

A Guide To Intentional - Effective Evangelism

“Have You Heard?”

Romans 6:23

- Have you heard? - There Is Good News!!
- Within the context of the two diagnostic questions we've just asked, we possibly have just learned that our friend, whoever we are talking with may or probably does not know if they will be in Heaven one day, and they really don't have a basis for how they would even figure that out!
 - o With that in mind, as we find ourselves now at the point in our conversations where we are breaching into the contents of the Gospel, one of the best ways in which I have found to begin with people is with the topic of **Grace!**

Grace

- Almost everyone, everywhere, has some concept of Grace!
 - o They have some level of relationship with term Grace!
 - Maybe poor or rich in understanding and experience
 - But almost all, especially in our contexts, will be familiar with the term
- But one of the things I have found is that most people, even many Christians do not have an understanding of the term defined!
 - o **What is Grace Defined?**
 - And I have found a very quick overview of it is incredibly effective at breaking down barriers and setting the stage:
 - To help others understand the big picture of the Gospel!
 - That is our goal, that's what we want!
 - o We want people to understand the big picture of the Bible, cover to cover what does it want me to know!
- So many people today have no idea what the big picture of the Bible is - Believers and Unbelievers alike!
 - o I'm talking about the one who has never been to church - never read the Bible but says they don't believe
 - o And I'm talking about the one who has sat in church for 30 years and still hasn't a clue what the purpose of this book is!

Bible - Puzzle Illustration

- I want you to think of it like this! Like the Bible as one big Puzzle,
- And all through life, whether in church or out of church we are leaning things that contribute to the amount of puzzle pieces we have concerning the Bible!
 - o Example of an unchurched person and pieces they may have
 - o Example of a church person's pieces
- But without the Gospel, we are left with no concept of how it all fits together, of how it all makes sense!
- And I believe heavily that Grace is the most magnificent starting point for tying this all together!
 - o Let me share with you, simply this:
 - **The Bible is one book that documents, demonstrates, and discloses God's Sovereign plan to restore Humanity and creation to the way it was designed to be from the beginning!**
 - God created us to walk in perfect communion with Him!
 - o In the Garden!

- But sin has distorted that plan!
 - So everything now that we see and know is nothing more than a distorted image of what it was intended to be from the beginning, both literally and figuratively!
- And God's Restoring of that that proper Design I believe you can call Grace!
- If I was tasked with picking a simple definition of Grace I would define it as such:
 - "God's gifting of that which is not deserved"
 - **Daily**
 - List Examples
 - **Eternally**
 - **Your first breath after your first sin you've been living on Grace!**
 - *Romans 6:23*
 - Running a marathon with weighted vest, ankle weight, sandbag, pulling weight sled
 - Finish and look for prize - there is none!
 - **Your motivation - deceitful**
 - **Your thoughts - detestable**
 - **Your actions - despicable**
 - Your due reward = death!
 - **But the free gift of God!!!!!!**
 - Acrostic - God's Riches At Christ Expense
- That is GOOD NEWS!

Transition

- I don't believe there can be a better understanding of Grace then of the eternal understanding and Yes I am talking about Heaven!
 - Where the wrongs are made right!
 - Where pain, sorrow and suffering are no more!
 - Where sin and shame will never again plague us
 - And Death will be a thing of the past!
- I am talking about Grace! I am talking about Heaven!
- **My friend, can I ask you, Have you heard, that Heaven is A Free Gift!!!**

#1 - Heaven Is A Free Gift

- Do I have to say all of that just to share the Gospel with someone?
 - No, no you do not!
- Am I gonna say all that when I share the gospel with someone?
 - No, no I'm probably not gonna say all that!
- Here is something like what I might say,
 - If you were taking notes from the first lesson back in January, remember our transition out,
 - Our transition after the 2 Diagnostic Q's!
 - These transitions are going to be crucial,
 - Transitioning in and Out
- **Building off of that last transition this is something like what I would say:**
 - I've asked the Diagnostic Questions,
 - Gotten permission

- When you answered the first question I thought I might have some great news for you. But after hearing your answer to this second question I know that I have the greatest news you have ever heard!
 - Would you mind if I share that with you?
 - If they say yes:
 - That's great!
 - Well let me begin with this!
 - I know based on how you answered those questions, you may be a little unsure of whether or not you'll go to heaven someday,
 - and I know you may feel a little unsettled about maybe what the requirements are and what answer you would give God when you stand before Him someday **but the Bible has some really great news for us!**
 - That great news is that **Heaven Is a free Gift!**
 - **Have you ever heard that before?**
 - Ask and Affirm
 - The Bible tells us that out of God's Grace and love He offers Heaven freely to every person!
 - In fact it say specifically in *Romans 6:23* that *"the free Gift of God is Eternal life"*
 - and that's a truth that spans the whole existence of Humanity!
- But that's not all God wants us to know, He wants us to know **that Heaven is a free gift** but He also wants us to know that **Heaven cannot be earned or deserved!**

#2 - It is not earned or deserved!

- Maybe a way to explain it would be like this,
 - God tells us that He is offering us this gift freely, but then He goes on in the Bible to illustrate that truth for us, by telling us there is nothing we can do of ourselves to earn or deserve this gift!
 - The Bible says that It is *"By His grace that we can be Saved"*
 - That His free gift of eternal Life *"is not a work of man, but is a free gift of God so that No one may boast"*
 - **Essentially God is leveling the playing field!**
 - There is nothing you can do in and of yourself to set yourself apart from the rest to earn or deserve Heaven!
 - Not more money
 - More kindness
 - Fitness - work - success - service
 - But rather it is only by His free gifting that one may receive the gift of Heaven!

Simple Illustration

- Ask - What would you say is the greatest gift you've ever received? OR
- Consider at some point in your life were maybe a parent or a really good friend gave you a gift!
 - Maybe for your birthday one year someone got you a really great gift and you were just enamored with it!
 - Because your friend or whoever that may have been loves you, they gave you this really great gift!

- Now, what do you suppose that friend would say, if you pulled out your wallet and said, “oh man please let me pay you for this!”
- Or “oh please let me come and clean your house to make up for this”
- “Let me do something to pay you back!”
- Can I tell you, if you were able to do that it would no longer be a **free gift from love!**
 - And there is a fair chance your going to hurt feelings of your friend by rejecting the free gift and insisting that you must in some way pay for it or earn it!
- **That is the offer of Heaven from God to man!**
 - God says this is my free gift to you!
 - But it cannot be earned or Deserved!

Transition

- And as we come to a close today, we will make the transition to our next point by saying simply this,
 - “and we can understand this just a little more clearly when we understand what the Bible has to say about man”