
1. Today I want to look at the theme of evangelism – how to use the Gospel

What is the Gospel?

- A. The good news that God sent his Son into the world to:
 - 1). Live a perfect life
 - 2). To die for sinners
 - 3). To absorb the wrath of God
 - 4). To take away our guilt
 - 5). To provide the gift of righteousness
 - 6). And to give eternal life through faith in Christ alone apart from works
- B. We have been entrusted with this powerful – life changing – soul saving Message
And we are to be faithful with it – we are to use it to rescue others with it

Transition: I want to look at why we should use this message to evangelize

- A. Then an easy way to use it in evangelism – the Roman's Road

3. Outline: Going to see two things

- A. The *principle*: Why evangelism is so important
 - B. The *practice*: Romans Road an easy way to evangelize
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I. THE PRINCIPLE: WHY EVANGELISM IS SO IMPORTANT?

1. Scripture commands us to be evangelical

- A. In every nation
Mt 28:18–19 (ESV) And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ⁽¹⁹⁾ *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations*, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- B. At all times
1 Peter 3:15 (NASB) but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, *always being ready* to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you...
- C. As Ambassadors of Christ
2 Corinthians 5:20 (NASB) ...we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, *be reconciled* to God.
 - 1). We are citizens of heaven – representing our heavenly King as ambassadors
 - a). Promoting his cause by proclaiming his message of reconciliation
 - b). The message that can end that separation between God and man
 - 1a). Replacing it with a relationship characterized by love

So Evangelism is important because Scripture commands us to evangelize

2. Evangelism's important for a church to stay alive

- A. *Evangelize or fossilize!* Keeps us from drying up, losing our life and vitality - become just another social club
- B. Talk to anybody that evangelizes regularly – breathes life into them
 - 1). Something about it keeps those fires in the heart burning hot
 - 2). I think partly it is a blessing from God on those who take risks to honor Him

So Scripture commands it – the church needs it

3. The new nature the Christian has is wired for it

- A. When we're saved we are given a new nature
 - 1). We are “Born again” - have a new Father – and are given His nature (1 Pet. 1:4)

2 Pe 1:4 (ESV) ... he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become *partakers of the divine nature...*

One commentator on this verse: "That by these ye might be partakers of the *divine nature*," that is, that you might be a child of God! What a tremendous truth this is. This is overwhelming! When you are born again, you are given the nature of *God*, my friend. Don't let anybody deceive you into thinking that the Christian life is a little series of dos and don'ts—that if you do this and don't do that, you are living the Christian life. Oh, my friend, you are a partaker of the divine nature, the nature of God, *and you want the things of God*.

a). The true believer wants the things of God – Why? - that's who they are

Question: What does that new nature lived out in a man look like?

- A. It looks like Jesus – He lived that divine nature out when He came to earth
 - 1). And what did Jesus do? One thing we know - He cared for souls
- B. So to care about souls is to be like Christ – it is simply living out who we've become

Point: So you are wired to care for souls

Internal summary: To evangelize is necessary

- A. Because the Bible commands it
- B. Because the Church needs it
- C. Because the new nature given to us includes it
 - 1). It's part of the package of being born again – standard equipment
 - 2). I can't imagine a true Christian having no concern for the lost at all

Transition: One more introductory thought I want you to think over

4. **God has equipped His church and it's individuals for evangelism**

There is no reason we shouldn't be doing this – we CAN do it

- A. He has entrusted us with the message that has power to save
- B. He has placed within us the Holy Spirit to enable us to proclaim that message – to evangelize
 - 1). Think of this: We carry around in us the greatest evangelist there is to help us
 - a). The evangelist that swept through that crowd when Peter preached – 1000's saved

Thought: This is what makes evangelism exciting

- A. We just faithfully step into the opportunities provided *depending* upon God
 - 1). Proclaiming a message that He has filled with soul-saving power
 - 2). Trusting that the Spirit within us will give us the Words and make them effective
 - a). WHO KNOWS what could happen! How exciting is that?
- B. This is the experience of Paul in Thessalonica

1 Th 1:4-5 (ESV) For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁽⁵⁾ because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

