every occasion, always in a way _____ to the situation, with some give and take between Him and His hearers.
- ◆ The purpose of the gospel outline we’re memorizing is not that we should _____ it verbatim on people, but rather to give us a _____ _____ for our conversation, so that we hit the stops we need to in our conversation. Also, the memorized Scriptures are essential for the presentation, for “*Faith comes from hearing the word of Christ.*” (Romans 10:17)
- ◆ What I propose instead is that you have a “_____ _____,” and ask questions of your hearer the way Jesus did. But control the flow of the conversation by means of the mile markers of this gospel outline.

Carrying on a “gospel conversation” ... concentric circles

- ◆ The management of a “gospel conversation” should progress through _____ circles from more general and superficial topics through to the core issues of the gospel.
- ◆ The goal is to draw the person to whom we’re witnessing into a _____ of these core issues so that we have an opportunity to share the saving message of the gospel.
- ◆ One of the key tools we can glean from Jesus’ evangelistic technique is that of asking searching, open-ended _____ that cause a person to reflect on life or death issues.

Jesus may have been the greatest question-asker ever. His earliest recorded conversation with anyone was with the teachers in the temple courts. What amazed them more than anything was the questions He asked, and the understanding those questions showed (Luke 2:46). When His parents expressed their immense worry over Jesus’ having stayed behind in the temple, Jesus asked them two questions: “Why were you searching for me? Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” (Luke 2:49). From there, He went on to ask many other incredible questions of people: “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is He?”; “Who do you say that I am?”; “What is the Kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to?”; “Where did John’s baptism come

Doctrinal Instruction

from—from heaven or from men?"; "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

Real-Life Example: We can and should use this approach in witnessing. For example, suppose you're getting your hair cut at a "Great Clips" store. The woman seats you and asks how you want your hair cut today. You answer the question and she settles in to do her work. You can lead her through ever more serious levels of discussion by your questions:

- 1) Level 1: "How long have you worked here?" "Do you like working at a place like Great Clips, or would you rather work in a smaller salon?" "Has today been busy?" "What's the busiest day?" "What kind of hair is easiest to cut? What kind is hardest?"
- 2) Level 2: "Why did you decide to become a hairdresser?" "Do you enjoy cutting people's hair? Why?" "You seem to enjoy talking to people... are most customers easy to talk with?" "Do you frequently have to cut the hair of your friends or relatives? How does it make you feel when they ask you to do it?"
- 3) Level 3: "What would you say is the number one problem facing society today, and how do you think we can solve it?" "If you inherited a million dollars tomorrow, how would your life change? Do you think it would change you?"
- 4) Level 4: "What is your spiritual background? Do you have a church you attend regularly?" "Have you ever read the gospel accounts of the life of Jesus Christ? What's the most remarkable thing you ever heard about Jesus Christ?" "If you could ask Christ one question—about anything at all—what would it be?"

The following are some various questions you could use in conversations:

EVANGELISTIC QUESTIONS

OPENING:

1. "What three things are you most thankful for in your life?"
2. "What is your happiest memory from childhood?"
3. "If you could meet any person from history, who would it be and why?"
4. "What qualities are most important in a mate and why?"

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5. "Who was the person who most influenced your values? If you could sum up your values in a few thoughts, what would they be?"
6. "Why do you think there's so much violence in the world these days?"
7. "Let's say you were 80 years old and looking back on what you consider to be a good life. What would you want to be in that life?"
8. "If you could have anything at all, what would it be?"
9. "If you could only have one of the following, which would you choose: money, power, good relationships, accomplishments, character, long life?"
10. "What is the most important aspect to a successful life?"
11. "What would you say are the most important differences between your values and those of your parents? Grandparents?"
12. "Would you say most people are afraid to die? If so, why?"
13. "Do you ever think about death? Are you ever afraid to die?"

TRANSITIONAL:

14. "What is your spiritual background?"
15. "Did you enjoy going to church when you were a kid?"
16. "What's the most beautiful natural sight you've ever seen? When you saw it, what did it make you think of God?"
17. "Have you ever prayed for something and got what you asked for?"
18. "Why do you think most people don't attend church regularly?"
19. "If you could ask God any question, what would it be and why?"
20. "What would it take for you to believe there's a God?"
21. "What is the significance of Easter to you?"

EVANGELISTIC:

22. "Who do you think Jesus Christ was?"

Doctrinal Instruction & Gospel Outline

23. "Why do you think Jesus died?"
24. "If I could prove to you that Jesus Christ rose from the dead, would you ask Him to be your personal Lord and Savior?"
25. "If you were to die tonight and have to stand before God to give an account for your life, and He were to ask you why He should let you into heaven, what would you say?"
26. "Has there ever been a time in your life that you've asked Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior, or are you still thinking about it."
27. "The most important thing in my life is having a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Would you like to know how you can know God personally?"

Overview of the Gospel Outline

“Preparation”

The Four “I’s”

- 1) Introduction: Here, we introduce ourselves (and perhaps the church we’re from, if we’re on a visit with church members)
- 2) Interests: The outer limits of the “concentric circles,” here we discuss everyday secular issues and interests
- 3) Involvement: Here we move closer to the “core” issues by asking what their involvement has been up until now in church... were they raised in a church, do they presently attend one, etc.
- 4) Inquiry: This is the “key question” as follows:

The “Key Question”

“In your personal opinion, what do you understand

Key Question

it takes for a person to go to heaven?"

- ◆ This question makes a firm _____ from more general spiritual issues to an opportunity to explain the gospel accurately
- ◆ This question also serves as a _____ tool to understand where the person's at spiritually

Analyzing the answer:

1) A **faith** answer: "Anyone who repents and trusts in Christ has eternal life. I have repented and trusted in Christ, so I know that I have eternal life in His name."

2) A **works** answer: "I think that if I try really hard to be a good person, and if I love others, I'll be fine." Or "If someone's basically a good person, and if their good deeds outweigh their bad, they can go to heaven."

3) An **unclear** answer: "I have always believed in God and I try to keep the Ten Commandments and to trust Christ."

4) **No opinion**: "I have no idea." Or "Many religions have many different answers to that question, but I don't think we can really know for sure."

- ◆ **Assignment of Homework:**
- ◆ Memorize "Key question"
- ◆ Use Key question with someone you don't know

WEEK 4 | Part One Of The Evangelistic Outline: God

“God’s Three Roles: Creator, King, Judge
God’s Three Attributes: Loving, Sovereign, Holy”



Week 4 Contents:

- ✓ Team Time
- ✓ Doctrinal Instruction:
 - ✓ The Alpha & Omega
 - ✓ Man-centered vs. God-centered Evangelism
 - ✓ Our deepest (and only true) need: God
 - ✓ Objective Realities
- ✓ Practical Instruction
 - ✓ Personal Holiness & Evangelism
- ✓ Overview of the Gospel Outline & Homework

Team Time



- ◆ **Reviewing our covenant together (Page 15)**
- ◆ **Going over outline learned thus far**
 - ✓ **Three-part “Over Outline”**
 - ✓ **Four-part “Presentation Outline”**
 - ✓ **Key Question**

Doctrinal Instruction

Why start with God?

1) The Alpha and Omega

- ◆ We start with God in evangelism because God is the _____ and _____ of humanity, and the gospel is **His** _____ told for **His** _____
- ◆ We start with God because _____ starts with God: “In the beginning, God...” (Genesis 1:1)
- ◆ We start with God because the Scripture reveals that God is the “Alpha and Omega, the _____ and the End...” and this is specifically in the scope of gospel witness:

Revelation 21:6 He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.”

- ◆ We start with God because salvation is essentially the transformation of a _____ against God into a _____ of God
- ◆ We start with God because the _____ rule of God over each person is the essence of the Kingdom of God into which we are inviting people

Matthew 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

- ◆ We start with God because God is what every human being _____, to the very core of their being. As Augustine put it so beautifully sixteen centuries ago:

“You have made us for yourself, O God, and the heart of man is restless until it finds its rest in you.” [*Confessions*, Book 1]

- ◆ We start with God because Paul, in summing up the gospel message he’d just explained in eleven chapters of glorious doctrine, said:

Romans 11:36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

- ◆ What does “from him” mean? Among other things, it means that the gospel is from God, about God, and returns all things to God. Sin has _____ humanity. Christ came to _____ sinners under the kingship of God. We as evangelists are called to do the same... gather unto God:

Doctrinal Instruction

Matthew 12:30 *"He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters."*

- ◆ At the core of people's rebellion against God is the sense of self-sufficiency that has _____ at its roots. People don't think about God, don't love God, don't live for God, and don't care about God. They look to _____ to solve all their problems, and their perception of their problems is all about themselves, too. They have "_____" that are not being met, they have _____ that they feel acutely. Little do they realize that they "need" only one thing: God, and God alone.

Therefore, in our gospel presentation, we start with God.

2) Man-centered vs. God-centered evangelism

- ◆ These days, most gospel presentations revolve around _____ and his _____ rather than _____ and His _____. Sin has indeed left man "needy," as scripture clearly reveals:

Revelation 3:17 *You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.*

- ◆ Most people will admit their sense of need at some level. But what they will not admit is that they need _____. Therefore, our proclamation of the gospel must establish God as the _____ of all things. We were created to worship God and delight to serve Him forever.

Examples of man-centered gospel appeals:

- ➔ *"Everyone needs to feel accepted and loved, and yet most of us don't. The gospel of Jesus Christ offers a secure love which is permanent and unconditional. Through Christ we can receive the love we need."*
- ➔ *"Is your life in disorder and chaos? Do you feel stressed and out of sorts? God can help you make sense of your life, give you peace and tranquility, if you'll only let Him."*
- ➔ *"You have everything you ever wanted, but something's missing. You have a good job, a good family, and all the material comforts you could dream of having. But you still feel empty inside. God can give you fullness."*
- ➔ *"You've tried everything... try God."*

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- ◆ The unifying theme here is that the Gospel is preached to meet our felt needs in this world. The problem with that is two-fold: 1) the biggest need a non-Christian has is the very thing he ignores or denies: God; 2) the greatest reasons for faith in Christ will not be seen in this world, but rather on Judgment Day and beyond.
- ◆ In other words, we do not trust Christ primarily for experiences of peace, joy, love, and success on _____, though those things may be part of our earthly experience. We trust Christ that we may know God eternally (_____) and not be driven eternally from His presence (_____).

3) Our deepest (and only true) need: God

- ◆ True _____ occurs when self-satisfied sinners repent and find their greatest _____ and _____ in God Himself
- ◆ It is not enough to believe certain things about God. James says “the devils believe... and shudder.” (James 2:19). Devils know and _____; saved people know and _____
- ◆ God becomes our treasure, the whole purpose of our _____. The greatest joy of our lives is knowing that we will spend eternity in the presence of God Himself.
- ◆ As over against a modern gospel which seems to promise many _____ benefits (a sense of love and well-being, material prosperity, friendships/community, freedom from certain addictions, earthly purpose, etc.) as the core of motivation for faith in Christ, a true believer can say with the Psalmist:

Psalm 73:25 “Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.”

- ◆ And we look to heaven not so much as a place of beauty and pleasure of things _____ from God, but rather as a full and personal experience of the intense glory of God. God Himself, then, is what we get in heaven, as He said to Abram:

Genesis 15:1 “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”

- ◆ The gospel has as its focal point bringing sinners back into _____ with their Creator so that He becomes their treasure and greatest joy. Thus we must begin with God.

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4) Objective realities:

- ◆ The people of our _____ age (in which absolute truth is denied) will get a rude awakening on Judgment Day when they see a glorious person, a perfect Judge, sitting on a throne in front of them
- ◆ This is not “truth for _____, truth for _____.” God’s existence, His acts as creator of all, His rightful place as King over His creation, and His logical role as final Judge of those in His Kingdom, are _____, whether people accept them or not
- ◆ Though we seek to _____ people regarding these realities, our primary task as evangelists is simply to _____ them as absolute truths
- ◆ Because of these truths, we can truthfully say that everyone’s greatest need (whether they feel it or not) is to be in right _____ with God. His pleasure is all that matters. If He is pleased with us, nothing else matters.
- ◆ Satan’s greatest task is to persuade us that none of these things are _____

Therefore, our gospel presentation will cover God’s three roles: Creator, King, Judge; and three attributes: loving, sovereign, holy

◆ Outline points:

- ✓ God the Creator... LOVING
- ✓ God the King... SOVEREIGN
- ✓ God the Judge... HOLY

1) God is Creator

The Bible begins with creation, and so should we. Our memory verse on this is obvious and easy:

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning, God created heaven and earth.”

