

The Gospel — Declared

December 7, 2014

The Gospel Defined (review)

- God's good news — Jesus came to save us from sins — to do for us what we could not do for ourselves
- God's grace — we did not and cannot work for it, earn it, or deserve it
- God's gift — free gift to be believed and received

The Gospel Discovered (review)

When the gospel is genuinely experienced, it produces —
— salvation, sanctification, justification, reconciliation, identification, demonstration, intercession

The Gospel Defended (review)

The gospel is under attack from inside and outside the church — need to be ready to give a defense, reason for hope

The Gospel Declared (today)

Sharing our faith with others

March 16:15

- mandate to go into all the world and preach the gospel to everyone

ABC's of sharing your faith

- AVAILABLE — Matthew 9:37-38
 - there is a shortage of people making themselves available
- BOLD — Acts 4:8-13, 29-30
 - the disciples told the truth with boldness
 - the crowds marveled that these uneducated men were speaking so boldly
 - the crowds realized they had been with Jesus

**boldness came from being filled with the Holy Spirit
not professional education
boldness was something they continued to pray for**

- COMPASSIONATE — Matthew 9:36
 - Jesus saw the multitudes with spiritual eyes, not natural eyes
 - we must look past personal dislike or aberrant behavior to see spiritual need

Easiest, most biblical way to show someone their need for Jesus — The Law of God, using the 10 Commandments

“Evermore the Law must prepare the way for the gospel. To overlook this in instructing souls is almost certain to result in false hope, the introduction of a false standard of Christian experience, and to fill the church with false converts,” was declared by the renowned theologian, Charles Finney.¹

The great preacher Charles Spurgeon said, “They will never accept grace until they tremble before a just and holy Law.”²

Law Scriptures

- Romans 3:19-10
 - by the law is the knowledge of sin
- Galatians 3:22-24
 - Law stops our mouths from a self-righteous defense
 - Law shows our guilt of breaking God’s law
 - Law shows us what sin is
 - Law guarded religiously observant people from being totally immoral
 - Law was our tutor, teacher to bring us to Jesus Christ

Jesus used the law

- Mark 10:17-22
 - Jesus used the law to show the young man his guilt of breaking God’s law
 - which law was the rich young ruler guilty of breaking?
 - first law, no other gods before God; second, no idols (his possessions)

Laws —

“Let me show you why you need Jesus — you’ve broken God’s laws and sinned.”

Exodus 20:3-17

1. No other gods
2. No carved images — idols
3. No taking God’s name in vain
4. Remember the Sabbath
5. Honor father and mother
6. Shall not murder... hate
7. Shall not commit adultery... look with lust
8. Shall not steal
9. Shall not lie
10. Shall not covet

¹ Ray Comfort, *Out of the Comfort Zone*, (Alachua, FL: Bridge-Logos Publishers, 2003), 261.

² Ray Comfort, *The Biblical School of Evangelism*, (Alachua, FL: Bridge-Logos Publishers, 2004), e-Book edition.

Romans 3:23, 6:23

- all have sinned, wages of sin is death
- gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus

**what you've earned for your sin is spiritual death
eternal separation from God in hell
but by God's love and mercy
you can have the free gift of salvation, forgiveness, and eternal life
through Jesus
your choice**

What must I do?

Mark 1:15

- repent, turn
- believe in good news

John 1:12

- receive

Matthew 10:32-33

- confess Jesus before men

Prayer to pray with new believer (theologically accurate)

"Heavenly Father, I repent of my sins and turn to You, I believe in the gospel, the good news that Jesus suffered and died in my place to pay the penalty for my sins, because I broke Your law. I receive forgiveness of all my sins, past, present and future. I receive Jesus and the free gift of salvation right now. I confess Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I believe Jesus rose from the dead so I could have eternal life. I thank you that I am now a beloved, forgiven child of God through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ."

Discussion Questions

1. Personally, what is the main reason that you do not share your faith with others?
2. How do you see yourself in relation to the plentiful harvest, and to the few laborers?
3. How were the uneducated disciples able to speak with such boldness? Is that means available to us?
4. Which group of people, or individuals, do you need to love with compassion, and not view with natural eyes?
5. What is the easiest way to show someone their need for Jesus?
6. In your group, choose a single biblical translation — memorize Romans 3:23, and Romans 6:23 together.
7. What are the four main things someone must “do” to become an active believer in/follower of Jesus?
8. Go over the “25 Excuses Given for Not Accepting Christ.”
Have you heard these? Do the scriptures given answer those questions/statements?

Evangelism

Excuses given for not accepting Christ...memorize these scriptures:

1. ***I'll decide later.***

2 Corinthians 6:2 – **TODAY** is the day of salvation.

James 4:14 – You don't know what will happen tomorrow. Your life is a vapor that vanishes. "To be undecided is to be decided."

