

# LESSON 9: EVANGELISM - Putting It All Together

GROW UNIVERSITY: EVANGELISM 101

**POP QUIZ! What Are The 10 Points of The Gospel?** *(Start working on this before class starts)*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_

\* What are the only two possible responses to the gospel?

- i. \_\_\_\_\_
  1. Those who respond this way will \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_
  1. Those who respond this way will \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel Threads	Which of the "Ten Points" Corresponds to This Gospel Thread?

## **CATCH-UP from Last Week: "Way of The Master's" Use of the Law for Evangelism**

- Greatest Strength: Using the Law to help an unbeliever see their need for Christ. (Psalm 19:7)

*"I do not believe that any man can preach the Gospel who does not preach the Law. The Law is the needle, and you cannot draw the silken thread of the Gospel through a man's heart unless you first send the needle of the Law to make way for it." —Charles Spurgeon*

- What is the Law? (Rf. Exodus 20:1-17)
- What is its purpose? (Romans 3:19-20; Galatians 3:24)

## **WHAT is Evangelism?¹**

"The most important aspect of evangelism is the evangel - the Gospel, the Good News. If we're not getting the evangel right according to the Word, then whatever we're doing, it can't be called *evangelism*." (Dever, *The Deliberate Church*, pg 51)

### ● **Evangelism Is Not...**

- *It is not inferred or implied.*
- *It is not behavioral (being a good witness through adherence to a moral code).*
- *It is not "loving on people."*
- *It is not a political agenda or social action.*
- *It is not arguing.*
- *It is not apologetics.*
- *It is not personal testimony.*
- *It is not the results of evangelism (conversions, etc.).*
- *It is not imposition.*

### ● **Evangelism Is...**

- *An element of disciple making in which the gospel is explicitly communicated from the scriptures in love by faith with the goal of the salvation of unbelievers to the glory of God.*

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from "What is a Healthy Church?" By Mark Dever.

- **WHO must evangelize?**
  - Everyone who receives the Spirit is to evangelize (Acts 1:8)
  
- **WHY do we tend *not* to evangelize?**
  - *What hinders you personally from evangelizing?*

*"Evangelism...presents a communication problem. We want to tell people of the gracious loving Father who has given up his Son to make them his children. But evangelists are seen as narrow-minded, bigoted, moralistic ratbags<sup>2</sup> infringing on other's civil rights. Who wants to be tarred with this brush?" —Colin Marshall, in "Growth Groups," pg. 70*

- (1) The offense of the gospel is unavoidable. (John 15:18-20)

*"The Gospel is inherently and irreducibly confrontational. It cuts against our perceived righteousness and self-sufficiency, demanding that we forsake cherished sin and trust in someone else to justify us." —Mark Dever, in The Deliberate Church, pg. 55*

- (2) The temptation to avoid the offense by avoiding the gospel is common. (Galatians 2:11-14)

- (3) Thankfully, the success of evangelism does not depend on avoiding offense. (2 Cor. 2:14-17)

*"We cannot finally judge the correctness of what we do in evangelism by the immediate response that we see. It is important to understand this truth...As Christians we should know that even if we are faithful in telling the gospel, people still may not respond. Their lack of acceptance of the gospel does not necessarily mean that we have been wrong in how we have presented the gospel." Mark Dever, in "9 Marks of A Healthy Church," pg. 135).*

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<sup>2</sup> Ratbag: Australian slang- a stupid, eccentric, or disagreeable person.

- See Acts 17. A fragrance from life to life in v. 4. A fragrance from death to death in v. 5.

(4) Ultimately, we plant the seed; growth is entirely up to God. (1 Cor. 3:6-9; 2 Thess 2:13-15)

(5) Although, in God's providence, our life can fertilize (Titus 2:7-10, Mt 5:16) or harden (Ezek. 36:23, Rom. 2:24) the soil.

- **WHY Must We Evangelize?**

- Because Jesus expects us to! (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 20:21; Acts 1:8)

- **HOW: Some Words of Advice**<sup>3</sup>

- **SOME THINGS TO DO:**

- Claim God's promise of wisdom (James 1:5).
- Claim deliverance from fear (Psalm 34:4).
- Watch for opportunities to witness.
- Go as a friend who has something good to share.
- Deal with only one soul at a time.
- Let one person at a time witness without interruption.
- Avoid argument.
- Show patience.
- Remember that we do not fail if we witness.

- **Some Ways to Begin:**

- Helpful way of "cultivating the soil" for talking about the gospel: Weaving **Gospel Threads** (Lessons 2-5) into your daily conversations.
- "Do you ever think about spiritual things?"
  - "What do you think is a person's greatest spiritual need?"
  - "The Bible says it is a salvation experience. Have you had a definite experience with Christ?"

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted from "Winsome Words for Willing Witnesses" by Dr. B. Gray Allison

- "May I talk with you about this?"
- "What then?"
  - "What would you say are some of your long term goals in life?"
  - "What will you do when you've accomplished \_\_\_\_\_?"
  - "What then?... What then?..."
- What about the person you've known for a while, but never shared the gospel with?
  - "I need to apologize to you." *(They will probably be taken back by this and ask why.)*
  - "There's something very important that I've talked with you about..."
- **HOW can we as a *church family* encourage, embolden, enrich, and expand our evangelism?**
  - \* Accountability    \* Examples for one another    \* Mutual Prayer    \* Partnership
  - \* Training    \* Target groups of people    \* Celebrate New Life    \* Strategize
  - \* Other ideas?