- 1). He says: We just obeyed – we just opened our mouths
- 2). As we were speaking the Spirit took those words and applied them to the hearts of those listening
 - a). Powerfully *convicting* them of the reality of their lost condition
 - b). *Convincing* them that Jesus is the only solution - only escape from hell
 - c). *Compelling* them to turn from their sins to embrace Christ by faith
 - 1a). God does all that – we just open our mouths – and get to watch!
 - 2a). God reaches out to these people in love – drawing them to Him

Point: Everything is in place - God has given us all we need to reach the lost

- A. Listen: The minimum requirements are not all that much – *You need a believer and the Gospel*
 - 1). Everyone in this room that knows Jesus meets those requirements

- B. Therefore everyone can be used!
- 1). I'm not saying you have to go out street witnessing. Unless God tells you to
 - a). I'm saying: ***Just be faithful in those opportunities God opens up around you***
Step into them – depending upon God to help – who knows what He might do!
 - 2). You may be the one used to change a person's eternity!
 - a). I think part of our heavenly reward will be to see those in glory
That we had something to do about! I think we'll know that – will add greatly to our joy
 - 1a). Those seeds we planted, watered at the Spectrum
 - 2a). I think those praying on Friday night will enter into that joy for all eternity
- Transition:** What would stop us from stepping into those opportunities
- A. Many reasons – I want to deal with only two tonight

TWO REASONS WE MIGHT NOT EVANGELIZE

1. I feel too ordinary to tell others about Jesus – “Who am I to do this?”

- TURN: 2 Co 4:3–4 (ESV)** And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁽⁴⁾ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
- A. The unbeliever's horrible plight – blinded to the truth of the Gospel
- 1). The beauty of Christ holds no interest – Christian truth is just boring
 - 2). They feel no need of a Savior – they love their sin more – so they reject Him
- B. The solution: God mercifully opens their eyes to see the truth of the Gospel
- 2 Co 4:6 (ESV)** For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
- 1). Just as God said let there be light in creation
He says let the light shine in the heart of this lost man or woman
 - a). Suddenly the gospel makes sense –
 - 1a). They see their condition – I am guilty before a holy God
 - 2a). They see the solution – My only hope is through Jesus Christ
- C. So it is God's work to do that – but He uses us as the instrument
- 1). The Gospel message must be proclaimed by those who are now saved
2 Co 4:5 (ESV) For what ***we proclaim*** is not ourselves, but ***Jesus Christ as Lord...***
Ro 10:14 (ESV) How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? ***And how are they to hear without someone preaching?***
- D. But I feel too ordinary to do that! Of course you do! You should!
- 2 Co 4:7 (ESV)** But we have this treasure in ***jars of clay...***
- 1). We carry this treasure around – the message of Christ
The gospel with its **LIGHT** giving – **LIFE** producing power
 - 2). We carry this precious treasure in ordinary clay pots NOT fine china = us
 - a). Ordinary men and women – nothing special – nothing spectacular
- Point:** But this is God's plan – ***take the ordinary & do extraordinary things through them***
- A. See it there in vs. 7
- 2 Co 4:7 (ESV)** But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.
- 1). He gets the glory – we don't
 - 2). We realize we're but clay pots – if anything special happens it's because of Him

- a). Thankfully, He lets us join with Him and be a part of it! Then rewards us
 - B. So, If you feel ordinary that is not an excuse to NOT evangelize
 - 1). That simply means you *qualify* to evangelize – you’re the kind of person God uses
- Transition:** Brings us to our second objection

2. I feel to untrained to tell another about Jesus – what do I do?

- A. I want to share a few thoughts this morning that can help
 - 1). A track to run on that I've always liked - the ROMANS ROAD (slightly modified)
 - 2). 3 scriptures that leads a person through the Gospel - Romans 3:23; 5:1; 6:23

II. THE PRACTICE – WALKING THE ROMAN ROAD

Introduction: These are the ways you approach somebody who doesn't know Christ

FIRST POINT: You are a sinner

Ro 3:23 (ESV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

1. This is all inclusive – ALL - God says everybody is a sinner

- A. Other scriptures say we are “law breakers” = sin is breaking God’s commands – His law

2. Problem: Many don’t see themselves as sinners

“I’m basically a good sincere person. I don’t intentionally hurt others. I work hard, pay taxes, try to be helpful:

- A. They feel they will be alright when they stand before God

Thought: Fortunately God has given us a tool to bring some clarity to this self-deception

- A. The law is designed to clarify what sin is – to convince a person they’re guilty before God
AND to silence any protest why it would be unfair to lock them out of heaven

Rom 3:19-20 (NIV) Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the *whole world held accountable to God*. (20) Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, *through the law we become conscious of sin*.