2. ***I'll take my chances.***

That is the biggest gamble in the world, considering God has made it clear how men can get to heaven.

John 14:6 – "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." You're going to gamble on the possibility that Jesus is lying?

3. ***You're making too big a deal about this.***

Where you spend eternity **is** a big deal. Heaven, hell, Jesus dying on the cross for **you**, the love of God – it's all a big deal.

4. ***I'm skeptical.***

The bible is 66 books written by 40 authors over 2,000 years on 3 different continents in 3 different languages with 1 central theme: **the redemption of mankind through a Savior.** Archeology supports the Bible, fulfilled prophecy supports the Bible, science supports the Bible, changed lives support the Bible, and historical facts support the Bible. It takes more faith not to believe than to believe, if you honestly examine the evidence for God as Creator, Jesus as Savior, and the Bible as the very Word of God to mankind.

5. ***I'm staying neutral.***

The Switzerland Syndrome – everything is OK by me.

Matthew 12:30 – "You are either for Me or against Me."

6. ***I'm religious.***

It's not about being 'religious', it's about being a disciple and servant of Jesus Christ. The Athenians were religious in Acts 17. They still needed Jesus. Paul was religious before he came to Christ, too.

7. ***I want to get rich first.***

Luke 12:16-20 – "What good is it to gain the world and lose your soul?"

8. ***I've got too much to give up.***

Like sinful pleasures, materialism, carnal temporary things? Like heaven for hell or wrath for forgiveness? What earthly pleasure is not worth giving up so you don't have to go to hell?

Luke 12:16-20 – Man plans to tear down what he has in order to build larger storage for his stuff...But God said to him, "You fool, This night your soul will be required of you; then who will those things belong to?"

9. ***I'm not a sinner.***

Romans 3:10 – "There's none righteous, no not one."

Romans 3:23 – "All have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God."

10. ***I'm good enough on my own to get into heaven.***

Galatians 2:21 – Then Christ died for nothing.

Romans 5:10 – We are **all** enemies of God before we come to Christ.

11. ***My sin is smaller than others.***

Isaiah 59:2 says **all** sin separates from God. **All** sin excludes you from heaven if it hasn't been forgiven through Christ.

12. ***I'm too big a sinner.***

1 Timothy 1:15 – Apostle Paul says he was the chief sinner

John 3:16 - "**Whosoever** believes can be saved."

13. All roads lead to God.

John 14:6 – Jesus says “no one comes to the Father but through Me.” When you die, you will stand before the One, True and Living God and if you haven’t repented of your sins and accepted Christ while on this earth, you will, without question face His wrath. Don’t say you weren’t warned.

14. Jesus isn’t the only way to God.

John 14:6 – Jesus said, “No one comes to the Father except through Me”.

15. You’re too narrow minded.

Matthew 7:13-14 – “Narrow is the way that leads to eternal life and there are few who find it. But wide is the way that leads to destruction and there are many who find it.”

16. Too many hypocrites in church.

Why let the failure of someone else keep you from Christ? You and Jesus are the issue, not you and church.

17. A Christian did me wrong.

Jesus didn’t. He’s the Savior; put your faith in Him. Follow Jesus and not men.

18. I can’t understand the Bible.

John 16:13 – The Holy Spirit will teach you if you have a sincere heart. It’s a spiritual book and you must approach it spiritually.

19. God is unjust to send people to hell.

John 3:18 – “...he who does not believe is condemned already.”

2 Peter 3:9 – God does not want anyone to go to hell. People send themselves there by rejecting Christ. In order to get to hell, you have to walk over Jesus Christ.

20. Why does God allow evil?

Sin and evil are a result of man’s rebellion. Eden was God’s idea. If God destroyed all evil, mankind would be non-existent.

21. I don’t believe in hell.

Jesus taught more on hell than any other subject...it’s real!

Matt. 13:42, 50 – Jesus describes hell as a “furnace of fire where there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth”.

Mark 9:43-48 – The fire is never quenched, the worms never die.

Revelation 20:10, 15 – Lake of fire, tormented day and night, forever and ever.

22. What about those who have never heard of Jesus?

Revelation 5:9 says there are people in heaven from every tribe, tongue, people and nation. The issue isn’t the people that have never heard about Jesus; the issue is the person you are talking to because now they have heard.

23. People will make fun of me.

Matthew 10:32-33 – We must confess Christ before men if we want Christ to confess us before God. If we deny Him before men, He will deny us before God. The mocking of a few men is nothing compared to the judgment of God!

24. I’m afraid of persecution.

Acts 1:8 “But you shall receive power...” Know that God will give you the strength to endure.

Revelation 21:8 The cowardly are outside of heaven’s gates.

25. Stop talking to me about it.

As a Christian, I am commanded to share the great news of salvation offered by Jesus Christ. I won’t push you, but I want you to know that you are loved and that I’m concerned for you.