

TELLING OTHERS THE GOOD NEWS

Lesson 3: What the Good News Is and How To Tell Others About It

What The Good News Is

1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

The four verbs referring to Christ define the Good News (the Gospel):

1. Christ **DIED** (v. 3)

- for our sins (on our behalf/in our place; 2 Corinthians 5: 21)
- according to the Scripture (Isaiah 53: 5-12)

2. Christ was **BURIED** (v. 4a)

- The proof of death is burial.

3. Christ was **RAISED** (v. 4b)

- the third day (historical proof)
- according to the Scripture (Psalm 16: 8-11 with Acts 2: 22-32)

4. Christ **APPEARED** (vs. 5-8)

- The proof of the resurrection was the eyewitness accounts of over 500.

Therefore, the Good News or Gospel by which we are saved is:

CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS AND ROSE AGAIN!

What is God asking non-Christians to do in response to the Good News?

To respond in **SAVING FAITH** which involves:

- **KNOWLEDGE** of the person & work of Christ (John 5: 24 & Rom. 10:17)
Hearing about Christ precedes faith. First, they must learn about the object of faith (Christ's deity & humanity), and what He did for them (Christ's death, & resurrection).

- **ACCEPTANCE** of the person & work of Christ (John 1: 12). This is becoming convinced of the truths and claims of Christ as Savior & Lord.
- **TRUST** in the person & work of Christ to save (John 3: 16 & 36). This is submitting to, depending on, & relying in Christ alone for salvation.

How To Tell Others the Good News The Bad News/Good News (adapted from Evantell Ministries)

OPENING QUESTION:

Has anyone ever taken a Bible and shown you how you can know you're going to heaven? May I?

- **Remember: Get permission to proceed. Be tactful and gracious.**

TRANSITION POINT:

The Bible contains both bad news and good news. The bad news is something about you and me, and the good news is something about God. Let's talk about the bad news first.

BAD NEWS #1: WE ARE ALL SINNERS.

- **Scripture: *All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.* Rom. 3: 23**
- **Illustration: The Rock**

When the Bible says you and I have sinned, it means in our inner character and outer conduct we have lived contrary to God's character and conduct. The word sin in the Bible actually means "to miss the mark." In other words, God is perfect and we are not. Let me explain. Suppose each of us was to pick up a rock, and I say to you, "We'll throw our rocks and hit the North Pole." Well, you might throw farther than I, or I might throw farther than you, but neither of us would hit the North Pole. Both of us would fall short. When the Bible says, "*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*" it means that God has set a standard that everyone of us must meet. That standard is God Himself. We need to be as holy as He is holy, as perfect as He is perfect. But it doesn't matter how religiously we live, how good we are, or how hard we work; we cannot meet that standard. "*All have sinned & fall short of the glory of God.*" Sadly, the bad news gets even worse.

BAD NEWS #2: THE PENALTY OF SIN IS DEATH

- **Scripture: *The wages of sin is death.* Romans 6:23**

- **Illustration: Wages**

Suppose you were to work for me and I paid you fifty dollars. Fifty dollars would be your wages. That's what you've earned. The Bible is saying that because you and I have sinned, we have earned death. We are going to die and be separated from God to suffer eternal punishment.

TRANSITION POINT:

I think you agree with me that is bad news. But after the Bible gives the bad news it gives the good news and here it is. Since there was no way you could come to God, the Bible says that God decided to come to you.

GOOD NEWS #1: CHRIST DIED FOR YOU.

- **Scripture:** *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* **Romans 5: 8**

- **Illustration: Cancer**

Let's say you were in the hospital dying of cancer. I could come to you and say, "I want to do something for you. We'll take the cancer cells from your body and put them into my body." What would happen to me? I would die. What would happen to you? You would live. Why? Because I took your cancer. I took the thing causing your death, placed it upon myself, and died as your substitute. The Bible is saying, Christ came into the world, took the sin that was causing your death, placed it upon Himself, and died in your place, as your substitute. The third day, He rose from the dead to prove His claims to be God and that sin and death had been conquered. Now, just as the bad news got even worse, the good news gets even better.

GOOD NEWS #2 - YOU CAN BE SAVED THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST.

Scripture - For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

Ephesians 2: 8-9

Illustration - The Chair

The word grace means "undeserved or unmerited favor." Saved means to be "rescued or delivered from the penalty & power of sin." Since Jesus Christ has died for your sins, God can now give you heaven as a free gift. Now you may be wondering, What is faith? The word faith means to submit to, to depend on, to rely on, to trust in Christ alone for salvation.

For example, when you sit in a chair you are placing your trust in the chair to hold you up. Putting your faith in Christ means trusting in Him alone to save you; not trusting in your church membership or baptism, your good life or efforts to win God's approval, but trusting in Christ alone. Your trust has to be in the One who died for you and arose. It is then that God gives you heaven as a free gift.

CONCLUDING QUESTION

Is there anything keeping you from trusting Christ right now?

- If they say there are issues, have them list them so that you can show them how much you care about them by finding answers.
- If they say yes, ask the person to tell you how to go to heaven to make sure they understand.

DECISION TO TRUTH CHRIST

Would you like to pray right now and tell God you are trusting His Son as your Lord and Savior? If the person answers yes, either lead them in prayer or have them pray.

- Remember, it is not the prayer that saves, but Christ, and Christ alone. Prayer is simply the means by which we tell God we are putting our trust in Christ for salvation.

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Read John 5:24 to the new convert,

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

He who hears My Word – Did you do that?

And believes Him who sent Me – Did you believe what God said and trust Christ as your Savior?

Has eternal life – Does that mean later or right now?

And does not come into judgment – Does that say “does not” or “might not?”

But has passed out of death into life – Does that say “shall pass” or “has passed?”

- Remember to explain eternal life is assured on the basis of trust in Christ alone for salvation, not a feeling, a date in time, or a prayer.