

Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Do You Know The Way of Salvation?

Acts 19:8-10

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PowerPoint Presentation included: none

SermonAudio Blurb: Paul is now in the beginning stages of his third missionary journey and finds himself in the city of Ephesus. He spends three months engaging Jews with the gospel. Luke records for us how Paul went about evangelizing and in it we have a simple blueprint of how to bring the gospel to others. It is always good to be reminded of how we ought to engage people for the gospel. At the same time this is a wonderful opportunity to share the gospel in the context of this sermon.

I. Introduction.

A. Read 19:8-10.

B. Background:

1. We are at the very beginning of the 3rd missionary journey for the Apostle Paul.
2. Remind them what “apostle” means.
3. We have three of these trips recorded in the book of Acts, and they make up the bulk of this book we are studying and covered up to 10,000 miles.

C. These trips were hard and dangerous, so why would this man travel throughout Europe and Asia preaching his message?

1. Well, back in chapter 16 there was a young slave-girl in the city of Phillipi who was also possessed by a demon. And she was following Paul through the city crying out over and over, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation!”
2. And there it is. Paul was a man who was truly convicted to the very core of his being that people were in need of salvation and that he was to proclaim and show them that way.
3. And this message was so heavy upon him and the need was so great that he endured every imaginable hardship and persecution just so that he could bring the way of salvation to people. In fact, in the end of it all, he was killed for doing this, and he did not count it as failure.

D. So let me ask you today. Do you know the way of salvation?

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1. And if you do and you have found yourself saved, are you showing others the way to be saved?
2. And if you are not sure, may I ask you to hear me today as I try to unfold what is happening in these three verses?
3. The best way to do this is simply to go step by step through verses 8-10 and draw out and explain what we find.
4. We will see the setting, the process, the responses and the outcome of Paul proclaiming the way of salvation. Again, the setting, the process, the responses and the outcome.

II. Do you know the way of salvation?

A. First, we see the setting (8a).

B. Second, we see the process (8b).

1. The focus was the Kingdom of God, which is all about the Messiah/Christ/Savior.
2. Notice that he stayed with the Jews teaching them as long as he had a voice, which was about 3 months.
3. I want to point out that he was not vague or roundabout in his methods of evangelism.
 - a. He was bold, simply this means he was free in his speech. He was not constrained or restrained in what he said.
 - b. He was actively seeking to persuade those who listened.
4. Now what was the message? We read in vs 8 that it was about the Kingdom of God but that does not mean a lot to many people.
5. There is an important thread that flows through the first part of the bible, the Old Testament.
 - a. Creation and Fall.
 - b. The promise of One who would destroy Satan.

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- c. The development of this through Israel and the priestly system.
 - d. The throne and line of David.
 - e. The message of the prophets in the midst of rebellion. There was coming One who would be prophet, priest and king.
 - f. This is where the New Testament picks up the story line.
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6. In the terms, “reasoning and persuading” you see the heart of Paul for these fellow Jews. He wants them to hear and believe. He wants them to become followers of Jesus Christ.
- C. Third, we see the responses (9).
1. When you tell a person about Jesus Christ and the way of salvation, there are ultimately only two responses you will see. Acceptance or rejection and both are seen in this verse.
 2. So, once resistance came he withdrew: took those who had believed with him. Notice again that the resistance was not universal among the Jews, but only "some" (9). **Here we see the normal process that takes place as you seek to share the gospel with people: they believe or they don't.**
 3. First, let us remember what we learned about the nature of saving faith: There are three aspects to faith that brings us into a state of being forgiven of sin and given life in Jesus Christ.
 - a. Facts.
 - b. Assent/agreement.
 - c. Trust/Love/Hope/Confidence
 4. Notice in vs 9 how they saw the Christian faith as "the way." This was the normal way of describing the Church and the Christian faith in the early years.
 5. It will show up three more times in this book. But what is most important is to understand why it is called “The Way.”

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- a. It is all about the person of Jesus. That is it. You want salvation? You want forgiveness? You want life eternal? You want purpose and fulfillment that goes beyond the next 15 minutes? Then you need Jesus.
 - b. John 14:6.
 - c. For the Jew, they thought they had access to God because they were Jews. This is what is being cleared up by Jesus in John 14:7ff. This moves to 20-24.
 - d. Notice how that love for Jesus is defined uniquely in vs 28.
6. Let me now talk to you here who are Christians. Your responsibility is to be able to show your children and others the way to be saved. So let me use this passage to walk you through the process.
 7. First step is that you engage them.
 - a. Until this happens you will not proceed any further.
 - b. No amount of niceness, good works, acts of kindness, posts on FB, putting verses up on various social media platforms, doing a podcast, etc will work.
 8. Your first goal is to get them to understand the facts.
 - a. This may be a lot of information or a little depending on what they know and need to learn.
 - b. So this means you must be willing to invest in the time required.
 9. Your second goal is to have them come to agree with these facts.
 - a. Again, this can take time and is dependent upon what they know already.
 - b. Notice for Paul that he was speaking to those who knew the OT. Whereas in Athens, he approached it differently because they were from a pagan background.
 10. The third goal is that the person place their trust and hope and find rest in the gospel truths.
 - a. This is not something you or that person can produce. This is a work of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. It is that moment where a person goes from being "dead in their sins" to "Made alive in Jesus Christ."

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- c. This is not an act of the person, it is the gracious act of God upon the very soul of that person. A passive event on our side and a very active event on God's.
- D. Fourth, we see the outcome (10).
 - 1. You see the two responses.
 - 2. First, some believed (9b) and when the resistance came, they went away with Paul to continue to learn and grow.
 - 3. But we see the second type of response as well. There is also a process of rejecting the gospel.
 - a. What is interesting is that this rejection mirrors the faith that leads to salvation and forgiveness.
 - b. Hardening of the heart.
 - 4. Why is there hardening?
 - a. It is just the process of having one's true convictions unveiled and upon realization of that fact, deciding that they love those convictions.
 - b. We see this in John 1:5; 3:16-21; 8:12.

III. Conclusion.

- A. Here is the irony of it all though.
 - 1. The sad reality is that the rejecter of the gospel is seeking to keep from being exposed. So they harden and reject.
 - 2. They walk away thinking they managed to keep things hidden. But in the end, all things shall be exposed but now it will not be to salvation, but to damnation.
- B. So there you have it beloved, this is the way of salvation.
 - 1. There are no shortcuts. Every, single person who is saved from God's judgment against their sin came through Jesus and only Jesus.
 - 2. It is not just knowing about Jesus.
 - 3. It is not just agreeing about Jesus.
 - 4. It is a trust and confidence in only Jesus and what He did upon the cross.
- C. So you now know the way of salvation.

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1. For you the Christian, your responsibility is to share it.
2. For those who are not a Christian, you are to hear it, know it and place your hope in it.

Benediction

May the Lord remind you all of the richness of His grace and the manifold blessings that belong to you in Christ Jesus our Lord. May you walk in His promises and by the power of the Holy Spirit as you engage this fallen age for God's glory. Amen