

WHY EVANGELIZE?

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

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1. It's God's mission for His glory.
2. Jesus commanded us to.
3. Those who die apart from Christ face a horrific fate.
4. Millions have not heard at all.
5. Many have heard a corrupted, twisted message.
6. It brings fresh purpose to our walk with Christ.

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

- “Gospel” → Old English “gōd (good) spel (news)” → Greek “euangelion”
- The “Good News” is the message of how Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection meet sinners’ needs.
- We’re given several different summaries of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection in the New Testament. In these, we see different key elements of the “Jesus Story.”
- Key elements in **Acts 10:34-43**
 - Lord of all (implied: Creator)
 - Jesus’ righteous life
 - Death on a cross
 - Resurrection
 - Prophecies before, witnesses after
 - Judge of all
 - How to receive Him
 - Results of receiving Him



Question: Which of these elements do we not tend to emphasize as much in our gospel sharing?

- Key elements of **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**
 - According to the Scriptures (prophecies)
 - Death for sins
 - Burial and resurrection
 - Appeared to witnesses

BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL:

1. Must Have Empty Hands

Isaiah 55:1-3

“Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant...

Luke 18:18-24

And a ruler asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”¹⁹ And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.²⁰ You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.’”²¹ And he said, “All these I have kept from my youth.”²² When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have



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and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”²³ But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.²⁴ Jesus, seeing that he had become sad, said, “How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!

Question: What was the rich man full of that kept him from Jesus?

2. Believe and Receive

John 1:12

But to all who **received him**, who **believed in his name**, he gave the right to become children of God.

→ *Receive* and *believe* describe different aspects of the same action.

Question: If you receive a guest into your home for a long stay, how might your life change? Why?

Question: What does it mean to believe in someone?

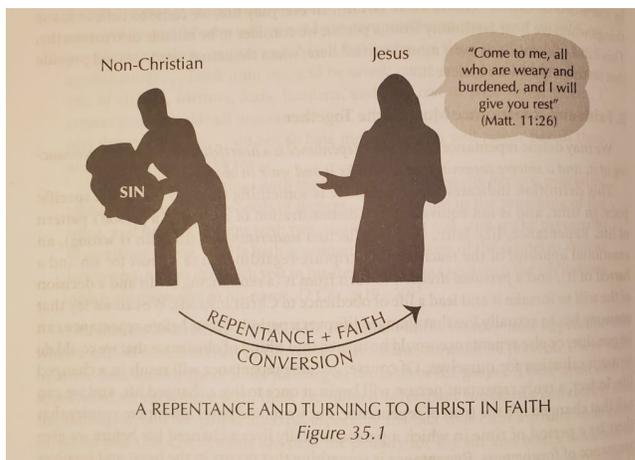
Other words to describe true belief: Trust, dependence, total reliance, surrender to



Charles Blondin

What about repentance?

Acts 3:19 - Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out...



¹ A diagram similar to this can be found in Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1999), 311.



Is Baptism Required?

The act of being dunked into water—even in a church, by a religious leader—does not save a person.² However, baptism is meant to be the normal, external expression of having come to a saving belief in Christ. In *that* sense, the Bible speaks of baptism as part of being saved. It's the clearest (and also commanded!) response to believing the good news of Jesus:

Acts 8:35-38

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

Matthew 28:19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The Terminology

“**be saved**” – speaks of being rescued from the penalty, power, and (eventually) the presence of sin (e.g., Acts 16:31).

“**be born again**” – speaks of the fact that God gives those who believe a brand new beginning which they could never do for themselves (John 3).

“**come to Christ**” – shorthand for “receive and believe” (John 1:12).

² **Luke 23:39-43** “One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!”⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.”⁴² And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”⁴³ And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.” **[no baptism required!]**

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.



What God Does for Those Who Receive Christ

1. **He saves them from His wrath against their sin (Romans 8:1, John 3:36) and changes their eternal destiny from Hell to Heaven (Revelation 20:11-15, Luke 16:19-31, Colossians 1:5, 2 Corinthians 5).**
2. **He makes them His own treasured possession (Deuteronomy 7:6, 1 Peter 2:9).**
3. **He gives them Himself and an eternal inheritance (Ephesians 1:11).**
4. **He justifies them – declares them to be righteous (Romans 8:30).**
5. **He adopts them as His sons, putting them into His family (Romans 8:17).**
6. **He gives them His Holy Spirit to live inside them (Romans 8:9).**
7. **He gives them purposeful, meaningful work to do (Ephesians 2:10).**
8. **He begins the process of making them more like Jesus (Romans 12:1-2).**

TO MEMORIZE:

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.