- ◆ Everything else comes out of this. Because God _____ everything, He alone has the right to _____ over what He has made. “God the King” relates directly to “God the Creator.” Because He made everything and rules over everything, He has the right to _____ what His creations do in the world He has made
- ◆ Also, we should understand that God the Creator is the _____ starting point all

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over the world for the gospel. We don't even need the Bible to proclaim the _____ of God... all we need do is point to creation. This is the starting point in cross-cultural evangelism, and also in evangelism with post-modern Americans who deny absolute truth.

- ◆ The physical world is an objective _____. We can speak to a Ph.D. student from another country and point to the same sun which warms/lights his homeland. We can speak to a hostile teenager on a subway in a large city and refer to the immensity of outer space as evidence of the existence of God. Creation is our starting place for the gospel.

THEREFORE: God is loving

- ◆ The connection between God's creation and His love is seen in the way He _____ for all His creatures everyday.
- ◆ With some tragic exceptions (almost always because of human sin) God _____ well over six billion people every day. He also provides warmth, sunlight, shelter and many other blessings to His creatures.
- ◆ God's _____ is woven through the fabric of what He's made. The love of God is shown in the marvelous ways He's created the world and us to enjoy the world.
- ◆ The world is covered with millions of different colors—all shades and hues, light and dark, vivid and muted. The world is filled with rugged mountain peaks and deep ravines, as well as rolling hills and flat plains. The world has millions of flowers of varying beauty and fragrance. This world shouts aloud every moment of a wise, good, and loving _____
- ◆ And He made parts of your body simply that you may experience _____ and give Him _____ and _____: He has made thousands of different tastes which our tongues can discern and experience... the tartness of a grapefruit, the heat of a jalapeno pepper, the succulence of a ripe peach, the sourness of a lime, the smooth sweetness of a melon. He soothes you with spring breezes, and stings you with a bracing sea gale. All of this simply for your pleasure and His glory. Truly God's love is clearly revealed in all He's made.

Our memory verse for God's love as demonstrated in creation and providence is:

Acts 14:27 He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.

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2) God is King

Not only did God make everything, but He also rules over everything for His own glory.

- ◆ He is not an absentee _____, but a present and _____ King
- ◆ He makes laws, and expects them to be _____. He actively _____ all things, and sovereignly _____ with the flow of earthly events for His own purposes

Psalm 47:7 “For God is King of all the earth.”

- ◆ The Kingship of God is what sinners _____. They don't mind a Creator, but they hate the idea of a King who rules. Charles Spurgeon put it this way:

“There is no doctrine more hated by worldlings, no truth of which they have made such a football, as the great, stupendous, but yet most certain doctrine of the Sovereignty of the infinite Jehovah. Men will allow God to be everywhere except upon His throne. They will allow Him to be in His workshop to fashion the world and make stars. They will allow Him to be in His charity ward to dispense His alms and bestow His bounties. They will allow Him to sustain the earth and bear up the pillars thereof, or light the lamps of Heaven, or rule the waves of the ever-moving ocean; but when God ascends His throne, His creatures then gnash their teeth... for God on His throne is not the God they love.”

- ◆ Yet, if the people we're witnessing to never _____ themselves to God's sovereign rule, they have not entered the Kingdom of God... they are rebels still! We must, therefore, proclaim that God is King.
- ◆ When Jesus went around _____ the gospel, it was the good news about the Kingdom of God... specifically that God is a good king who is willing to have _____ subjects throw down their weapons of revolt and enter His kingdom gladly. Without this understanding, sinners have not truly been converted.

THEREFORE: God is sovereign

Many verses proclaim the sovereign rule of God as King over all the earth. Our memory verse is as follows:

Psalm 103:19 The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

- ◆ God's throne _____ over everything. We have two choices: bow the knee to His rule or fight it and be destroyed.

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- ◆ Thankfully (as we have already seen), our King is a _____ and loving King. So bending the knee should be a _____, not a crushing burden.

THEREFORE: God also makes laws

Finally, because God is a King, He has the right to make laws which govern His Kingdom. The Bible contains many hundreds of commandments, but the most important are the Ten Commandments and the Two Great Commandments:

- 1) *I am the Lord, you God; you shall have no other gods beside me.*
- 2) *You shall not make any idols; you shall not worship any idols.*
- 3) *You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain.*
- 4) *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*
- 5) *Honor your father and mother.*
- 6) *You shall not murder.*
- 7) *You shall not commit adultery.*
- 8) *You shall not steal.*
- 9) *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*
- 10) *You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.*

- ◆ Of course, God gave many more commandments than these. Jesus _____ all the commands of God into two commandments:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Love your neighbor as yourself.

- ◆ These commands form the basis of _____ and _____ in God's Kingdom and they must be obeyed

3) God is Judge

- ◆ As King, God makes laws; as Judge God, has also set a day when He will _____ the world in righteousness based on those laws:

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Psalm 96:13 He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his truth.

- ◆ On that day, God will execute _____ on all His creatures based on the laws He has given them

THEREFORE: God is holy

In order to judge the whole earth, God must be holy Himself, and He is.

- ◆ God is separate from His _____, raised high above it.
- ◆ He is also separate from all _____, so He can judge it perfectly. The holiness of God is perhaps the most important thing a rebellious sinner needs to learn about God:

Habakkuk 1:13 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil, you cannot tolerate wrong.

- ◆ If God cannot even look at evil, he will certainly never _____ it when He judges the universe
- ◆ If He cannot even look at evil, He will judge it _____
- ◆ Most lost people grossly _____ the holiness of God and think they will be fine on Judgment Day. Our job as evangelists is to press the _____ of God home so that people fear His wrath and are drawn to the Savior

Practical Instruction

Personal holiness and evangelism

1) Personal holiness essential

We have already covered this before, but one more emphasis is worthwhile. I am convinced that a lack of personal holiness is one of the biggest obstacles to a fruitful life in evangelism.

- ◆ Sin cuts us off from God in many ways, and the fourteen ways that the Spirit prepares us to witness cited above are all _____ significantly if the Spirit is grieved with us.
- ◆ We must be absolutely committed to a life of personal _____: we must put sin to death daily in order to be fruitful. Paul spoke directly to this issue when he wrote his final letter, 2 Timothy:

2 Timothy 2:19-22 Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness. In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work. Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

- ◆ Peter also says that, to be fully _____ to give an answer for the hope we have, we must “keep a clear conscience” (1 Peter 3:16). If we want to be fully usable to God we must cleanse ourselves from all wickedness.

2) Confessing sin

Since we sin in so many ways (James 3:2), how can we be cleansed and made ready for the Master’s use? Only by the blood of Jesus Christ! We experience that cleansing power by confession of sin:

1 John 1:8-9 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

- ◆ We cannot lie to God and say we have no sin. As soon as our _____ testifies that we have sinned, we must bring that sin to God openly in _____. The blood of Jesus is sufficient to cleanse us from all unrighteousness and make us clean vessels for His service:

Practical Instruction

Hebrews 10:19-22 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

3) Producing fruit in keeping with repentance

- ◆ Confession is just the first sign of repentance. Genuine repentance involves a settled _____ never to sin that way again.
- ◆ God desires that we make good on our vows, and prove the _____ of our convictions by “*producing fruit in keeping with repentance*” as John the Baptist said (Matthew 3:8). God wants to see the _____... actual changes made in the way we live. Without that fruit, we can’t expect much evangelistic fruit.

4) God is gracious

- ◆ Having dealt with these serious topics of personal holiness, we must realize also that God is incredibly _____, not just to us as sinners who are His co-laborers, but also to those who desperately need to hear the _____ through us
- ◆ God will even use you when you’re at your worst. Make the most of every _____, even if you haven’t had time to confess and repent from sin yet. Just _____ that, when you next get time alone with God, you’ll do that work of repentance.
- ◆ Furthermore, God can use you even if you haven’t fully _____ to show yourself as approved workmen with the Scriptures (2 Timothy 2:15), or haven’t been fully _____ to give an answer for the hope you have with gentleness and reverence (1 Peter 3:15) God is _____ in the whole matter of evangelism. And this makes sense, for it is the good news of God’s saving grace!!
- ◆ Yet, of course, we must not _____ upon this grace by sinning casually or by being lazy in our preparation as evangelists
- ◆ Assignment of Homework:
 - Review: three-part overview, four-part presentation, key question
 - Memorize: “God” section with Scriptures

Key Question

Preparation

- Introduction: Introduce yourself
- Interests: Ask general questions about their life interests
- Involvement: Ask about prior involvement in church; listen for clues as to their spiritual state
- Inquiry: *Key Question* "In your personal opinion, what do you understand it takes for a person to go to heaven?"

Presentation

God:

- ◆ God is Creator

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created heaven and earth.

Therefore, God is loving

Acts 14:27 He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.

- ◆ God is King

Psalms 47:7 For God is King of all the earth.

Therefore, God is sovereign

Psalms 103:19 The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

Therefore, God also makes laws

The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)

The Two Greatest Commandments (Matthew 22)

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
Love your neighbor as yourself.*

- ◆ God is Judge

Psalms 96:13 He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his truth.

Therefore, God is holy

Habakkuk 1:13 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil, you cannot tolerate wrong.

WEEK 5 | Part Two Of The Evangelistic Outline: Man

“Man Is: Created, Rebellious, & Under Judgment”



Week 5 Contents:

- ✓ Team Time
- ✓ Doctrinal Instruction:
 - ✓ Human Need: 10 Aspects
 - ✓ Man Is Created
 - ✓ Man Is Rebellious
 - ✓ Man Is Under Judgment
- ✓ Practical Instruction
 - ✓ Scripture Memorization & Evangelism
- ✓ Overview of the Gospel Outline & Homework

Team Time



- ◆ **Reviewing our covenant together (Page 15)**
- ◆ **Going over outline learned thus far**
 - ✓ **Three-part “Over Outline”**
 - ✓ **Four-part “Presentation Outline”**
 - ✓ **Key Question**
 - ✓ **God**

Doctrinal Instruction

Human Need:

- ◆ We live surrounded by people who do not yet know God through Jesus Christ, and we are _____ to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit to be witnesses to them.
- ◆ But our _____ age teaches us that all roads lead to “God” (if there is a God), and that people are basically good with basically right ideas about everything.
- ◆ Sin has been reduced to two categories: _____ and _____. Even crimes are not the product of depraved character but rather brought on by adverse external conditions (society, dysfunctional families, poverty), and therefore should be punished as little as possible. All other things formerly called sins are now seen in a therapeutic sense as things from which we need “healing” rather than fruits of depraved character which will be accurately and justly judged by God. We therefore have self-help groups for the “healing” of almost every imaginable state of the human soul: chocolate-eaters anonymous, football-watchers anonymous, overspenders anonymous, etc.
- ◆ The Bible paints a radically different picture of the natural human state apart from Christ. If we do not understand this doctrine, we will get swept down the stream of pluralism, the roots of which is a denial of the universal and deadly effects of _____. We will think we have just one of many “gospels” and that our gospel may not even be the best.

Whether our non-Christian neighbor feels it or not, and even if his/her life seems to be happy, fruitful, fulfilled, and virtuous, yet the Bible reveals the following things about all unbelievers:

1) Spiritually Dead:

- ◆ Just as a corpse cannot do anything physically, so a person apart from Christ cannot do anything _____ towards God: cannot turn to God, cannot repent, cannot believe, cannot do anything to please God, cannot change his spiritual situation in any way.
- ◆ And just as a corpse does not respond to any _____, so a non-Christian will never respond to the _____, no matter how clearly and forcefully it is presented, unless God works it in their hearts by giving them life. This person is as lifeless as a corpse and needs a work of spiritual creation as dramatic as was the original physical creation:

Doctrinal Instruction

Ephesians 2:1-2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

2) Already Under God's Wrath:

- ◆ The Bible teaches that there is a _____ to come, and we'll speak about that in a moment. However, the Bible also reveals that all who are apart from Christ are constantly and daily under God's wrath because of their willful rebellion against Him.
- ◆ They are already under His wrath, and live under it moment by moment, though they do not _____ it:

Ephesians 2:3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.

3) Storing Up Ever Greater Wrath:

- ◆ Not only do non-Christians live every day under the wrath of God, but also by their daily choices and sins they actually _____ the wrath they will experience on Judgment Day.
- ◆ This wrath is stored up by God's perfect and detailed _____ of their deeds:

Romans 2:5-6 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. God "will give to each person according to what he has done."

