

LIVE FOR CHRIST

8

Evangelism

July 28, 2021	Christian Living
August 4 2021	Prayer
August 11, 2021	Worship
August 18, 2021	The Church
August 25, 2021	Stewardship
September 1, 8, 15, 2021	Family
September 22, 2021	The World
September 29, 2021	Evangelism

Goal: to see what evangelism is

Read Mark 16:15-20.

1. Evangelism is nothing more than sharing the “good news” about Jesus. What does the phrase “go into” add to our understanding about how we are to do evangelism? What about the phrase “all the world”?
2. In 1 Corinthians 12:3 Paul writes, “No one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.” The Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit is responsible for creating faith in someone’s heart. What does this add to the understanding about our role in evangelism? How does this understanding “take the pressure off” our evangelism efforts?
3. Jesus told the disciples what they were to preach: the gospel. Jesus then tells the disciples how he will confirm their gospel message: with miraculous powers and signs. Some church bodies today are so interested in signs that they lose sight of what is vastly more important: the gospel! The Bible makes it clear that the proclamation of the gospel is to continue until Christ comes again. Nowhere does it say we should expect the miraculous signs to continue. The following passages help us in our understanding of signs and miracles:
 - a. 2 Corinthians 12:12 – What is an apostle? Are there any apostles today?
 - b. Matthew 12:38-40 – What is the only “sign” we need that the good news about forgiveness is true?
 - c. John 10:40-42 – Did God have all of the great preachers / teachers in the Bible do miracles to authenticate their message?
 - d. John 12:37 – Do miraculous signs convert people? If yes, how? If no, then what does?
 - e. 2 Thessalonians 2:9 – If a church is caught up in signs at the expense of the gospel, what might that be evidence of?
4. In verse 19 we’re told Jesus ascended into heaven. And yet in verse 20 we read, “...the Lord worked with them.” What gives us courage as we go about the awesome job of evangelism?

- Goals: 1) to understand why evangelism is so important**
2) to see that evangelism is a privilege and honor

Read Romans 10:11-15.

1. In verse 11 we read about “everyone who trusts in him.” In verse 13 we read about “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord.” What do the phrases “who trusts” and “who calls” tell us about salvation? What does the fact that Paul mentions the word “everyone” twice emphasize about salvation?
2. Think for a moment about all the Bible study you’ve done in your lifetime. Do you remember anywhere that the Bible even hinted that people will or might be saved *outside of faith in the Lord*?
3. Restate verse 14 in your own words. What is the simple cause-and-effect logic of that verse?
4. In verse 15 Paul writes, “How can they preach unless they are sent?” What is one way you can do evangelism in a distant location without actually going there yourself?
5. The Scripture Paul cites in verse 15 is from Isaiah, chapter 52. Look up Isaiah 52:7 now. What is the “good news” that is being brought?
6. Isaiah talks about the “beautiful feet” of the messenger? To whom are these feet beautiful? Why do you think Isaiah talks about the messenger’s “beautiful feet”? Why not talk about the beautiful mouth which spoke the message? What does this tell us about evangelism?
7. Fill out the following list, identifying people whom you believe to be unbelievers:

A relative	A close friend
A co-worker	A neighbor

Perhaps you have been praying and praying for God to do something to save them. What does this lesson have to say to you?

Perhaps you have simply contented yourself with the thought, “If God desires to save them, he will make it happen.” If that’s the case, what does this lesson have to say to you?

Goal: to learn what is and what isn't required to do evangelism

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.

1. Paul is the one who evangelized the Corinthians. In these verses Paul first of all tells us something about himself, the messenger. He did not display "eloquence" or "superior wisdom." Then Paul tells us about the message. It did not contain "persuasive words" nor "wise words." Evangelism does not require great speaking. Paul writes, "I *resolved* to know nothing..." It wasn't that Paul was unintelligent. Paul was highly educated. But when it came time to spread the good news, Paul put all that behind him. Why? What did Paul know was the true power behind his words?

2. Look up Romans 1:16. Where do we find "God's power"? How is that power unleashed?

3. Think of some of the teachers you've had. Which ones did you like the best? What did you like about them? How can you apply that to your evangelism?

4. Look up Luke 12:11,12 and 1 Peter 3:15. Those passages describe a sort of "balance" that we want to achieve in our evangelism. After reading those passages, complete the following statements.
 - a. *When it comes to doing evangelism, on the one hand, we want to be _____ (1 Peter 3:15) so that we are able to answer people's questions about the hope that we have. To achieve this goal we will want to...*

 - b. *On the other hand, there is no need for us to _____ (Luke 12:11,12) about doing evangelism, for we have Christ's promise that the _____ will help us when the time comes.*

