

## PRACTICAL EVANGELISM

### “What is the Gospel?”

Matt 28:16-20

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.

17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." NIV

*What is the directive of the Great Commission? We are to go and make **disciples** of all nations. To accomplish this, we must evangelize.*

Acts 1:1-2

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach

2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. NIV

*We have just read some of the instruction that he had given to his apostles through the Holy Spirit. What had he begun to do and to teach?*

Luke 4:14-19

14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

15 He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read.

17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." NIV

*To preach good news, to proclaim the Gospel, to evangelize!*

Luke 4:42-43

42 At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them.

43 But he said, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." NIV

Luke 8:1

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, NIV

*Jesus preached the Gospel and instructed the twelve how to do it by example. What is this Gospel? When Jesus was on earth, the Gospel was "I am here. Salvation is come." When he ascended, the Gospel is now:*

1 Cor 15:1-4

1 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.

2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, NIV

*This is the raw bones of the Gospel. If we are going to preach the Gospel, we are going to have to know the Gospel.*

## **I. God-**

a. God is loving.

1 John 4:16b "God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him." NIV

b. God is holy.

1 Peter 1:15-16

15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;

16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." NIV

c. God is just.

2 Thess 1:6 "God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you" NIV

## **II. Mankind-**

a. We were created good, but became sinful.

Rom 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," NIV

b. We deserve death (physical and spiritual).

Rom 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. NIV

c. We are spiritually helpless (morally bankrupt).

Ps 49:7-9

7 No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him--

8 the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough--

9 that he should live on forever and not see decay. NIV

### **III. Christ-**

a. Christ is God who came to us as a man.

John 1:1, 14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. NIV

b. Christ died as our substitute and was resurrected.

1 Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. NIV

Matt 28:6 "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."

c. Christ offers his forgiveness as a gift.

Eph 2:8-9

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-

9 not by works, so that no one can boast. NIV

### **IV. You-**

a. You and I must respond.

John 1:12

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God- NIV

b. We must ask for forgiveness through Jesus and ask him to be the absolute leader of our lives.

1 John 1:9-10

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. NIV

Rom 10:9-11

9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." NIV

c. The result is a spiritual transformation

2 Cor 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! NIV

1 Cor 6:19-20

19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. NIV

*This is the Gospel. Our relationship with God was broken, and we were headed for perdition. Jesus came and paid the price for the sin in us. We must accept his payment and allow him to guide our lives. When we do, he transforms us through the Holy Spirit. Next week we will look at some ways of presenting the Gospel.*

Ps 96:1-3

1 Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

2 Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

3 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. NIV

*Amen!*