

Welcome To Open Bible Hour

Thank you for joining us on this Lord's Day!

Our desire is that you may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ as we pursue an in-depth study of the first 2 chapters of Acts.

If you have a prayer request, for which you would like us to pray, please fill out a prayer sheet at the back table and give to Lyle.

Our website: OpenBibleHour.net

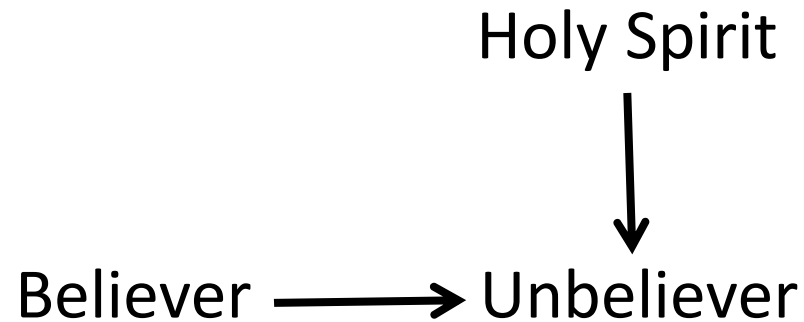
“HOW TO PRESENT THE GOSPEL”

September 11, 2011

Topics

1. Witnessing and the Holy Spirit.
2. What do Paul, Lydia, the 600,000 in Nineveh, and every converted unbeliever have in common?
3. Witnessing and the Word of God.
4. Why the negative first and not the positive?
5. Weak/shallow gospel.
6. Justification vs. sanctification.
7. Lordship salvation.
8. Religious people.
9. Witnessing to people at different relationship levels.
10. Terminology.
11. How to handle objections.
12. Witnessing to Jews.
13. Transitions.
14. The importance of pre-witnessing training.
15. Observer/Presenter.
16. Memorization

Witnessing and the Holy Spirit



John 16:8-11

8 "And He, when He comes, will **convict** the world concerning **sin** and **righteousness** and **judgment**;

9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me

10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me;

11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

What do Paul, Lydia, the 600,000 in Nineveh, and every converted unbeliever have in common?

It was the Holy Spirit that brought about conviction of sin, granted them repentance, caused them to be born again, and gave them the faith to believe.

Jude 14-15

14 "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones,
15 to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way,

Acts 11:18

18 When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life."

1 Peter 1:3

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope

Eph 2:8

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

Witnessing and the Word of God

**Fill your presentation of the gospel with much Scripture.*

Isa 55:11

11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth;
It will not return to Me empty,
Without accomplishing what I desire,
And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Heb 4:12

12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Eph 6:17

17 and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God

If I Should Die

The ratio of people living in this world who will die is 1 to 1. We all have a life fuse that is lit when we are born. At some point it will go out. For some it will be sooner rather than later . . . but everyone's fuse will go out, we just don't know when. We are all terminal. The question then is where will I spend eternity? Let's see what the Bible says.

The Dilemma

The dilemma that faces each of us is simple – God is holy and we are sinful, sinful because we have disobeyed God's law and fall far short of God's perfect standard, and therefore we are separated from God.

The Bible says 3 things about us:

- 1. *We all come into this world separated from God.*** **Romans 6:23** "The wages of sin is death" [spiritual separation from God]. We were born sinners and the proof of that, the Bible says, is that we all die. In fact because of our sin & separation from God we are children of God's wrath , meaning that God's anger is continually toward us. **Ephesians 2:3** "and we were by nature children of wrath,"
- 2. *We all have sinned*** (**Romans 3:23**) "for all have sinned and fall short of God's standard of perfection", You say -"But really, I don't sin that much" But the Bible says if we would only sin once in our entire life we are as guilty as if we had committed every sin - Why? Because God's standard is absolute perfection. **James 2:10** "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all."
- 3. *We all will face judgment because of our sin*** (**Heb. 9:27**). "it is appointed unto man once to die and then comes the judgment," The only way you will ever escape God's judgment is by the removal of the penalty for your sin. In **John 5:24** Jesus says, "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."

The penalty for your sin is going to have to be paid for – either by you suffering the penalty for your sin for all of eternity, or by you trusting and believing in Christ, that He paid for your sin on the cross by His death . . . but it will have to be paid for.