- 1). The law of God – 10 commandments was never meant to save a person by keeping them
 - a). They are meant to show a person how far short they fall in keeping them
 - b). Then silence any argument they may have why they are good enough to get into heaven

John Blanchard put it this way: Not only does God's law open my eyes to my guilt, it shuts my mouth when I try to excuse myself.

Transition: So we want to use the law to help them see their true condition before God

2. Say something like: "You've said you're a good person - mind if we test that?"

- A. They'll usually say "Sure" - everybody likes to talk about how wonderful they are
- B. The law we can use for this is the 10 commandments - Ex. 20
 - 1). First point - method Ray Comfort uses “The way of the Master”
 - 2). He usually uses only four of 10 commandments - Lying, stealing, adultery, blasphemy

THE GOOD PERSON TEST

"You say you are a good person worthy of heaven – Mind if we test that? God gives a 10-fold test to see if that is true or not. To see if were the kind of people He will allow into heaven. We'll only use 4."

- A. Scripture says lying is breaking God's law (a sin against Him) - have you ever lied?
 - 1). The answer is obviously - YES - Then what does that make you?
 - 2). They will have to admit *"It makes me a liar"* – that's a sin!
- B. Scripture says stealing is breaking God's law - have you ever stolen anything? No matter how small

- 1). Again the answer is YES - Then what does that make you? *"It makes me a thief"*
 - C. Have you ever looked upon another person with lust? Again YES
 - 1). Jesus says that is to commit *adultery* in your heart
 - D. Have you ever taken the Lord's name in vain - YES
 - 1). That's called *blasphemy* - using name of the one who gave you life as a swear word
- Point:** Now by your **OWN ADMISSION** - (You haven't been obnoxious - accused them of anything)
They confessed themselves - they are a liar, thief, blasphemer and adulterer at heart
- A. Now you can say "And we've only looked at four of the laws"
 - B. If your honest you must admit you've broken God's law 1000's of times
 - 1). OTW you're a sinner just like God's Word says - *you've admitted that yourself*
- Transition:** "Now that is a real problem - let me show you why?" – take them to next Scripture

POINT 2: Your sin means you are in trouble before God

Ro 6:23 (ESV) For the *wages* of sin is *death*...

1. Death = eternal separation from the love of God

- A. An eternal experience of His wrath - Hell – the Lake of fire
- B. Ever wonder how we get hell out of Romans 6:23 – through other scripture
Re 20:14–15 (ESV) Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the *second death*, the lake of fire. ⁽¹⁵⁾ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Point: We all know what wages is – it is something we earn through our actions

- A. Physically we earn wages – we work – we earn a paycheck
Spiritually we earn wages – we sin – we earn the wrath of God and hell

Thought: Never speak of hell with a light hearted attitude - it is a heart wrenching truth

- A. We warn about hell with a broken heart – a pleading in our voice "Don't go there"
- B. This is why we evangelize – what drives us – I can't stand the thought of somebody going there!
 - 1). I can't be silent when I have a message that can change that

2. Say "You've admitted you're a liar, thief, blasphemer, adulterer"

- A. Scripture says the wages of that sin (what you've earned) is hell – that's what God says

Ask them: Do you still think that when you stand before God with 1000's of sins on the books. He can still let you into heaven? Would He be a just judge if He just overlooked all that?

- A. If they're honest - they must say NO – a just judge couldn't do that

Ask them: Does that concern you?

- A. Again if they are honest they will say YES

Now you can tell them: There is good news - God has given you a way out - a way of escape

Transition: Now that they understand the bad news they'll be ready for the good

POINT 3: The Good News

Ro 6:23 (ESV) For the wages of sin is death, *but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

1. Good news: God loves you - and is willing to save you - rescue you

- A. Do you know what He did so that you can be saved?

