

THE GOSPEL LESSON 7 – COMMUNICATION

INTRODUCTION

Remember in our study, “The Gospel of Your Salvation,” we are letting Scripture speak clearly on the most important message any of us will ever hear.

We anchor the entire series in one verse from the Apostle Paul. “In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise” (Eph 1:13, NASB 95). Paul writes to people who have already heard the message, believed it, and received the Holy Spirit’s seal. He calls that message “the gospel of your salvation.” That phrase alone tells us the gospel is not merely good advice or a call to a better life. It is the announcement that actually saves.

THE BELIEVER’S RESPONSIBILITY

Not every believer is called to be an evangelist in the specialized sense of Ephesians 4:11. Yet Scripture gives clear expectations for both the church as a whole and for individual believers regarding the spread of the gospel.

For the Church as a Whole

- Stand firm in one spirit for the faith of the gospel (Philippians 1:27).
- Pray for those who proclaim the word that opportunities may arise and the message may be made clear (Colossians 4:2-4; 2 Thessalonians 3:1).
- Live in a manner worthy of the gospel so that the message is adorned and outsiders are drawn to ask about the hope within us (Philippians 1:27; Titus 2:10; 1 Peter 3:15).

The church is to be a people whose conduct and unity make the gospel believable and attractive.

For the Individual Believer

- Pray for and support those actively spreading the word.
- Be prepared and capable to share the gospel when opportunity arises (Colossians 4:5-6).
- Show compassion on those who are doubting or deciding about the truth (Jude 22).
- Love those who oppose the truth (Matthew 5:44; 1 Peter 3:9).
- When opportunities present themselves in conversation, proclaim the truth with clarity and grace.

These are not suggestions for the especially gifted. They are the normal Christian life lived in light of the grace we have received.

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THE BELIEVER'S MOTIVATION FOR EVANGELISM

In 1 Corinthians 9:16-23, Paul gives us a window into healthy motivation. He writes that necessity is laid upon him— “woe to me if I do not preach the gospel.” There is a stewardship entrusted to him. Yet Paul says the highest motivation is to do it willingly, becoming a fellow partaker of the gospel for the sake of others and the glory of God.

Our motivation must never be to earn favor with God or to prove our own spirituality. It flows from the grace we have already received. We desire to see others come to know the same Savior who rescued us, and we want to participate in what God is doing in the world out of love and gratitude.

When love for God and love for people drive us, we will speak with both boldness and tenderness.

METHODOLOGY FRAMEWORK

The best method is the one that clearly presents the content without confusion or addition. The message must remain simple: hear the message of truth about Jesus, be convinced it is true, and receive the gift of eternal life by faith alone.

Many phrases commonly used in evangelism, though well-intentioned, can unintentionally add conditions or confuse the simplicity of grace. We want to be careful with our words so that the hearer understands salvation is a free gift received by faith alone in what Jesus has done and promised.

WORDS/PHRASES THAT MUST BE AVOIDED

- **“Repent of your sins”** – Scripture does not instruct repentance for eternal life/salvation (John 3:16-18, 5:24, 6:47; Romans 4:5; Ephesians 2:8-9).
- **“Ask Jesus into your heart”** – This is based on a misinterpretation and misapplication of Revelation 3:20, which is addressed to a church, not to unbelievers.
- **“Give your life to Jesus” or “surrender your life”** – This can imply that a commitment or change of life is required before or in order to receive eternal life.
- **“Accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior”** – While Jesus is Lord, the condition for salvation is believing in Him for eternal life, not making Him Lord of one’s life as a prerequisite.
- **“Trust in Jesus,” “Confess your sins,” “Commit your Life,”** etc....

We proclaim the message with biblical clarity: The Gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, died for our sins as our substitute and rose again. He promises eternal life as a free gift to everyone who believes in Him—who is convinced that He is who He claimed to be and that His promise is true. When a person hears and believes, they are sealed with the Holy Spirit and possess eternal life immediately and forever.