- ◆ This is done by a flood of sins proceeding from a vile heart of _____. These sins follow certain recognizable patterns and are listed in many places in the New Testament:

Romans 1:29-31 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

Doctrinal Instruction

4) Law or Conscience Constantly Accuses:

- ◆ Every non-Christian stands constantly accused either by God's revealed _____ or by the internal law of _____.
- ◆ The written Law _____ no one, but only reveals the incredibly deep roots of sin in our hearts.
- ◆ In places where God's written Law has not yet been revealed, _____ testifies to the existence and attributes of God, pagans living there are completely without excuse, and their own consciences testify that they are evil:

Romans 2:14-15 (Gentiles) show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.

Romans 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

Romans 4:14 ...law brings wrath

Galatians 3:10 All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."

James 2:10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

5) Not one good deed accounted to their credit:

- ◆ It is especially important to understand that even the _____ deeds of a non-Christian are actually "sins" in God's sight because they are not done through faith.
- ◆ Nothing done apart from _____ in Christ is pleasing to God, therefore a non-Christian has no truly good deeds:

Romans 3:12 ...there is no one who does good, not even one.

Matthew 12:33-34 Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.

Doctrinal Instruction

Isaiah 64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags

Romans 14:23 ...everything that does not come from faith is sin.

6) Incapable of Pleasing God:

- ◆ The world is full of _____ people who are trying to reach God through religious duties.
- ◆ Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Animists, and others think that by their _____ to please God they will somehow improve their standing with Him.
- ◆ Furthermore, many _____ “Christians” are relying on their religious lives to commend themselves to God on that final Day. But the Bible reveals clearly that all such efforts apart from Christ are useless:

Romans 8:8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God

7) Enemies of God:

- ◆ Whether a non-Christian feels it or not, they are at war with God and God is at war with them. They are _____ of God, and God opposes them.
- ◆ This is true even of people who claim to _____ to God, but who have never repented and trusted in Christ:

Romans 5:10 ...we were God's enemies

Romans 8:7 The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

Colossians 1:21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

8) Incapable of Atoning for Sin:

- ◆ Not only are non-Christians under the wrath of God and alienated from Him, they

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have nothing they could possibly _____ to Him as an atonement for sins.

- ◆ The _____ they owe to God is overwhelming, because they have sinned day after day against an infinite God:

Psalm 49:7-9 *No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him—the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough—that he should live on forever and not see decay.*

Matthew 18:23-25 *Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.*

Micah 6:6-7 *With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?*

9) Blind and Deaf to Spiritual Truth:

- ◆ This is especially important for evangelists to remember: non-Christian people are spiritually dead, so they are blind and deaf to spiritual _____.
- ◆ They will never understand the gospel for it is _____ to them and they are blind to its truth:

Matthew 13:14 *In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: " `You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.*

1 Corinthians 1:18 *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

1 Corinthians 2:14 *The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that*

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they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

10) Incapable of Changing:

- ◆ Contrary to prideful human estimations, non-Christians cannot simply change their most basic _____.
- ◆ They cannot suddenly “_____ to follow Jesus,” nor can they repent and believe on their own.
- ◆ They can make life _____ of a sort (i.e. stopping drinking, quitting smoking, losing weight), but they cannot change any of the things we have said above: they are still spiritually dead, under God’s wrath, constantly increasing that wrath through new sins, under the law/conscience, incapable of doing any truly good deeds, incapable of pleasing God, incapable of atoning for past sins, enemies of God, incapable of understanding spiritual truth.
- ◆ The basic issue is, they cannot change their _____, have no desire for spiritual things, but only a continual lust for more evil:

Jeremiah 13:23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil.

Ephesians 4:19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

Summary: without Christ we’ve seen that people are...

- 1) Spiritually Dead
- 2) Already Under God’s Wrath
- 3) Storing Up Ever Greater Wrath
- 4) Law or Conscience Constantly Accuses
- 5) Not one good deed accounted to their credit
- 6) Incapable of Pleasing God
- 7) Enemies of God

Doctrinal Instruction

- 8) Incapable of Atoning for Sin
- 9) Blind and Deaf to Spiritual Truth
- 10) Incapable of Changing

- ◆ This entire assessment runs directly contrary to the modern emphasis on _____, and the total lack of _____ that modern people feel.
- ◆ It runs directly contrary to the modern _____ of self-help and self-improvement.
- ◆ It runs directly contrary to the idea of our basic _____ and our good deeds being sufficient to _____ for our sins.
- ◆ But it is the gospel truth and it must be told!
 - ◆ Outline Work:
 - ✓ Man is Created
 - ✓ Man is Rebellious
 - ✓ Man is Under Judgment

1) Man Is Created

Human beings are the pinnacle of God's creation as recorded in Genesis 1 and 2. The fact that we are specially created by God and intended for a special role in the world is established by our first memory verse:

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

This verse is extremely important for understanding who we are, and what God intended for us. The fact that we are created in the image of God tells us three important things about us as human beings (male and female), speaking of 1) our nature, 2) our purpose, and 3) our role.

- a. our nature: we were created to be like God, with the ability to think, reason, plan, be passionate, love, decide, etc. This is what sets us apart from animals. It shows we are spiritual, like God.

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- b. our purpose: we were created to know and love God, to worship Him, to marvel at Him, and to know His glory. We were created to have a passionate love relationship with God, and to be fully satisfied in Him.
- c. our role: we were created also to serve God. This is clear from the fact that we are created beings, and all created beings must serve their creator.

The modern evolutionary viewpoint denies that we are created, and also denies that there is anything special about humanity. We are merely *homo sapiens*, evolved from a pool of warm proteins through millions of stages, beyond the apes to our present state. If this is true, then there is truly no such thing as sin, but only those things harmful to society and our survival. If our race is to survive, we must deal with things that threaten our survival (like wars or crime). But there is no absolute standard of morality, or right and wrong. How wrong this is!! The Bible's simple statement that we are created in the image of God explains why He has worked through six-thousand years of history to redeem human beings. God loves us and cares about us, simply because we are created in His image.

Yet, we should always remember that we are created beings, made to do the will of our creator, and to do it joyfully. We were created to be like God, to know/love Him, and to serve Him.

2) Man Is Rebellious

The tragedy of human history is that we have rebelled against our King rather than served Him joyfully as we should have done. Sin is a deep-seated rejection of God's authority that corrupts every area of a person: their will, their emotions, their intellect, their bodies, everything! It is not simply a matter of occasionally doing something wrong. In order to be saved, we must cease being rebels and must joyfully submit to God as King. This will never happen unless we acknowledge that rebellion, and part of true gospel preaching is making the reality of the rebellion clear.

Our two memorized passages from Scripture help make this rebellion clear:

Romans 3:10-12 "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

This passage shows that no one, not even one person, is righteous (which means free from sin). It also shows that sin is a matter of turning away from God rather than seeking Him, loving Him, serving Him. Finally, it reveals that sin makes us worthless, and that sin prevents us from doing even one single good deed acceptable before God.

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This is a key concept, since almost every person you meet clings to the idea of their basic goodness before God, and of many good deeds they have done which they hope will make them acceptable before God.

If you press the significance of this passage home, it will be clear that no one will be able to stand before God on Judgment Day based on our basic righteousness or good deeds, since we have none.

The second passage helps define our rebellion and sin even more clearly:

1 John 3:4 “Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.”

Remember from the “God” section above that, as King, God has the right to make laws with which to govern His kingdom. Romans 3:10-12 establishes the universality of sin, and 1 John 3:4 helps make it clear that the essence of sin is breaking God’s law... rebellion!!

Remember also from the “God” section what those laws are: the Ten Commandments give us (for the most part) a list of things we SHOULD NOT do; the Two Great Commandments give us a comprehensive statement of what we SHOULD do. No human on earth can make it through these two filters unscathed. Press the Ten Commandments home: “You’ve never coveted? You’ve never once yearned for something you didn’t have? You’ve never once been jealous of some possession or position that someone else had?” Or use the Greatest Commandment: “You’ve loved God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength every moment of your life?” As evangelists, we must cut through the “Self-esteem” work that Satan has done in almost everyone’s heart these days. Very few people have any concept of sin whatsoever. God’s word brings light to their true condition.

3) Man Is Under Judgment

Just as God the King has the right to make laws by which His Kingdom is governed, God the Judge has the right to judge everyone concerning those laws. And He has set a day when He will judge the world in righteousness according to those laws.

The first memorized verse comes from the lips of Jesus Himself, and it clearly establishes not only the reality of Judgment Day, but also the careful and meticulous way God will judge absolutely every detail of our lives:

Matthew 12:36 “I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.”

This is a devastating verse to those who are confident in their own righteousness. If

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even or tiny careless words are judged, how much more our actions?

The second verse shows very clearly what judgment every sinner deserves for each sin they have committed:

Romans 6:23 “The wages of sin is death...”

At this point, I always explain that death is actually a “death penalty.” The essence of a death penalty is that it has not yet been exacted from the prisoner under its terrible sentence. In effect, every sinner apart from Christ is under a terrible sentence of death. Now we also make clear that this is not merely physical death but even worse, eternal death in hell under the wrath of God. Putting the two verses together, on the Day of Judgment, sinners will give a careful account to God for absolutely every area of their lives, and every sin we have committed will deserve a death penalty from God, the righteous Judge... a death penalty of eternity in hell under His wrath.

Practical Instruction

Scripture Memorization & Evangelism

Our practical instruction focuses on the value of Scripture memorization for evangelism. The more verses you can have memorized, the more powerful will be your ability to witness. Also, since witness flows from the heart of a maturing disciple of Jesus Christ who is in active fellowship with Him, a constant saturation with Scripture enables us to stay close to our source of life and strength, Jesus Christ:

John 15:5-8 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

In other words, abiding constantly in Christ is absolutely essential to bearing fruit. In verse 7, Jesus gives us the two keys to fruitfulness in Christ: 1) my words remain in you; 2) ask whatever you wish. According to verse 8, if the conditions of verse 7 are met, we will glorify our heavenly Father and bear much fruit, showing ourselves to be His disciples. Undoubtedly, included in this fruit will be evangelistic faithfulness and fruitfulness on our part. NOW, what did Jesus mean when He said "and my words remain in you"? Can Jesus' words (verse by verse!!!!) remain in us any other way than Scripture memorization? Thus Scripture memorization is a vital key to evangelistic fruitfulness.

Through memorization, we can have a full arsenal of weapons which the Holy Spirit can use through us to destroy false ideas about God which are blinding people and keeping them from eternal life. Through memorization, we can present a vivid and accurate account of Jesus' miracles or teachings (if we have them memorized). Through memorization, we can select just the right way to respond to any objections the person might have. Through memorization, we can leave a verse with them that they can write down and look up later, or that could burn conviction into their hearts.

How should one memorize? Practical steps are laid out in my booklet on this topic, "An Approach to the Extended Memorization of Scripture."

- ◆ Assignment of Homework:
 - ◆ Review: three-part overview, four-part presentation, key question
 - ◆ Review: "God" section with Scriptures

Gospel Outline

- ◆ Memorize “Man” section with Scriptures

Preparation

Introduction: Introduce yourself

Interests: Ask general questions about their life interests

Involvement: Ask about prior involvement in church; listen for clues as to their spiritual state

Inquiry: *Key Question* “In your personal opinion, what do you understand it takes for a person to go to heaven?”

Presentation

God:

- ◆ God is Creator

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created heaven and earth.

Therefore, God is loving

Acts 14:27 He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.

- ◆ God is King

Psalms 47:7 For God is King of all the earth.

Therefore, God is sovereign

Psalms 103:19 The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

Therefore, God also makes laws

The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)

The Two Greatest Commandments (Matthew 22)

***Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
Love your neighbor as yourself.***

- ◆ God is Judge

Psalms 96:13 He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his truth.

Gospel Outline

Therefore, God is **holy**

Habakkuk 1:13 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil, you cannot tolerate wrong.

Man:

- ◆ Man is Created by God (Creator)

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Our nature: created to **be like** God

Our purpose: created to **know/love** God

Our role: created to **serve** God

- ◆ Man is Rebellious Against God (King)

Universally Rebellious

Romans 3:10-12 "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

Rebellious Against God's Laws

1 John 3:4 "Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness."

[Remember God's Laws: Ten Commandments, Two Great Commandments]

- ◆ Man is Under Judgment by God (Judge)

Judgment Day

Matthew 12:36 "I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken."

Judgment Penalty

Romans 6:23 "The wages of sin is death..."

WEEK 6 | Part Three Of The Evangelistic Outline: Christ

“Jesus took on a human body and sacrificed that body as an atonement for sin...”



