

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

Daniel
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Recently I had a conversation with a brother in Christ, about what a lost person has to believe (in) to be saved, and have eternal life in heaven. What should a decent, yet simple, gospel presentation look like? Which bible passages or verses should it include?

First of all, it's WHAT we say that counts, not necessarily how we say it, but a rejection of the messenger does in many cases lead to a rejection of the message!

1 Corinthians 2:1-8

- 1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came **not with excellency of speech or of wisdom**, declaring unto you the testimony of God.
- 2 **For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.**
- 3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.
- 4 And **my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom**, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:
- 5 **That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men**, but in the power of God.
- 6 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet **not the wisdom of this world**, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:
- 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:
- 8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Colossians 4:2-6

- 2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;
- 3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:
- 4 That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.
- 5 **Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.**
- 6 **Let your speech *be* alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.**

...and it's important to keep in mind, that it's the gospel (good news) message itself that saves...if it's believed:

Romans 1:16-17

- 16 **For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;** to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
- 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

- 3 But **if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:**
- 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest **the light of the glorious gospel of Christ**, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

With that in mind, what does a lost person have to believe (in) to be saved?

1: Who Christ is/The deity of Christ:

God's only begotten Son: God in the flesh, or the God man. That God is one, yet 3 at the same time: the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost (the Spirit of God).

2: What Jesus Christ did and what it accomplished:

That Jesus Christ died for our sins, and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day...for our justification.

...and that it was an all-sufficient reconciliation, which resolved the sin issue ONCE and for ALL, where the entirety of the world's sin debt was concerned, in the mind of the one to whom the payment for their sins was made; God the father! To believe this good news is to be reconciled in your mind (Colossians 1:21, 2 Corinthians 5:20), not God's. It's a SON issue today, not a SIN issue. The issue isn't forgiveness of sin. The issue is believing what the cross work of Christ accomplished in your behalf, in order to be identified with and joined to Christ himself: His test scores (His righteousness and His faith) written on your paper.

3: Our responsibility: FAITH, apart from ANY works.

Salvation is a free gift, available to everyone; by grace, through faith. No works required, nor desired.

(Faith is NOT a work:

[Romans 4:5](#) But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.)

BIBLE VERSES:

[Romans 10:17](#) So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Now, there are many great bible passages you can use, but the following 5 bible passages are my favorites. I use them a lot because they cover point 1-3 to the point.

[1 Corinthians 15:1-4](#)

- 1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;
- 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.
- 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;
- 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

[Romans 4:25](#) Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

[2 Corinthians 5:18-21](#)

- 18 And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;
- 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.
- 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21 For he [God the Father] hath made him [Jesus Christ] *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

1 Timothy 2:3-7

3 For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

5 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

6 Who gave himself a ransom for ALL, to be testified in due time.

7 Whereunto I [Paul] am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, *and* lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

...and this is why:

1: Who Jesus Christ is/The deity of Christ:

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The idea here isn't having faith in the gospel of Christ 24/7-365 days! There were people at the Corinthian assembly who rejected the resurrection of Christ and the resurrection of the dead (1 Corinthians 15:12-22). These people had "believed in vain": what they had believed in never saved them in the first place. It was another gospel, and another gospel does NOT save. That's why it's essential to believe and share the right Gospel.

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Should we share right division (2 Timothy 2:15) with the lost? That is distinguishing between Israel's mail and our mail. All of the Bible is given by inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:15-16), and all of the Bible is written FOR our learning, but not all of the Bible is written directly TO us, living in the dispensation (or household, administration) of the grace of God:

Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Right division doesn't save, believing Paul's gospel saves! Right division proves that Paul's gospel is true, and that it's the only gospel for the dispensation of the grace of God. It also validates Paul's distinct apostleship, ministry and message. Our study of the word of truth, rightly divided, has eternal consequences. It is a work of faith (1 Thessalonians 1:3), and will therefore be judged at the judgment seat of Christ. So take them to right division after they're saved; believed Paul's gospel.

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

1 Corinthians 2:12-14

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

I definitely think it's a good idea to tell people that Paul is our Apostle, and that the ascended, glorified Christ (as he spoke from heaven) gave him the Gospel. 1 Timothy 2:7! Then they know where to start in their Bible: Romans thru Philemon.

Daniel,

<http://www.youtube.com/romansthrufilemon>