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METHODS OF PRESENTING THE GOSPEL

Here are two possible ways to present the gospel, one brief for simple quick presentations and one longer chronological approach adapted from the “Seven Cs of History.” The method is not as important as the message. If the message is clear the method can vary. The point of presentation is to give out information; the information should be designed to solicit thought or questions.

A Quick Presentation (2–4 minutes)

1. **The Problem:** God created man for relationship with Himself in a perfect world. But Adam sinned, and sin brought death and separation from God to all of us. We are all sinners by nature and by choice and stand under God’s righteous judgment (Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:1-3).
2. **The Solution:** God promised of Himself a Savior. Jesus Christ is the eternal Word who became flesh, the “I AM” in human form. He lived a sinless life, died on the cross bearing our sins as our substitute, and rose from the dead, proving that the payment was complete and accepted by God (John 1:1, 14; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
3. **The Promise:** Jesus promises that whoever believes in Him has eternal life. To believe is to be persuaded by the evidence that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who gives eternal life as a free gift. It is not earned by good works, by turning from sin, by baptism, or by promising to live better. It is received the moment we are convinced the message is true (John 3:16-18, 5:24, 6:47; Ephesians 2:8-9).
4. **The Result:** When you believe, God seals you with His Holy Spirit as His own possession forever. You have eternal life now. You will never perish. Nothing can separate you from His love (John 10:27-29; Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 8:38-39).

Closing Question: “Do you believe this? What do you think?”

A Longer Presentation: The Seven C’s Adapted for the Gospel

This chronological approach helps people see the big picture of why we need salvation and how God has provided it in Christ. It is especially helpful for those who have little biblical background.

1. **Creation:** God created the heavens and the earth in six literal days. Everything was “very good.” Man was created in God’s image for relationship with Him. There was no death, no sin, no curse.

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2. **Corruption:** Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Sin entered the world, bringing death, suffering, and separation from God. All of us are now born in sin, under condemnation, and unable to save ourselves.
3. **Curse & Cure:** (Genesis 3) God pronounced the curse on man and creation. But in the very same chapter, He immediately gave the first promise of the Cure; the Seed of the woman who would crush the serpent's head (Genesis 3:15). This is the first gospel announcement. Grace appears right after the fall.
4. **Catastrophe:** As sin increased, God judged the world with the global flood, yet He mercifully preserved Noah and his family. The flood shows both God's justice against sin and His pattern of salvation through judgment.
5. **Covenant:** God chose Abraham and made a covenant, narrowing the promise to come through his seed. Through Israel and the prophets, He continued to reveal the coming Redeemer who would bear the sins of many and bring righteousness.
6. **Christ & Cross:** The promised Seed arrived in the person of Jesus Christ, the eternal Word, God who become flesh, fully God and fully man, the sinless Lamb of God. On the cross He bore the full curse of sin in our place as our substitute. He cried, "It is finished," was buried, and rose on the third day, proving the payment was complete and accepted by God. He promises eternal life as a free gift to everyone who believes in Him.
7. **Confidence:** Whoever believes in Jesus, whoever is convinced that He is the Christ who gives eternal life as a free gift based upon His sacrificial atoning work on the cross and having been risen from the dead, has eternal life the moment they believe. It is not by works, not by any human effort. It is received by faith alone. When you believe, you are sealed with the Holy Spirit forever, you possess eternal life now, and the blessed hope is guaranteed.

The Good News Summary: The problem that began in Genesis 3 has been solved by the person and work of Jesus Christ. Salvation from sin, death, and eternal judgment is not something we achieve. It is a free gift that God offers to every person. The only requirement is to believe in Jesus. The moment you believe, you pass from death to life and are sealed forever.

CONCLUSION

When we communicate the gospel, our goal is not to manipulate or to add anything to the finished work of Christ. We simply present the message of truth with clarity and compassion, trusting the Holy Spirit to persuade the hearer.