Week 6 Contents:

- ✓ Team Time
- ✓ Doctrinal Instruction:
 - ✓ “In Christ”
 - ✓ Salvation is Found in No One Else
 - ✓ The Centrality of the Cross
 - ✓ The Good News of the Resurrection
- ✓ Overview of the Gospel Outline & Homework

Team Time



- ◆ **Reviewing our covenant together (Page 15)**
- ◆ **Going over outline learned thus far**
 - ✓ **Three-part “Over Outline”**
 - ✓ **Four-part “Presentation Outline”**
 - ✓ **Key Question**
 - ✓ **God**
 - ✓ **Man**

Doctrinal Instruction

“In Christ”

- ◆ Last time we discussed how utterly _____ people are naturally before God. Naturally, we are all of us sinners, with no _____ of our own, without and possible ground of standing on Judgment Day.
- ◆ According to Romans 6:23, because of our sins we all deserve eternal death in hell apart from God. Therefore, we are totally lost and in desperate need of a _____.
- ◆ The great good news of the gospel is that, in Jesus Christ, we have such a Savior!! But the key to understanding _____ is to understand who we are “_____.” Paul uses this expression again and again, and develops the concept in all his major letters. Look, for example, at Ephesians 1:1-14, and note the number of times that Paul makes it clear that our salvation is “in Christ,” or “through Christ”:

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints in Ephesus, the faithful **in Christ Jesus**: 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing **in Christ**. 4 For he chose us **in him** before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons **through Jesus Christ**, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us **in the One he loves**. 7 **In him** we have redemption **through his blood**, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. 9 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed **in Christ**, 10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. 11 **In him** we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to *hope in Christ*, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included **in Christ** when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked **in him** with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

- ◆ It is very clear that Paul sees our salvation as _____ completely “in Christ.” We have no _____ apart from Christ, and certainly no hope either. Therefore, Christ is everything!!

Doctrinal Instruction

- ◆ Paul also develops this idea in terms of our “_____” with Christ, and His solidarity with us as human beings in His incarnation. The “union” theme comes out in Romans 6 and Galatians 2:

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- ◆ Here Paul says he was actually “_____ with Christ,” meaning that, through faith in Christ, there is a _____ union between him and Christ. When Christ was suffering on the cross, it was also Paul who was suffering there, too.
- ◆ He also means to say that, because of this union, he is completely _____ to his “pre-Christ” life as Paul the unbeliever. It’s as though that Paul has _____ forever. This is seen very clearly in Romans 6:1-11:

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. 5 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- 7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

- ◆ Our entire Christian life here on earth is lived in union with Christ, as our _____ symbolizes. That union is our only hope on Judgment Day, for it is Christ’s _____ alone that will successfully cover us before God’s judgment seat:

Romans 3:21-22 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

- ◆ Our salvation also depends on Christ’s _____ to take our sin upon Himself, and to give us the _____ we will need on Judgment Day

Doctrinal Instruction

2 Corinthians 5:21 *God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us so that, in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Again, we can see that our righteousness can only be found “in Him” (i.e. “in Christ.”)

- ◆ This _____ between us and our Savior is also made plain in Christ’s willingness to take on a human body and to suffer death, as described in Hebrews 2:

Hebrews 2:14-15 *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

Christ considered Himself totally united with us, even to the extent of suffering death to free us.

- ◆ This same union with Christ is behind the metaphor of Christ as the _____ of the Body:

Ephesians 1:20-22 *And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

- ◆ It is for this reason that Christ feels every _____ on His children as if it happened to Him directly, and every _____ done for one of His children as if it were done to Him directly:

Attacks on Christ’s disciples are attacks on Him

Acts 9:1, 3-6 *Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples.... As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.*

Blessings for Christ’s disciples are blessings for Him

Matthew 25:37-40 *"Then the righteous will answer him, `Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 40 "The King will reply, `I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'*

Doctrinal Instruction

- ◆ Therefore, since we are totally dependent on Christ for salvation, Christ must be the _____ of our Gospel presentation AND our evangelistic philosophy. The fact is, we can accomplish NOTHING without Him:

John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Salvation is Found in No One Else

- ◆ There is a tremendous _____ for the Church to understand how false is the pluralism of our day.
- ◆ The world (especially in America) deeply desires to _____ the church into abandoning the exclusivity of Christ and the gospel.
- ◆ We are being told we are "_____" to assume that we have the only truth, and that all other religions are false.
- ◆ We are being accused of "cultural and spiritual _____" if we proclaim that people who reject the gospel of Christ are going to hell.
- ◆ They will be _____ if we will simply say "For us, Jesus is a way to heaven, but your way is just as valid as mine." They may even enjoy "_____" with us about "spiritual truths."
- ◆ But we must never relinquish our hold on this central fact: Jesus Christ is not just one of _____ ways to get to heaven.

Many of us are aware of some "proof-texts" for the fact that Jesus is the only way to heaven:

John 14:6 [Jesus said] "I am the way and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me."

Acts 4:12 [Peter said, speaking of Jesus of Nazareth] "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

However, this doctrine goes much deeper than two famous "proof texts," and it actually strikes to the heart of our Christian faith.

- ◆ Scripture consistently presents Him as our only _____, because that is just what He is:

Doctrinal Instruction

Ephesians 2:12-13 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

Colossians 1:27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

1 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope

1 Peter 1:3 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

- ◆ People who think there is some other way to God do not understand the basic problem of _____, God's _____, and the _____ to come. Apart from God's gift of righteousness through Jesus Christ, where else will a righteousness that will survive Judgment Day come from?
- ◆ Neither do they understand the _____ or the doctrine of the _____. If Jesus was God's "only begotten Son," again salvation can be found nowhere else.
- ◆ It is impossible to imagine that the Father would _____ anyone who rejected the Son. The Apostle John made this abundantly clear:

1 John 2:23 No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

1 John 5:11-12 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

- ◆ Just as clear is Jesus' definition of _____ life itself:

John 17:3 "Now this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

How could these words be true if Jesus were just one of many ways to heaven?

- ◆ Again, if Jesus truly is God the Son, why would He die on the cross to provide just one of _____ ways to heaven? Paul touches on this theme in Galatians:

Doctrinal Instruction

Galatians 2:21 I do not set aside the grace of God for if righteousness could be gained by the law, Christ died for nothing.

- ◆ In other words, if you could work your way to heaven by your own _____, why would Christ die to provide simply a different route to heaven? That would make no sense! Rather Jesus took on a human body and sacrificed that body as an atonement for sin because there was **no other way!** Isaiah revealed this in clear language:

Isaiah 59:15-16 The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him.

- ◆ That Jesus is the only way to salvation is also plain from the logic Paul uses in Romans 10, a logic which drives the entire _____ enterprise:

Romans 10:13-15 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

- ◆ The basic idea is that we must "call on the name of the Lord" in order to be saved. Jesus came to "_____ the name of the Lord" to those people whom the Father had given Him out of the world (John 17:6). Without that revelation, we will never "call on the name of the Lord," and thus we will not be _____.
- ◆ Furthermore, the Scripture reveals that the essence of salvation is to see _____ in the face of Christ and to trust Him for salvation. This is the very thing that Satan (the "god of this age") wants desperately to prevent:

2 Corinthians 4:4-6 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

This passage is incredibly vital to our understanding of salvation itself. The "moment of regeneration" occurs when, by the power of the Spirit, a previously blinded sinner sud-

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denly “sees the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ” when they hear “the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” Where Christ had previously been “a good _____ teacher” or even someone they’d never even heard of, now He is incarnate _____, the only Savior for the world, and their only hope _____ for Judgment Day. This is what faith receives at the moment of salvation, and it is totally focused on _____.

The Centrality of the Cross

- ◆ If all this is true, then the _____ of Jesus Christ must be the center of our gospel message. We must avoid all _____, and leave the central message of the cross ringing in the ears of our hearers.
- ◆ If the cross is understood properly, the _____ is understood properly. If we have failed to explain the cross properly, we have failed to preach the gospel. This is precisely why Paul said the following:

1 Corinthians 2:1-2 When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. 2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

We must do the same as we preach the gospel... keep the cross of Christ central!

- ◆ The essence of the cross is _____ ... Christ, the Son of God, stood in our place to take our punishment, in order that we might have forgiveness of sins and that God’s justice might be displayed and satisfied. Without substitution (Christ in our place) the cross makes no sense and neither does the gospel.
- ◆ Without the cross, we may in the end seem to be preaching a religion of good works to _____ for sin. Without the cross, our view of God and Judgment day will be _____ and wrong.

The Good News of the Resurrection

- ◆ Obviously, the cross alone would not be _____ news. If Jesus Christ had never risen from the dead, He would not be worth preaching. Paul says we would still be under _____ without Christ’s resurrection:

1 Corinthians 15:17 If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

- ◆ The resurrection of Christ is an objective and historical _____ that can be veri-

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fied as much as any other fact in history can. The historical _____ for the resurrection is overwhelming and sufficient as a _____ for faith. It also sets Jesus Christ apart from any other _____ figure in the history of the world.

Jesus Christ is the only Savior, the center of our gospel, and the essence of our eternal life. As evangelists, we will do well to preach Him as such! Any other “gospel” is “no gospel at all!” (Galatians 1:7).

◆ Outline Points:

- ✓ God’s Fourth Title: Savior

Saved from what? Sin!

- ✓ Jesus’ Supernatural Life

God-man

Miraculous

Sinless

- ✓ Jesus’ Substitutionary Death

- ✓ Jesus’ Saving Resurrection

- ✓ Jesus’ Salvation Gifts

Total Forgiveness of Sins (Death Penalty Paid)

Eternal Life

1) God’s Fourth Title: Savior

We’ve seen that God is Creator, King (Lawgiver), and Judge. We have also seen that man is created, rebellious, and under judgment. This leads immediately to the “Christ” section of our outline, and to God’s fourth title: _____. Man is sinful and under a death _____ which we cannot pay. Therefore we are desperately in need of a Savior, and only God Himself can be that Savior. Thus God sent Jesus Christ into the world, God in human flesh to pay our death penalty. Our first scripture memory verse makes three of these _____ clear (leaving out Creator):

Isaiah 33:22 For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; it is he who will save us.

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Just as God is central in His other offices, so He is central in our _____. We want to save ourselves, and in our _____ we think we can. But the basic message of the gospel is that we absolutely positively CANNOT save ourselves, and God must do it himself, or it will not be done. The Isaiah verse makes God the center of all four offices.

But humanity may ask “saved from what?” If they are still asking this question at this point in the outline, we have not done a good enough job in the “Man” section: we are rebellious from the laws of our King (including the _____ “Thou shalt nots” of the Ten Commandments, and the even more difficult _____ “Thou shalt” of the Two Great Commandments) and thus deserve the penalty of eternal death (Romans 6:23).

Our next memory verse makes it clear who the _____ from sin is: none other than Jesus of Nazareth:

Matthew 1:21 You will give Him the name Jesus because He will save His people from their sins.

This makes it clear what we are saved from, as well as who will do the saving. This statement was made by the angel to Joseph as the angel _____ that Joseph should take Mary as his wife, despite her pregnancy. What is not as clear to us is the significance of Jesus’ name itself. “You will give Him the name Jesus **because** He will save His people from their sins.” Obviously, in the words of a modern spiritual song, “There’s something about that name.” The name literally means “Salvation is from the Lord,” or “The Lord is salvation.” These two verses already establish the _____ of Christ, as well as His _____. But we will be even clearer about these doctrines next.

Jesus’ Supernatural Life

No one can be saved without knowing something of the “_____” of Jesus. Paul made that clear in Romans 10:14, “How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?” It is for this very reason that we have four “biographies” of Jesus Christ: the _____. The facts of Jesus physical life on earth—His supernatural birth, His amazing words, His miraculous deeds—are _____ to our gospel. History matters to Christianity. This is so true that Paul said (as we saw above) “If Christ has not been raised from the dead, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.” (1 Corinthians 15:14) Liberal Christianity denies the importance of objective historical _____. The New Testament is built on it!!

It is for this very reason that you always see the _____ in Acts preaching the facts of Christ’s life (see what Peter does in Acts 10 with Cornelius as an example). We also

Doctrinal Instruction

must get these facts across. (I believe an inductive Bible study in which we go through some of the Gospel accounts of Jesus' words and deeds is the best form of evangelism.) The following three headings are sufficient for our outline, but a fuller treatment including His _____ would be ideal.

God-man

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us

We must establish the _____ of Christ without question. Christ was God in the flesh. John 1:14 establishes that fact (if we make it clear that the "Word" is Jesus of Nazareth which John's Gospel does, in fact, make clear). This doctrine is a _____, and we cannot plumb the depths of it... but it is essential to the Gospel. As I stated above, the incarnation (literally "enfleshment" of God the Son) is established in Isaiah 33:22 and Matthew 1:21... but this verse comes right out and says it.

Miraculous

Matthew 11:5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.

