

# Christian Ambassador Training

## The Gospel Is Not– Week 4

<sup>ESV</sup> **2 Corinthians 5:17-21** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### *Know God's Message (of reconciliation – the gospel)*

Recommended Resources:

- “The Gospel for Christians” seminar by Ryan Kelly. (links on our site or DSC)
- “The Gospel and Personal Evangelism” by Mark Dever
- “Evangelism and the Sovereignty” of God by J.I. Packer
- “Tell the Truth” Will Metzger

### *But before we talk about what the Gospel IS, we must talk about what the Gospel IS NOT*

#### What The Gospel IS NOT:

...a life \_\_\_\_\_ program (Just add Jesus and everything will get better)

...or a \_\_\_\_\_ to be “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

- The Gospel is never simply an \_\_\_\_\_ to our life. Rather, it is a radical transformation.
  - We are called to take up our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to self (Matt 10:38-39)
  - Scripture says that Christ causes us to be a \_\_\_\_\_ creation (2 Cor 5:17)
- The Gospel is not that we are \_\_\_\_\_.
  - We are dead in sin (Eph 2)
  - We are in need of a whole \_\_\_\_\_ life (John 3) or to be re-created (1 Cor 15).
  - In fact, in order to understand the good news, we must first understand the \_\_\_\_\_ and that is “We are NOT ok.”

- In fact, by nature, we are \_\_\_\_\_, and we are in \_\_\_\_\_!
  - John 3, Romans 1, Romans 2, Ephesians 2, Ephesians 5, Colossians 3, 1 Thessalonians 1
- It has been said that it is easy to get a man \_\_\_\_\_, what is hard, is getting a man \_\_\_\_\_.
- We should be \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ people by pretending that the Good news is that we are OK.
- The Gospel is not simply that God is \_\_\_\_\_ (1 John 4:8).

The Riddle of the OT: The Lord passed before (Moses) and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but **who will by no means clear the guilty**” Exodus 34:6-7a (emphasis added)

- The Gospel is not simply that Jesus wants to be our \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_; the \_\_\_\_\_ is the focal point of the Good News.
- The Gospel is not that we should \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - Living right is a \_\_\_\_\_ of transformation, not a \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Romans 12:1** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Where did we go Wrong?**

- The goal of contemporary evangelism is to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.
- This approach has been a \* \_\_\_\_\_ for the Kingdom of God, yet it is still used almost exclusively in evangelical circles.
- Matthew 7:21-23 are probably the \_\_\_\_\_ verses in the whole Bible.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Matthew 7:21** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' <sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

- Things to notice from Matthew 7:
  - *There are many who \_\_\_\_\_ that they \_\_\_\_\_ God*
  - *They are \_\_\_\_\_ that they did not.*
  - *Their blood is on the hands of those who \_\_\_\_\_ them the \_\_\_\_\_ gospel*
  
- One theological error involved here is one of salvation by \_\_\_\_\_, through \_\_\_\_\_ versus salvation by \_\_\_\_\_.
  
- Another, closely related theological issue is the relationship between \_\_\_\_\_'s role in evangelism and \_\_\_\_\_'s role in evangelism.
  - Anyone who believes that a person's salvation hinges fully on their ability to somehow talk a non-believer into believing, failing to depend on God and His sovereign \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to make someone's heart new and cause them to understand and respond to the gospel, is going to chase meaningless \_\_\_\_\_ of manipulation until they find just the right one that will 'work' by talking people into believing.
  - We must remember that it is \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ men to himself.
    - He gives them eyes to see, ears to hear, and brings them from death to life.
  - It's important to remember \_\_\_\_\_.
    - \_\_\_\_\_ happens first (God gives new life, awakens a dead soul) then belief and repentance are a \_\_\_\_\_ by the regenerated heart. (John 6:65, Phil 1:29, Eph 2:5, Acts 16:14, Luke 24:45, John 11:43)
  - It's tempting at this point to think: Then why should we even \_\_\_\_\_?
    - If God must first draw men, open eyes, recreate hearts, etc. before a person can believe, why do we evangelize? Can't he do all of that without me?
  - God has ordained that this (drawing, regeneration, awakening, recreating) happen through the \_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_, by His \_\_\_\_\_.

- (Notice all of the previous examples involved proclamation of God’s word, empowered by God’s handiwork in the ‘spiritual background’ )
- We are commanded to “Go and \_\_\_\_\_” not “Go and \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - We must faithfully, and clearly \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel to everyone, and trust God that he is the \_\_\_\_\_ of souls.

For more: See J.I. Packer’s *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*

- A couple of commonly \_\_\_\_\_ verses:
  - *Romans 10:9 says:* if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
  - *Revelation 3:20 says: Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.*

### Discussion Questions:

- How many people do you know that claim to be Christians *because of* a one time act of ‘praying the prayer’ or ‘walking forward’ or ‘raising my hand’ but do not seem to be living like a true Christian (not bearing fruit, doesn’t seem to know or follow God in any real way?)
- Are there people you know that may be very surprised when they die, or when Christ comes back to find out that they really never trusted Christ?
- Have you ever felt compelled to talk someone in to believing the gospel?
- Does it give you a sense of freedom to know that God is ultimately responsible to convert a person from darkness to light?