To make the dilemma even worse - No religion can save you, no church can save you, no ritual or tradition can save you, baptism cannot save you, and you can't save yourself. Only God through His Son Jesus Christ can save you. And that's what the Bible is saying in **John 11:25** - **25 Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies."**

In this verse Jesus makes it very clear how you can know for sure when you die that you will go to Heaven and have eternal life. For Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life." **He** is the one who will raise you from the dead and **He** is the one who can give you eternal life.

This is no ordinary person speaking here, this is the Son of God (**John 10:30; 14:9**). He proved He was the Son of God by the sinless life He lived (**2 Cor. 5:21**), the miracles He performed and the prophecies He fulfilled. That is why He could say in **John 14:6** "I am the way, the truth, and the life, **no man** comes to the Father except through me"

So how do we enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ – look at the next phrase – "he who believes in me"? One of the best known Bible verses is **John 3:16** – "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever **believes in Me** should not perish but have eternal life." It is not enough to know about Christ – to have some kind of intellectual knowledge about Him – but the word "believe" here means to place your 100% trust in Him and what He has done for you.

So I face 2 problems that must be overcome if I am going to receive eternal life and live forever in Heaven. I must be forgiven of my sin, and my life must be credited with a perfection as though I had never sinned.

But You May Say . . .

- 1. “I’m a good person, my good outweighs my bad.”** But the fact of the matter is – “ God does not grade on a curve. You are either 100% perfect or you fail.” In fact in the book of Isaiah it says that all of my good works are as worthless as dirty rags(**Is. 64:6**) – meaning they count for nothing toward my salvation. **Eph. 2:8,9** says, 8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 **not as a result of works**, so that no one may boast.”
- 2. “I am a religious person.”** Again we’re not talking about a religion here but a relationship with God’s Son – Jesus Christ. No religion, no church is going to get you into Heaven – only Jesus Christ. Listen to the Bible in **1 John 5:11-14** “11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and **this life is in His Son**. 12 He who has the Son has eternal life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have eternal life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may **know** that you have eternal life.” Notice it does not say “so that you may hope” but rather “that you may know”. You can have the assurance of your salvation **today**.
- 3. “I go to church every Sunday, doesn’t that make me a Christian?”** That no more makes you a Christian than standing in a garage makes you a car. It is not the external around you, but what has happened to you internally as you trust Christ and He transforms your life from within.
- 4. “I’ve been baptized .”** Nowhere in the Bible does it say that by being baptized you receive eternal life. Baptism comes **after** you receive salvation by trusting Christ. Baptism is an outward profession that inwardly you now belong to Jesus Christ.
- 5. “I was born in a Christian family?”** That’s great you were born in a Christian family. It’s wonderful that your parents knew Christ as Savior but God has no spiritual grandchildren. Everyone, by themselves, individually, has to become a child of God. **John 1: 12** says “ But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God,”

Why the negative first and not the positive?

Because the “good news” is presented in the Bible upon the backdrop of the “bad news”. If the unbeliever does not understand the wretchedness and hopelessness of their condition, the gospel becomes nothing more than a “magical Aladdin's lamp” that perhaps can help them to succeed in life.

Gal 3:24

24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

Rom. 1-3

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Weak/shallow gospel

A weak/shallow gospel will soften or leave out certain elements (usually repentance, sin, etc.) or add in certain terms in order to make it more appealing.

Question: What phrases do we typically use when we ask the unbeliever to make a commitment?

“You see, to tell a man to 'accept Christ', . . . makes Christ to stand hat in hand waiting on my pleasure; neatly awaiting my verdict on Him. It makes Him apply to me, instead of my applying to Him. It permits me to accept Christ by an impulse of my mind or my emotions and accept Him painlessly and at no cost and no inconvenience.” - A.W. Tozer

Believers often present a weak shallow gospel for the following reasons:

1. Not to be offensive.

1 Peter 2:7-8

7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone,"

8 and,

"A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE";

for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

2. To claim more converts.

3. To appear more likeable.

So what must I do?

Declare spiritual bankruptcy. That means you are saying to God that you have nothing to contribute to your salvation. You are trusting in Christ **alone**, 100%, for your salvation.

You must repent of your sin – repentance simply means you turn from your sin. You forsake, you turn from how you have been living, and you now turn to follow Christ.

You must place your total trust in Christ – the sinless life that He lived, His death on the cross, His burial, and His resurrection from the dead.

You need to ask God to save you. And if you are sincere, He will. He will forgive you of all your sin and He will credit you with the perfect life of His Son.

You can have the assurance of your salvation by trusting Christ. If you should die today, you can know that you would go immediately into the presence of God. I urge you to do it today for Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; **he who believes in Me will live even if he dies.**"