Jesus' _____ are further proof of His deity, and were constantly a focal point of Apostolic preaching (see Acts again). This verse gives a good list of the mighty works Jesus did. Jesus Himself put a great deal of emphasis on the miracles as a _____ of faith. In John 10:25, Jesus says "The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me," and in John 10:38 He said "... believe the miracles." We should speak about Jesus' amazing _____ to those we are evangelizing. Lazarus's resurrection is my favorite, as is His stilling of the storm and His feeding of the 5000. Use them liberally!!

Sinless

1 Peter 2:22 He committed no sin, nor was any deceit in His mouth

Jesus' sinless _____ is essential to His fitness to be our _____ on the cross. Therefore we must establish it through Scriptural testimony. Because Jesus had no sin of His own, He could not be said to have been punished for Himself on the cross. This verse also shows that Jesus lived the kind of _____ we are supposed to lead in the "Kingdom of God," and that we will lead when our salvation is completed in heaven... perfect, joyful obedience to our King.

Jesus' Substitutionary Death

Doctrinal Instruction

Substitution is the _____ of the gospel message, yet very few evangelical presentations of the gospel seem to focus on it, or even mention it!! Jesus took our place... His suffering is what we deserved, His experience of the wrath of God was ours, His death was our death penalty. If this is not made clear, then our hearers have not understood the _____!

1 Peter 2:24 He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree...

This verse makes it clear! Peter states that Christ “bore our sins”... He carried them on Himself. This is the language of Isaiah 53:6, a verse we could easily have chosen as well. This verse also establishes the _____ nature of Christ’s suffering and death. It was both a “spiritual” death (in the sense that Christ stood under the wrath of God for us) and a literal physical death (the _____ was accomplished in space and time, with nails driven through His arms into wood).

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God

This verse also makes clear the substitutionary nature of Christ’s _____. The cross represented a _____ of guilt from us sinners to Christ, and of righteousness from Christ to us sinners. “How can guilt be transferred to a substitute?” they may ask. This is a _____, but it was the center of the animal sacrificial system that God established in the Old Covenant. The priest would put his hands on the animal and confess the sins of Israel “onto” its head (Leviticus 16:21). The word “onto” in Leviticus 16:21 clearly understand a transfer of guilt to the substitute. The substitute then suffers the penalty the sinner _____.

EXTRA NOTE: The three great lessons of the Old Testament’s sacrificial system

- 1) All sin deserves the death penalty
- 2) The death penalty can be paid by a substitute
- 3) Animals are an insufficient substitute; we need one greater than a human to accomplish forgiveness

Substitutionary _____ was the essence of the Old Testament, and it is also the essence of the gospel of Jesus Christ: He gets our sin and punishment, we get His righteousness for Judgment Day.

Jesus’ Saving Resurrection

As we said above, without the resurrection, we would have no _____. Jesus’ resur-

Doctrinal Instruction

rection is the only answer to the universal problem of death. Our memory verse establishes the historical fact of the resurrection:

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 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, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.

I also like to point out to my hearers that Jesus won His resurrection _____ to give to us. In John 14:19, Jesus said “Because I live, you also will live.” And in John 11:25-26 He said “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me will live even though he dies, and whoever live and believes in me will never die.”

Jesus' Salvation Gifts

Finally, we want to sum up Jesus' _____, the incredible _____. He offers to us who believe in Him. These are so many that one quick accounting could never do it justice. Rather, we want to focus on two: **the negative removed, the positive given.** The negative removed = sins forgiven, wrath turned away, hell averted, judgment satisfied. Through Christ's death, every sin we have ever committed or ever will commit have been completely _____, if we believe the gospel. I like to stress that this means the death penalty has been _____ completely:

Total Forgiveness of Sins (Death Penalty Paid)

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins

Eternal Life

Along with that comes the positive given: a free gift of a whole new _____ with God through faith in Christ. This will include (as we will make plain in the “Response” section) submitting to God as our Creator, our King and Lawgiver, and our Judge. It will also include the power to walk in _____ of life (as we will make plain). It will include ultimately an _____ in face to face loving fellowship with God in heaven. All of this is a free gift of God's grace (again, as we will stress in the “Response” section):

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Doctrinal Instruction

- ◆ Assingment of Homework
 - ◆ Review: three-part overview, four-part presentation, key question
 - ◆ Review: “God” section with Scriptures
 - ◆ Review: “Man” section with Scriptures
 - ◆ Memorize “Christ section with Scriptures

Gospel Outline

Preparation

Introduction: Introduce yourself

Interests: Ask general questions about their life interests

Involvement: Ask about prior involvement in church; listen for clues as to their spiritual state

Inquiry: *Key Question* "In your personal opinion, what do you understand it takes for a person to go to heaven?"

Presentation

God:

- ◆ God is Creator

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created heaven and earth.

Therefore, God is **loving**

Acts 14:27 He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.

- ◆ God is King

Psalms 47:7 For God is King of all the earth.

Therefore, God is **sovereign**

Psalms 103:19 The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

Therefore, God also **makes laws**

The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)

The Two Greatest Commandments (Matthew 22)

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
Love your neighbor as yourself.*

- ◆ God is Judge

Psalms 96:13 He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his truth.

Therefore, God is **holy**

Habakkuk 1:13 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil, you cannot tolerate wrong.

Gospel Outline

Man:

- ◆ Man is Created by God (Creator)

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Our nature: created to be like God

Our purpose: created to know/love God

Our role: created to serve God

- ◆ Man is Rebellious Against God (King)

Universally Rebellious

Romans 3:10-12 "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

Rebellious Against God's Laws

1 John 3:4 "Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness."

[Remember God's Laws: Ten Commandments, Two Great Commandments]

- ◆ Man is Under Judgment by God (Judge)

Judgment Day

Matthew 12:36 "I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken."

Judgment Penalty

Romans 6:23 "The wages of sin is death..."

Christ:

- ◆ God's Fourth Title: Savior

Isaiah 33:22 For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; it is he who will save us.

Gospel Outline

Saved from what?

Matthew 1:21 You will give Him the name Jesus because He will save His people from their sins.

◆ Jesus' Supernatural Life

God-man

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us

Miraculous

Matthew 11:5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.

Sinless

1 Peter 2:22 He committed no sin, nor was any deceit in His mouth

◆ Jesus' Substitutionary Death

1 Peter 2:24 He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree...

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God

◆ Jesus' Saving Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 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, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.

◆ Jesus' Salvation Gifts

Total Forgiveness of Sins (Death Penalty Paid)

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins

Eternal Life

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

WEEK 7 | Part Four Of The Evangelistic Outline: Response

“The Gospel calls for a response. We must make it clear to them not only what they must DO, but also what they must NOT DO!”



Week 6 Contents:

- ✓ Team Time
- ✓ Doctrinal Instruction:
 - ✓What must I do to be saved?
 - ✓DO: Repent and Believe the Gospel
 - ✓DON'T: Work for it; Wait for Tommorrow
 - ✓Eternal Life Now and Forever
- ✓Overview of the Gospel Outline & Homework

Team Time



- ◆ **Reviewing our covenant together (Page 15)**
- ◆ **Going over outline learned thus far**
 - ✓ **Three-part “Over Outline”**
 - ✓ **Four-part “Presentation Outline”**
 - ✓ **Key Question**
 - ✓ **God**
 - ✓ **Man**
 - ✓ **Christ**

Doctrinal Instruction

Response

Second Key Question

The time has come for our listener to _____ to the gospel. When Peter preached to the crowd in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, they only wanted to know one thing: "When they heard this, they were cut to the heart and asked Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37) When someone has been "cut to the heart" by the Holy Spirit, they are ready to be _____... they just need to be instructed Biblically on what God _____ from them. The exact same situation occurred with the Philippian jailer, who rushed in trembling before Paul and Silas and asked:

Acts 16:30 "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

The gospel message calls for a response... it is not merely interesting _____. In the heart of someone on whom God is working, they will at this point be seeking to know how they can receive salvation from their sins. We must make clear to them not only what they must **DO**, but also what they must **NOT DO!**

What they must DO

The answer to this question is as simple as Jesus' first preached message in Mark's Gospel:

Mark 1:15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

This is a wonderful verse, for it shows some key _____ of our gospel presentation: 1) urgency: "The time has come!!" 2) The Kingdom of God: the unifying theme of our four-part presentation here has been the Kingdom of God... He is Creator, King (Lawgiver), and Judge. All of these themes are inherent in Jesus' preaching of the Kingdom; 3) Repent and 4) Believe the Gospel.

These last two aspects occupy us here. "What must we do to be saved?" Christ's answer: "_____ and _____ the gospel!" Not just repent, not just believe, and not just believe anything you want to about God. **"Repent and believe the gospel!"**

Repent: What does it mean to repent? The Greek word means a change of _____, and new way of _____ about everything. It implies a _____ of former ways of thinking, and an embracing of opposite _____ from those previously held. Some preachers use a "U-Turn" illustration... Turn Away, Turn Toward! Turn away from sin and old ways of thinking and living, turn toward God and His Kingdom.

Doctrinal Instruction

Most gospel presentations are _____ on repentance. The sinner is never called to come to grips with his/her sin and to _____ it as evil. The sinner is permitted to go on in the old ways AND _____ Christ to them! This is impossible. We will not experience sinless perfection in this world, but God does call us to _____ sin and reject it forever. In order to be saved, the sinner MUST repent! The old life must be gone, everything must become new. If they are not ready to reject this or that sin, if they would rather hold on to some of those old ways, they are not yet ready for salvation.

Let's be very clear: this does not mean they must immediately and in their own _____ start living a perfectly holy life. If they have some addiction or there is some other sin issue in their life, all that is necessary is that they repent from that sin: call it sin, feel grief over the sin, and determine by God's power never to sin that way again. This is repentance.

Perhaps the best _____ of repentance in the New Testament is in 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10:

1 Thessalonians 1:4-10 *For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia--your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead--Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.*

Note how Paul knows that the Thessalonians were chosen by God: the obviously _____ lives of the Thessalonian believers. They "turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God..." (vs. 9) This "turn to God from idols to serve God" is the essence of repentance, and it is what Jesus meant when He preached "Repent..." in Mark 1:15.

We are calling people to _____ the sin which leads to the _____ of God. They are to think differently about it, hate it, and resolve to fight against it until the day they die. We are calling people to repent! In Luke 5:31-32, this is clear: *Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."* Jesus said the issue of repentance means the dif-

Doctrinal Instruction

ference between eternity in heaven or hell: (Luke 13:3, 5; cf. Also Luke 16:30) *“But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”* He also said that heaven rejoices over one sinner who repents (Luke 15:7) Most convincingly, Jesus made it very plain that this message of repentance must be preached in the whole world:

Luke 24:45-49 *Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”*

Jesus _____ that we preach “repentance and the forgiveness of sins” in His name to all nations. What could be clearer?

The apostles understood this. In Mark 6:12, *“They went out and preached that people should repent.”* After Pentecost, the Apostles consistently _____ to crowds that they must repent in order to be saved: (Acts 2:38, 3:19, 5:31) In Acts 3:19, Peter connected repentance and forgiveness of sins plainly: *“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out...”* And the Apostle Paul also made this statement to the idol-worshipping pagans of Athens (Acts 17:30): *“In the past, God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.”* Finally, Paul summarized his _____ ministry twice in the following words:

Acts 20:21 I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

[NOTE: this is exactly what we are calling people to do in our outline!!]

Acts 26:20 First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.

This verse indicates that genuine repentance is always proved by subsequent _____. True repentance results in a changed life, false repentance does not.

Believe the good news: The central element of our gospel is that we are _____ righteous before God (i.e. justified) simply by faith, by believing a promise made by God. Faith is a settled _____ that God will keep His _____, and it comes merely by _____ the gospel. Faith is not a work, not an achievement... it just simply trusts that God will save us in Christ. The best extended treatment of saving faith is found in Romans 4, when it speaks of Abraham receiving the promise from God. God took him out under the stars and had Abraham look up. Then God spoke a simple promise to Abraham: “So shall your offspring be!” Then Abraham “believed God, and

Doctrinal Instruction

it was credited to him as righteousness.” (Genesis 15:6) This is the moment of justifying _____. A simple trust that God can do what He has promised to do.

Saving faith must be _____ to something... we are believing specific truths or promises from God. In Mark 1:15, Jesus calls on us to “Believe the gospel!” What is the gospel? The set of _____ that we have been discussing: 1) **God**: that there is a God who created heaven and earth, who rules as a King over His creation, who makes rules that must be obeyed and who is our judge if we disobey; 2) **Man**: that we are created in the image of God to love and obey God, that we have rebelled against God’s rule, and that we are naturally under the death penalty of hell because of our sins; 3) **Christ**: that Christ is the incarnate Son of God who led a sinless and miraculous life, who died an atoning death, who rose from the dead on the third day, and who offers full forgiveness of sins on the basis of His death and resurrection. This is the full gospel message, and all of it must be believed. We believe **THAT** these things are true!