Rom 5:8 (NIV) But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- 1). God loves you - doesn't want you to go to hell
- 2). He did something incredible that demonstrates His desire to keep you out of there

- a). He went to the cross and died for you - paid the wages your sin earned
- B. Remember what you just admitted – you are a liar, a thief, an adulterer and blasphemer
 - 1). Jesus took every one of those sin that **SHOULD** send you to hell
 - 2). The Father placed those and a 1000 other sins on His Son and He bore the wrath you deserved
 - a). Why? So you could experience God's love instead
So that you could be forgiven and go to heaven

Ask them: Does that interest you? Do you want to know how to receive that incredible gift?

POINT 4: The Reception of The Gift of Salvation

Ro 5:1 (ESV) Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. You must place your faith in Jesus Christ

- A. What is saving faith?
 - 1). It means you admit you are a sinner and need to be saved
 - 2). It means you are willing to turn away from your sin
 - 3). It means you turn to Christ and trust in His work alone to be sufficient
 - a). You go to Him and you ask Him to save you
Trusting He meant what He said – He'll never turn away any who calls upon His name
 - b). OTW we put our soul and our eternity into His hands - trust Him with it
 - 4). It's the simple prayer of the tax collector "Lord have mercy on me a sinner."
 - a). Jesus said that man went home justified! Forgiven!

2. This is nothing you can earn – it is not a call to be more religious

Back to: Ro 6:23 (ESV) For the wages of sin is death, but the *free gift of God* is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- A. You can't earn it – you can only receive it as a gift
 - 1). To attempt to earn it is to substitute religion for grace
Religion is man trying to reach up to God – trying to earn His favor through our efforts
Christianity is God in love stooping down to us – doing for us what we can't do for ourselves
 - a). All we can do is receive that love and salvation as a free gift given by Grace

Point 5: The result of receiving the gift of salvation

Ro 5:1 (ESV) Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, *we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1. Through Christ we now have peace with God

- A. Your relationship with God changes radically
 - 1). You were abiding under His wrath – now you experience His love
 - 2). You were living outside of His family – now you are part of His family
 - 3). You looked forward to an eternity filled only with pain and torment
Now you look forward to a future of eternal joy – bliss – glory
- B. Great news! You now His child - totally accepted - heaven is now your home

Point: In these 4 verses we get a simple – clear Gospel presentation

- A. You're a sinner – Romans 3:23
- B. You're in trouble – Romans 6:23a
- C. But there is good news - God is willing to save you from that – Romans 6:23b
- D. You receive this gift of salvation by faith – Romans 5:1
- E. The results: You have peace with God – accepted – Romans 5:1

Transition: One more thought on presenting the Gospel

1. Watch out for Christian lingo - Don't use words the unbeliever can't understand

"Oh man, the problem with you is your still in the WORLD. You need to be REGENERATED through the WASHING OF THE BLOOD. Your still dominated by that OLD MAN and you need to be BORN AGAIN so that you can get on that path of glory that the SANCTIFIED walk. Then you'll be able to TREAD ON THAT OLD SERPENT and experience the victory of those who are SAVED BY GRACE."

A. You walk away thinking "That was so powerful" - they walk away thinking "Huh"

Point: We must learn to tell another the Gospel in terms THEY CAN UNDERSTAND

A. Did you understand these Christian terms before you were a Christian?

TO ILLUSTRATE MY POINT: "A Christian student was driving along a highway in Pennsylvania with a non-Christian. They passed a sign that said "Jesus saves". His companion remarked very sincerely, "That's something I never thought of before. If Jesus is thrifty, I ought to be too!"

A. We know what "saved" means – but not everybody does

CONCLUSION

- 1. We've seen the principle – why we should evangelize**
- 2. We've see God equips His church to evangelize**
- 3. We've looked at a simple track to run on**
- 4. Now the only thing left to do is go out and use it**

William E. Gladstone: There is but one question of the hour: How to bring the truth of God's Word into vital contact with the minds and hearts of all classes of people.

A. Amen! May God give us hearts for the lost & a willingness to step into those opportunities given

1). It's not easy – never will be – it's war – every soul is a battle field

CALL TO THE UNBELIEVER

1. What about you? Been listening and thinking "That's me"

A. I've lied, stolen, committed adultery in my heart, I've blasphemed God - I'm in trouble!

B. You can be forgiven this morning - find somebody to talk to - come up and talk to me