But there is also a _____ side to it. Saving faith also involves believing a person, Jesus Christ. John’s Gospel repeatedly speaks of trusting/believing/putting faith in **Christ**. Ultimately, there is no real distinction between these two... **Belief THAT** certain doctrines are true leads to **Belief IN** Christ Himself. This can be made personal by “calling on the name of the Lord” (Romans 10:9) through prayer. This has been called “the _____ prayer”, but we should note that it is nowhere exemplified in the New Testament (nor is it necessarily a bad thing). Saving faith, however, is always focused on a person: Jesus Christ!

But there’s one final aspect. The individual sinner must believe that all these blessings _____ to him/her **personally**, and must trust Christ to _____ this promise of eternal life. This is saving faith: “Christ loved **me** and gave Himself for **me!**!” (Galatians 2:20)

There are so many verses on faith and belief (John’s gospel alone has over sixty references to faith/belief) that it would be impossible to go through each one and explain them clearly, nor is it necessary, since the doctrine is so familiar to you. Simple trust in Christ saves us from hell... and that is **GOOD NEWS!**

What they must NOT DO

We must also make it clear what people must NOT DO to be saved. Here we explain very clearly that salvation is simply a free _____, and that any effort we make to earn it shows we have not understood how much we owe God for our sins and how impossible it is for us to pay for them. Here we must also make it clear that they must repent and believe **TODAY**, and not _____ they will live forever.

Doctrinal Instruction

Do Not Work For It: The most popular _____ in the world is salvation by _____. As a matter of fact, it could rightly be said that there are only two approaches to salvation: salvation by grace (Christ's merit) or salvation by works (human merit). We must make it clear that the guilt we feel for our sins cannot be worked off through good deeds. Salvation is a gift by the grace of God alone through simple faith. No verse makes this as clear as Ephesians 2:8-9

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

A gift cannot be _____ for, or it will cease being a gift. Efforts to earn salvation are insulting to God, and really nothing more than _____ on our part. Such efforts show a gross underestimation of how costly our sins are (remember the parable to the slave who owed 10,000 talents: Matthew 18), and how _____ is the blood of Christ. Remember Psalm 49:7-9 *No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him—the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough—that he should live on forever and not see decay.*

Such efforts also assume that we can do any good works that God didn't _____ from us anyway! Can we ever "get ahead of" the Two Great Commands: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength; love you neighbor as yourself."?? NEVER! Any "good deed" we do, God expected it anyway! So how can we use good deeds to _____ for sin? Rather, we must simply accept this gift by simple faith.

"Grace" is a crucial term for us to understand. Grace is not simply "unmerited favor," but rather (as we've seen before) "God's richest blessings lavished freely on those who deserve God fiercest punishments!" Salvation by grace is damaging to our pride, but our pride MUST BE "damaged," or rather, put to _____.

Do Not Wait For Tomorrow: Another damaging element of human pride is the assumption that we will have another good opportunity to repent and believe _____. James 4 calls our assumption that we will even be alive tomorrow "boasting" (James 4:16):

James 4:13-16 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil.

Doctrinal Instruction

The words from James are chilling as they are true: "If it is the Lord's will, **we will live...**" If it is not the Lord's will, we will not live! It's simply not up to us whether we live or die. God has made many _____ in the Bible of amazing things, but He has never promised any of us that we will be alive tomorrow! Quite the opposite, He urges us to make the most of every day. How much more _____ is it, then, that our hearers should repent and believe the gospel TODAY, and not wait till tomorrow. My favorite verse for this is found in Hebrews 3:15 "*Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts ...*" You could use this verse to make a direct _____ to your hearer: "Do you feel Him pulling on your heart to repent and trust Christ? Do it now, today!! Don't wait for tomorrow, for tomorrow may never come! If you put off what you know you must do, you may never get another opportunity."

Paul also spoke of this in 2 Corinthians 6:2:

2 Corinthians 6:2 "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation."

Don't leave a sinner who refuses to trust Christ with a calm _____ that everything will be all right. Leave them instead with a _____ not to presume on God's grace. Ask them again who will pay their death penalty. Ask them perhaps what would they say to God if they were to die tonight. Press home the urgency of the matter, then leave it to God. Don't be obnoxious about it. But neither leave them _____ with rejecting the gospel (which is what a postponement is).

Eternal Life Now (on earth)

The final aspect of our Gospel Presentation makes it clear what the outcome of saving faith will be: eternal life, both now and forever. In the _____ enjoyment of eternal life, we return finally to our three roles for God: Creator, King, Judge. God the Savior brings us back to God the Creator, King, Judge. God the Savior adds another as well: Father!! Eternal life is _____ God (John 17:3) in each of these four roles.

New Creation by the Creator: God _____ us from inside out, _____ us so that we will love Him and love what He loves. God makes us into a new creation so that we can obey His commands (as we will discuss in a moment). God prepares us for _____ in heaven by this new creation work in our souls. This alone enables us to live out a life of repentance and faith until we die:

2 Corinthians 5:17 "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone; everything has become new!"

Doctrinal Instruction

This would be a good time to tell the person that God will send His Holy Spirit to _____ inside the person's new heart forever, to help them live the _____ life. A good verse for this is Titus 3:5 "*He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit...*" and that verse could substitute for 2 Corinthians 5:17 if you so chose.

Joyful Servant to the King: God recreates in order that we may now obey Him _____ in His eternal Kingdom. God is a King and we had _____ against Him. Salvation now enables us to obey Him gladly in His Kingdom. Without that glad obedience to His commands, there is no indication that we have been saved, for this is exactly what the Holy Spirit has come to work in us. The first form of _____ a saved person ever makes is obedience to the command to "Repent and believe the gospel!" From then on, the Christian life is one of a constant _____ to obey God's commands by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:4 shows that the "*righteous requirements of the law may be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature, but according to the Spirit.*" We are saved in order to obey the Laws of God (especially the Two Great Commandments, love God/love neighbor), and to obey them by the Spirit with _____:

1 John 3:24 Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

If we _____ to obey God's commands, we should have no assurance that God lives in us. We have not been saved.

Completely Pardoned by the Judge: God is still our Judge, but now we know that the judgment we deserved has been forever _____ by Christ. We have been completely _____ by the judge and will never be condemned:

John 5:24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

This is a magnificent promise from Jesus Christ Himself: simply believing Christ's word results in eternal life and NO CONDEMNATION. The death _____ has been paid, and will never be required again!

Adopted by the Father: To these three offices, we now add the highest of the gospel blessings, and the greatest relationship we will ever experience with God: Father. God is not universally "Father" to every person, but everyone who trusts in Christ is spiritually _____ into the very family of God... an almost incalculable _____:

Doctrinal Instruction

John 1:12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

Eternal Life Forever

Our original Key Question asked “In your personal opinion, what do you understand it takes for a person to go to heaven?” Here at last, we get to answer that question. _____ is waiting for all who simply believe in Christ. Life after death is the ultimate gift of the gospel:

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

This final question from Jesus is the perfect entry to ask them if they are ready to trust Christ.

- ◆ Assignment of Homework
 - ◆ Review: three-part overview, four-part presentation, key question
 - ◆ Review: “God” section with Scriptures
 - ◆ Review: “Man” section with Scriptures
 - ◆ Review: “Christ” section with Scriptures
 - ◆ Memorize: “Response” section with Scriptures

Preparation

Introduction: Introduce yourself

Gospel Outline

- Interests: Ask general questions about their life interests
- Involvement: Ask about prior involvement in church; listen for clues as to their spiritual state
- Inquiry: *Key Question* "In your personal opinion, what do you understand it takes for a person to go to heaven?"

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Therefore, God is **loving**

Acts 14:27 He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.

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Psalms 47:7 For God is King of all the earth.

Therefore, God is **sovereign**

Psalms 103:19 The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

Therefore, God also makes laws

The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)

The Two Greatest Commandments (Matthew 22)

***Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
Love your neighbor as yourself.***

- ◆ God is Judge

Psalms 96:13 He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his truth.

Therefore, God is **holy**

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- ◆ Man is Created by God (Creator)

Gospel Outline

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Our nature: created to be like God

Our purpose: created to know/love God

Our role: created to serve God

- ◆ Man is Rebellious Against God (King)

Universally Rebellious

Romans 3:10-12 "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

Rebellious Against God's Laws

1 John 3:4 "Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness."

[Remember God's Laws: Ten Commandments, Two Great Commandments]

- ◆ Man is Under Judgment by God (Judge)

Judgment Day

Matthew 12:36 "I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken."

Judgment Penalty

Romans 6:23 "The wages of sin is death..."

Christ:

- ◆ God's Fourth Title: Savior

Isaiah 33:22 For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; it is he who will save us.

Saved from what?

Matthew 1:21 You will give Him the name Jesus because He will save His people from their sins.

Gospel Outline

◆ Jesus' Supernatural Life

God-man

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us

Miraculous

Matthew 11:5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.

Sinless

1 Peter 2:22 He committed no sin, nor was any deceit in His mouth

◆ Jesus' Substitutionary Death

1 Peter 2:24 He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree...

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God

◆ Jesus' Saving Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 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, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.

◆ Jesus' Salvation Gifts

Total Forgiveness of Sins (Death Penalty Paid)

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins

Eternal Life

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Response:

Gospel Outline

◆ Second Key Question

Acts 16:30 *"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"*

What You Must DO:

Mark 1:15 *"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"*

Repent: U-Turn: Away from sin; Toward God

Believe the gospel: Believe THAT it's true; Believe IN Christ personally

What You Must NOT DO

Do Not Work For It

Ephesians 2:8-9 *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."*

Do Not Wait For Tomorrow

2 Corinthians 6:2 *"In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation."*

Eternal Life Now (on earth)

New Creation by the Creator

2 Corinthians 5:17 *"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone; everything has become new!"*

Joyful Servant to the King

1 John 3:24 *Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*

Completely Pardoned by the Judge

John 5:24 *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."*

Adopted by the Father

Doctrinal Instruction

John 1:12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

Eternal Life Forever (in heaven)

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

WEEK 8 | Invitation

“Do you understand what we’ve talked about?”

“Do you want to trust Christ now?”



Week 8 Contents:

- ✓ Team Time
- ✓ Doctrinal Instruction:
 - ✓ Key Questions: “Do you understand what we’ve talked about?” “Do you want to trust Christ now?”
 - ✓ Counting the cost
 - ✓ The “Invitation”: Calling sinners to repent and trust Christ
 - ✓ The “Sinner’s Prayer”
 - ✓ Assurance of salvation: what to do, what not to do
 - ✓ The parable of the seed and the soils
- ✓ Overview of the Gospel Outline & Homework

Team Time



- ◆ **Reviewing our covenant together (Page 15)**
- ◆ **Going over outline learned thus far**
 - ✓ **Three-part “Over Outline”**
 - ✓ **Four-part “Presentation Outline”**
 - ✓ **Key Question**
 - ✓ **God**
 - ✓ **Man**
 - ✓ **Christ**
 - ✓ **Response**

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Invitation

Key Questions

At the end of our four-part outline, we have communicated everything that the hearer needs to know in order to _____ Christ for salvation. Now it is time for them to speak. Our first priority is to be sure they've _____ what we've discussed. We do this by asking a question like the following:

“Do you understand what we’ve talked about?”

Let the person answer. This may be the most important part of the interchange, because it is at this point that we are able to _____ how much they've understood. If they haven't understood the message, they cannot _____ it. They may have questions for you. They may have objections as well. Don't rush through this process! Remember that our _____ do not always communicate what we want them to. Be a good listener! Be a doctor, _____ a patient.

After this time of clarifying their understanding, ask the next key question:

“Do you want to trust Christ now?”

In this moment, we are giving them a chance to _____ what they will do with the gospel. In posing this question, we should keep in mind the verse we studied earlier:

Acts 17:30 “In the past, God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent.”

God is _____ this person to repent. If we talk about “giving an invitation,” we should not forget that this is really a gracious command from the King! We are giving them an opportunity to _____ the command to repent and believe. If they hesitate, or if they seem unsure, I believe Christian _____ would compel us to plead with them:

Acts 2:40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”

Paul **warned them** and he **pleaded with them** and he did so **with many other words**. There was passion and emotion in his _____. He also refers to this pleading in discussing our “ministry of reconciliation”:

2 Corinthians 5:11 Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men.

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2 Corinthians 5:20 *We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

Paul, knowing the fear of the Lord, sought to **persuade** men. As Christ's _____, he didn't merely dump _____ on people, but he spoke **as though God were making his appeal** through him. This led him to **implore** people on Christ's behalf to be reconciled to God. If our hearer seems hesitant or _____, we need to **warn, plead, persuade, and implore** as though God himself were making His appeal through us.

The revival preachers of the Great Awakening used this kind of passionate appeal. Listen to George Whitefield's revival sermon "Marriage of Cana," which he preached in Philadelphia in 1742:

"I could urge many terrors of the Lord to persuade you; but if the Love of Jesus Christ will not constrain you, your case is desperate. Remember then this day I have invited all, even the worst of sinners, the most abandoned adulterers and adulteresses to the Lord Jesus. If you perish remember you do not perish for lack of invitation—you yourselves shall stand forth at the last day, and I here give you a summons to meet me at the Judgment Seat of Christ, and to clear both my Master and me. Would weeping, would my tears prevail on you, I could wish my head waters, and my eyes fountains of tears, that I might weep our every argument and melt you into love. Would anything I could do influence your hearts, I think I could bear to pluck out my eyes, or even to lay down my life for your sakes."

Yet, as Whitefield went on to say very clearly, we must keep in mind that our role as evangelists is limited at this point:

"But such power belongeth to the Lord—I can only invite; it is He only who can work in you both to will and to do after his good pleasure; it is His property to take away the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. It is His Spirit that must convince you of unbelief, and of the everlasting righteousness of His dear Son. 'Tis He alone must give you faith to apply His righteousness to your hearts, it is He alone who can give you a wedding garment, and cause you to sit down and drink new wine in His Kingdom."

God alone can work _____ in a human heart. All we can do is "invite" or pass on the command.

Counting the Cost

The hearer who seems interested in the gospel at this point should be exhorted to

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“count the cost,” to realize that the Christian life is a difficult one of total _____ and _____ to a King who will rule their lives. This King (Jesus Christ) will command them to do difficult things, and they should in no way expect a life of ease and physical _____. The following verses show how important it is to “count the cost” before committing to Christ:

Luke 14:25-33 *Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.*

No one should come to Christ without understanding what it means to carry the cross daily in _____ Christ. That is the purpose of these parables in Luke 14. Jesus often put the costs of following Him up in front of _____ people:

Matthew 8:19-20 *“Then a teacher of the law came up to him and said, ‘Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.’ Jesus replied, ‘Foxes have holes and birds of the air have branches, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.’”*

He did this so that people would be under no earthly _____ about the Christian life. The _____ that come from following Christ are immeasurable, but most of them are deferred and spiritual:

1 Corinthians 15:19 *If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.”*

Be _____ with your eager hearer, and tell them the truth so that they can accurately count the cost.

The “Invitation System”

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We tend to think in terms of “invitation,” and this has a Scriptural background:

Matthew 22:9-10 *Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' 10 So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.*

Revelation 19:9 *Then the angel said to me, "Write: `Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'"*

Along with these passage on the “invitation” (Greek says “call”) to come to the Wedding Banquet are some others in which God Himself is inviting sinners to come to salvation:

Isaiah 55:1-3 *"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. 2 Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. 3 Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live."*

John 7:37 *On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink."*

Matthew 11:28-30 *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

Revelation 22:17 *The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.*

We should, in concert with these Scriptures, _____ our hearer to repent and trust Christ. We should wait for them to _____ to that invitation. This is, indeed, a moment of eternal consequence... what will they say??

However, it is good to remember that Whitefield had his doctrine straight when he stated that no one can respond to this invitation unless God _____ it in them by His Spirit. This is exactly what Jesus meant to communicate when he concluded that parable on the general invitation to the wedding banquet with these words:

Matthew 22:14 *"Many are called (i.e. invited) but few are chosen."*

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Nowadays, we have something called the “invitation system,” in which we invite sinners to “come forward,” to walk down an _____ at church to the front of the building as a demonstration of their desire to follow Christ. We tend to think if _____ people “come forward,” the Spirit has been working mightily, and if no one “comes forward,” the Spirit has not been working at all. We couple this with other outward signs, like _____ a commitment card, _____ the “sinner’s prayer” (more on that in a moment), giving a _____ of conversion, etc. All of these outward acts **may be** evidences of God’s work in their souls, or it may not! It is no proof either way if someone does these outward, visible acts. The “invitation system” was invented by Charles Finney in the 1830’s, and since then it had been popularized by many revivalistic preachers, such as D.L. Moody, Billy Sunday, and Billy Graham. But before this approach, people were justified through simple faith in Christ without ever “coming forward” at any service. Martin Luther never “_____” anywhere, but do modern revivalists doubt his _____?

Instead of banking on these contrivances, we want to _____ the pure gospel, _____ it passionately to the hearer, then give the person an opportunity to _____. If they delay or deny the gospel, we must passionately implore them to reconsider, warn them of the brevity of life and the coming judgment of God, persuade them about some matter they have questioned... and ultimately leave the matter to God.

Baptism, Not “Coming Forward” the Outward Sign of Justification

It is surprising to me that Baptist churches have made “coming forward” at Sunday morning worship services to be the “outward and visible _____” of having been regenerated by the Holy Spirit into a saving faith in Jesus Christ. It would seem that Baptists would emphasize the biblical “outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual reality,” namely _____. While baptism itself doesn’t save, yet it is _____ of salvation, the physical sign Christ gave for us to mark out those who are His disciples:

Matthew 28:19 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

After someone has trusted in Christ, they are to _____ gladly to baptism as a first step of _____ in the long road of discipleship in which they will be constantly *taught to obey everything Christ has commanded them*. If our hearer repents and believes the gospel, you should exhort them to be _____ in a good local church as soon as possible.

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The “Sinner’s Prayer”

Another “outward and visible sign” modern evangelists have come to rely upon is the “sinner’s prayer.” Most gospel tracts have some kind of sample prayer which a repenting sinner can use to express his/her _____ to God:

“Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as Lord and Savior.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.” [Billy Graham, “Steps to Peace with God”]

“Jesus,

I know I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I turn from my sin and ask You into my life to be my Savior and Lord. Forgive my sin and give me Your gift of eternal life. Thank you for saving me and giving me eternal life. Amen.” [North American Mission Board, “One Verse: The Greatest Gift”]

Note: The remarkable thing about the “One Verse” card from the NAMB is that all there is on the card is Romans 6:23 and the “sinner’s prayer.” Most evangelical tracts consider this prayer absolutely indispensable to the process of evangelism.]

There is some Scriptural support for the “sinner’s prayer.” Perhaps the critical text people use to support this concept is Romans 10:13:

Romans 10:13 “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

This, they say, refers to the “sinner’s prayer,” when the person “calls on the name of the Lord” in _____ and asks Him to save them. I think there is some _____ to it, but the idea of “calling on the name of the Lord” goes much deeper than one prayer patterned after something printed on the back of a tract. I believe that what occurs in a person who’s being saved is that, in their hearts, they begin to see themselves as _____ and in need of Christ. They trust in Him _____, and do so the rest of their lives. Though regeneration and justification occur just once, we actually go on “calling on the name of the Lord” forever. And “the name of the Lord” is an incredibly deep theological topic, referring to everything that God has _____ about Himself: His nature, His promises, His plans. The “sinner’s prayer” doesn’t begin to scratch the surface of this.

Another verse which could be used to support some kind of prayer at the “invitation”

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section of our gospel presentation is

2 Corinthians 6:2 “In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.”

What does God _____ in the time of God’s favor? Perhaps a prayer for salvation? It’s not too far a stretch of our imagination. Another verse is similar:

Isaiah 55:6-7 “Seek the Lord while He may be found, call on Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will freely pardon.”

What does it mean to “call on Him while He is near” if not somehow expressed in a _____ to God? This is fine, and to be expected. I would recommend two things:

1) Understand what truly justifies: faith alone!! The “sinner’s prayer” is not the “moment of salvation.” Justification occurs the moment faith springs in the heart through _____ the gospel. According to Romans, our father Abraham was justified (declared righteous by God) simply by faith, by believing a _____ from God:

Romans 4:3 “What does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness.’”

The moment of _____ occurred when God took Abraham out, had him look up into the night sky at the multitude of stars, and spoke a promise to him: “So shall your offspring be.” At that moment, Abraham believed that God would fulfill His promise, God saw Abraham’s heart and justified him (i.e. declared him “not guilty” of all his sins) (Genesis 15:1-6). If you had been with them at that moment, you would not have _____ anything: no “outward and visible sign” at all. That’s okay, because you’re not the one who justifies anyway:

Romans 8:33 “It is God who justifies.”

And God justifies by faith, not by a “sinner’s prayer.” Just like our father Abraham, a sinner is justified by believing the _____ of God (now in the gospel of Jesus Christ, not in a moment under a starry night sky). However, the “sinner’s prayer” is a fruit that often comes from a justified heart. I would contend that the person who has faith to begin the “sinner’s prayer” in spirit and in truth has already been _____ before uttering a word!

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Yet, the “calling on the Lord” and God’s yearning to hear the repentant one is obviously important, so encourage them to pray.

2) Don’t suggest any words. Simply allow the person to _____ to the Lord what they would like to say. Perhaps even share these verses with them. The words mean nothing if not an accurate _____ of the heart. Let them say what they are believing now in their heart as a _____ to the gospel. Tell them clearly the words are not important, but rather the faith behind the words.

Assurance of Salvation

After the invitation and response time (perhaps including the sinner’s prayer), they will want to know “Am I truly _____? Do I now have eternal life through faith in Christ?” This is a joyful and also a solemn moment. Christ had authority on earth to forgive sins. We have authority on earth as Christ’s ambassadors to _____ the forgiveness of sins through faith in His name:

[Jesus to His disciples on the night of His resurrection] *John 20:21,23 “Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me I am sending you... If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.’”*

Matthew 18:18 “I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be, having already been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth will be, having already been loosed in heaven.” [my translation]

We have, therefore, the privilege and _____ of announcement: either, “Based on your testimony of faith in Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven.” Or “Based on your rejection of Christ, I announce to you that you are still in your sins.” Realize that our role is no more than that of announcement, and it is not _____, since we cannot see the heart.

Concerning the issue of “assurance of salvation,” realize that this is not our _____, but that of the Holy Spirit:

Romans 8:16 “The Spirit himself testifies with our spirits that we are children of God.”

Rather, it is our place to tell them that such assurance is _____, and to tell them on what _____ they may assure themselves of their own salvation. The issue of “assurance” is one of “knowing.” How can I “know for certain” that I am in Christ, and that my sins are forgiven. Some deny that this is even possible, thinking that if you were absolutely certain that you are going to heaven, you would no longer be

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_____ to live a holy and fruitful life for God (the Roman Catholics believe this). But this is false and shows a false understanding of what true _____ does in the heart of a Christian.

Assurance is possible, according to 1 John:

1 John 5: 13 “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God in order that you may know that you have eternal life.”

John states very clearly that he wants his readers to **know** that they have _____ life. Thus, assurance of salvation in this world is _____ and _____. But how does it come? John refers to “these things” which he has written, and I believe it refers to the entire letter of 1 John. There are a series of tests: “By this will you know...” or “We know that we have come to know Him if...” Assurance therefore comes from passing tests Scripture lays out for us, not just in 1 John:

Evidence of regeneration: love for God, love for neighbor, glad obedience to God’s word, discernment over doctrine, hatred of sin, temptations resisted, delight in God’s word, godly character traits (such as the fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5), testimony of the indwelling Spirit, good deeds done to those in need (not to pay for sins, but because they are right to do and delightful to do), etc.

Such tests are found in many places in the New Testament. You may want to say to the new believer, “You will find a greater and greater _____ coming to you as you walk by faith, obeying God’s commands as found in His word. So saturate your mind with His word and obey it gladly.” Assurance is little different than faith, and faith comes _____ and is then _____ by the Word of God (Romans 10:17)

Summary: We don’t give someone assurance. The Holy Spirit does that based on His Word. What we do is show someone proper _____ for assurance... things they will see coming into their lives as a result of their new nature in Christ and the working of the Holy Spirit in them.

The Parable of the Seed and the Soils

The greatest Scriptural mark of true salvation is _____ in Christ over time in the face of difficult _____. That is the point of the parable of the Seed and the Soils in Matthew 13:1-23. This may be one of the most important parables Jesus ever told. This parable explains why so many people seem to “fall away” from Christ, and “lose their salvation.” The truth is, only those who produce good _____ over a long period of time, despite bitter trials in this world are truly saved.

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What is remarkable is that three of the four outcomes show some initially _____ response to the gospel: the one sown in shallow soil “at once receives the seed with joy.” (Matthew 13:20) But he has no root, and when trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. Don’t be too confused if someone who at one point received the gospel message with joy at one point falls away because of trials. There are many reasons why people _____ over the gospel... only some of them are evidence of a genuinely _____ heart.

The one sown among thorns also grows initially, but “the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it out. Making it _____.” (Matthew 13:22) There are some who start out well in the Christian life, but are diverted by worldliness. Realize from John 15:6 that _____ under the gospel means the person is not saved at all.

The seed sown in good soil always produces fruit, a harvest, although of _____ abundance. (Matthew 13:23) Thus the greatest assurance of salvation is fruitful perseverance in Christ over a long period of time despite bitter _____ in the world. This is something only God can work in the individual.

Now, an individual can have the assurance of the indwelling Holy Spirit _____. But they must also observe a principle of fruitfulness in their lives over the long haul. This is the greatest assurance of all.

WEEK 9 | Practical Issues in Evangelism

“The Workplace is a vital site of evangelism for the 21st Century in America.”



Week 9 Contents:

- ✓ Team Time
- ✓ Practical Instruction:
 - ✓ Grounds for Assurance
 - ✓ Workplace Evangelism
 - ✓ Evangelistic Bible Studies
 - ✓ Friendship Evangelism
 - ✓ Responding to Evolution
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Team Time



- ◆ **Reviewing our covenant together (Page 15)**
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 - ✓ **Three-part “Over Outline”**
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Practical Instruction

Grounds for Assurance

In the last session, we touched on the idea that an evangelist should not so much “give assurance” of salvation to a hearer (based, supposedly on the “sinner’s prayer”), but rather show the biblical grounds for true assurance, so they can assure themselves under the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Scripture clearly says that we should test ourselves to be sure we’re in Christ:

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test?

What is the basis of the test? What are biblical grounds for assurance of salvation? The following are some possible grounds for assurance:

1) Love for God as shown by obedience to God’s commands

1 John 2:3-4 We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. 4 The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 5:3 This is love for God: to obey his commands.

2) Daily lifestyle like Jesus Christ: “walking in the light / truth”

1 John 1:6-7 If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

1 John 2:5-6 This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

3) Conviction of personal sinfulness

1 John 1:8-10 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

4) Love for brothers and sisters in Christ (self-sacrificially, tangibly if needed)

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1 John 2:9-11 *Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.*

1 John 3:14 *We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death.*

1 John 3:16-19 *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 19 This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence*

5) Hatred of the evil world system

1 John 2:15-18 *Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.*

6) Acknowledgement of true (apostolic) doctrine, especially that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God

1 John 4:15 *If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.*

1 John 2:20-23 *But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. 21 I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. 22 Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the anti-christ--he denies the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.*

1 John 4:6 *We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.*

Practical Instruction

7) Perseverance in true doctrine of Christ

1 John 2:24 *See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father.*

1 John 2:19 *For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us*

2 John 9 *Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.*

8) Ongoing purification from sin; regular, tangible victories over temptation through Christ

1 John 3:3 *Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.*

1 John 3:6 *No one who lives in him [Christ] keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.*

1 John 3:9-10 *No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. 10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.*

9) Active life of righteous actions in Christ

1 John 3:7 *Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.*

10) Testimony of the Holy Spirit, setting our hearts at rest in God's presence

1 John 3:21, 24 *Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*

1 John 4:13 *We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.*

1 John 5:11-12 *And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

Practical Instruction

Workplace Evangelism

Acts 17:16-17 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. 17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.

The workplace is a vital site of evangelism for the 21st century in America. While the “marketplace” was the place Paul sought to meet and evangelize pagan Greeks, the workplace is the number one place for us today. Where else can we develop close relationships with non-Christians? There are some hindrances at the workplace (i.e. company rules against “proselytizing” or Bible studies), but even these can be gotten past by being vigilant for opportunities. It’s still a free country, and if we can talk about last night’s ball game, we can also talk about what we learned in church. We also will find ourselves in gospel situations with co-workers outside the bounds of the workplace (i.e. at a company picnic, on a business trip, waiting outside the company for a ride home). We can also take initiative and invite co-workers over our house for social encounters or even evangelistic Bible studies.

The following are some practical hints for workplace witness:

Top Ten Practical Hints for Workplace Evangelism

- 1) Every month, make a list of five coworkers to pray daily for, and pray for them in two different ways: first, for immediate needs they may have (listen to them carefully to see how they may need prayer); second, that they may come to personal faith in Christ, and that God would give you an opportunity to lead them to Christ. Next month, make a new list. Consider yourself God’s minister to this company, and make prayer a major part of your ministry. Look for specific opportunities to witness to those five that month (see hint #2).
- 2) Pray every day that God would give you a chance to speak about spiritual things to someone that day, then look for the answer to that prayer all day. (You may be driving in a car alone with someone, you may be sitting at lunch with them, you may be involved in one of those Monday morning conversations centered on the topic, “How was your weekend?”)
- 3) Pray daily for opportunities to be a loving, sacrificial servant to some coworker today, and again watch throughout the day for the opportunity. God will answer the prayer! You will find yourself coming out of work and someone has car trouble and needs a ride somewhere.

Practical Instruction

- 4) Make a note of coworkers' birthdates, and give them a card on their special day. Make the card a Christian card with a Bible verse on it.
- 5) Organize a four-week investigative Bible study centered on the life of Jesus from the Gospel of John. Invite people to come. Have the Bible study, even if its only with one person!
- 6) Be sure you work very diligently all the time, living your faith by your disciplined approach to work. Scripture openly commands this: *"Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."* (Colossians 3:22-24)
- 7) If you have an office area and if it is permitted, put subtle and thought-provoking things on your walls that may lead someone to ask you a question about spiritual things. For example, I used to have a "Proverb of the Day" sheet on the door of my office, and people used to gather to read them: *"It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel."* Proverbs 20:3. People would then discuss the proverb, and opportunities for evangelism would arise. Look for unique and thought-provoking verses, since the goal is to draw out conversation.
- 7a) Another version of this is to have a thought-provoking answer to common office scenarios. One man always responded to "How are you doing?" with "Better than I deserve!" This led many times into discussions of what we truly deserve (judgment from God) and of the meaning of grace in Christ!
- 8) Diligently avoid office slander and gossip. Be above reproach in all you conversation, and especially avoid complaining about your boss or your workload. When hearing others complain, use it as an opportunity to bring the Lord into the situation. Be a peacemaker by helping the person to see the other point of view.
- 9) Memorize a list of thought-provoking questions that could lead into spiritual conversations, and use them when there are chances to talk (i.e. lunchtime). For example: "Imagine you are eighty years old, sitting on your porch and looking back over a successful life. What would be the three most important aspects of that success?"
- 10) Make a list of all employees at your company, and make it a goal to invite everyone of them to church before you leave that company. Put a check next to the name when you've invited each person. Don't stop until you've invited each of them at least once.

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Evangelistic Bible Studies

The most powerful tool for workplace and neighborhood evangelism is a four-week investigative Bible study, (if the company permits it). Invitations could proceed through word of mouth, or e-mail. At work, the proper approach is “We’re having a four-week lunch-time study of the Gospel of John (*for example; you could do Mark or some other Gospel*) to see what it says about the person of Jesus Christ. Would you be interested in attending?” Neighborhood studies should be on an evening in your home or another host home. The fact that it’s closed-ended (four-weeks) makes it more attractive to people... they’re not “signing their lives away.” Conducting the study itself is a challenge, but there are many good Bible studies out there. The best format is a question-answer approach in which the leader leads by asking good questions **focused on the Bible text**. This is not a “pooling of ignorance” but an investigation of the Bible text to see what it says. Each participant will feel free to speak up, but the constant direction of the time is “What does the Scripture say?”

At the end of the four-weeks, you should ask people if they would like to continue meeting. If they do, you can continue with the same book, or go in a different direction. The ongoing format would be the same.

In the neighborhood, you could go door-to-door, or call all the neighbors and invite them to your home for the four-week study. Your ongoing relationship with them will come into play at that point, and they will feel comfortable coming to your home. Set the date once you have a certain number of interested parties and hold the study no matter how many invited people come. Pray that God will allow the study to evolve into something permanent. In a year’s time, you may see many participants come to faith in Christ!

Friendship Evangelism

One popular approach to evangelism is called “friendship evangelism,” and this ties in well with neighborhood outreach as well as office witness. The basic idea is to put yourself in a position to get to know non-Christians, to develop the relationship, and eventually to witness to them. Other than the natural connections of co-workers or near neighbors, some Christians have made friends by getting involved in civic groups, swim clubs, hobby groups (e.g. cooking club), etc. Others use their children’s sports teams or piano lessons (etc.) to make friends for the Lord.

Prayer is a key to this ministry. If your child is on a soccer team, pray that God would allow you to befriend one of the other “soccer moms” (or dads) and to lead them to Christ. Look for the answer to your prayer, and take bold initiative. Have the team over for a cookout at your house. Or simply strike up conversations while at the prac-

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tices or games. Always look for a suitable time to mention Christ, or to invite them to an investigative Bible study or to church.

One drawback to friendship evangelism is that the development of close friendships with non-Christians takes a great deal of time, and we're never sure if the person we're reaching out to will receive Christ. If they repeatedly reject the gospel, how should we continue the relationship? The preciousness of time makes this a pressing issue for many. However, you must continue to trust God in this matter. Also, be careful not to develop close friendships/business partnerships with non-Christians which could lead you to compromise your Christian convictions. Remember to heed Paul's warning:

2 Corinthians 6:14-15 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

This puts a limit on friendship evangelism. However, it doesn't eliminate it. Just keep sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading.

Responding to Evolution

Given our gospel presentation's starting point, "God as Creator", you can see how vital it is that we be able to refute the error of evolution. Evolution challenges the very ground of our message, and therefore we must be able to respond intelligently. It is beyond my purpose here to give you anything more than a basic starting point for your own research.

The Institute for Creation Research (www.icr.org) has extensive information and resources, as does Answers in Genesis (Ken Ham's group, <http://answersingenesis.org/>). These are great starting points for your research. Chuck Colson's book *How Now Shall We Live?* (Tyndale House Publishers, 1999) has several easy to read chapters (pages 41-100) on reasons why Darwinism is losing ground in the scientific community. Reading these chapters in this Colson book may be the quickest way to arm yourself with some answers for common, everyday objectors to the gospel.

Some other key books are as follows: Michael Behe, *Darwin's Black Box* (Simon and Schuster, 1998) is compelling in its presentation of "irreducible complexity," the idea that cellular systems cannot have evolved up into their incredible levels of complexity. Philip Johnson has looked at the arguments of Darwinism and found significant weaknesses in his *Darwin on Trial* (IVP, 1993). Finally, *Refuting Evolution* by Jonathan Sarfati (www.masterbooks.net) is another good overview on ways to answer the challenge of evolution.

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Defending the Faith

As we evangelize, we're going to find many challenges to our worldview in this pluralistic age. Some believe there is no absolute truth, others talk of the truth claims of other world religions like Buddhism. How can we know that Christianity alone holds the answer for the human race? The answer to this question is far greater than I intend to go into now, but there are two absolutely immovable evidences of the exclusive truth claims of Christianity that you must carry with you at all times:

1) The Supernatural Scriptures:

The Scriptures show their divine origin in many remarkable ways, but especially in these things: fulfilled prophecy, accounts of the life of Christ. No other religious system has this. The fulfilled prophecies about Jesus Christ are hard to refute. Learn the following ones by heart:

Place of Birth: Micah 5:2

Immanuel: Isaiah 9:6

Son of Man: Daniel 7:13-14

Substitutionary Death: Isaiah 53

Crucifixion: Psalm 22

Resurrection: Psalm 16

Worldwide Kingdom: Psalm 2, Psalm 110

All of them were written 600 to 1000 years before Christ!! There are other shocking ones, (like Alexander the Great in Daniel 8) which give a sense of the supernatural origin of Scripture.

2) The Empty Tomb of Jesus Christ:

One French philosopher said: "I only want to ask two questions of religion. First, has anyone ever found a way to defeat death? Secondly, did he make a way for me to defeat it too?" Jesus Christ is the only one with power over death. The empty tomb of Christ proves His ultimate power, and no other religious system has an empty tomb.

Rejecters of Christianity must come to grips with the evidence of the resurrection, and the exclusivity of it. Learn to ask your hearers, "What do you think happened to the body of Jesus Christ?" This is a great evidence of Christianity, and a great hope for all who trust in Christ.

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**414 Cleveland St
Durham, NC 27701
www.fbcdurham.org**

**Phone: 919-688-7308
Fax: 919-682-5220
Email: office@fbcdurham.org**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH | www.fbcdurham.org