Goal: to realize the responsibility we have (and don't have) as evangelists

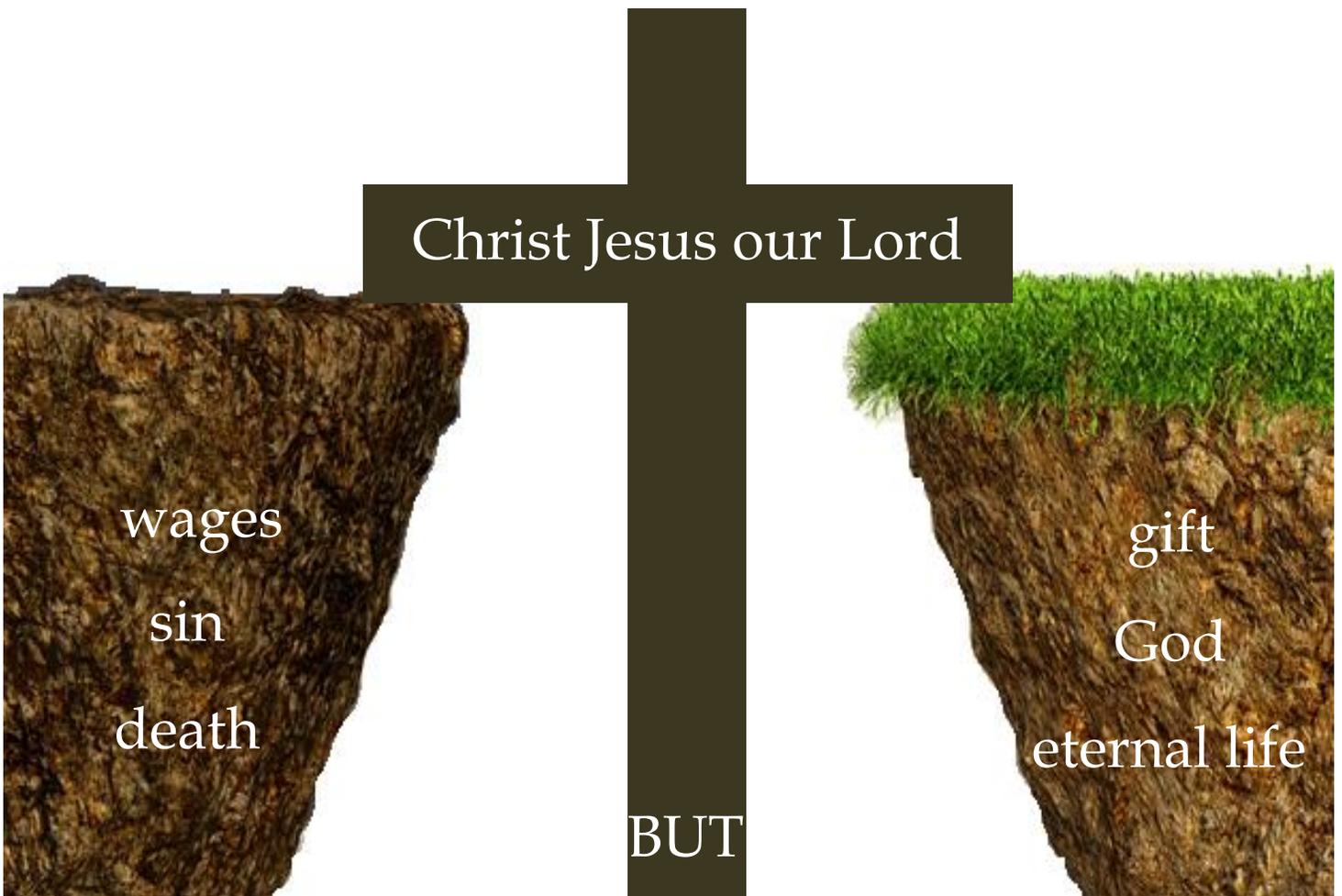
Read Ezekiel 33:1-11.

1. What are some adjectives you would use to describe the watchman and his job performance if he refused to sound the warning?
2. Is the watchman responsible for actually saving the city? Does God make him responsible for counter attacking the enemy? What important truth does this teach us about evangelism?
3. In verse 6 we read, "that man will be taken away *because of his sin.*" Even though this man didn't get a warning, what must we make clear will be the ultimate cause of his destruction?
4. In God's plan of salvation he gives us the message, and we then share it. What are two ways we can stand in the way of that plan? (Hint: Think of the question first of all from the aspect of sharing the message, and secondly from the aspect of the message itself.)
5. Remember, evangelism means "good news." Yet God has Ezekiel warn, "O wicked man, you will surely die." Is there any good news to be found in these verses? Why is it often necessary to share a warning about sin (the law) *before* we share the good news about our Savior from sin (the gospel)?
6. In the Old Testament, God gave the responsibility of sharing his Word to a select group of people: the prophets and priests. Look up 1 Peter 2:9. Who bears this responsibility in the New Testament era, which we are now in?
7. This portion of Ezekiel serves as law. What do we need to remember when we fall short of what God has asked us to do as evangelists? (Look up Psalm 103:12).
8. Read Luke 15:7. In the word "evangelism" you see the word "angel." Indeed, the two words are related. Angel means "messenger." Evangelism means "good message." What are some jobs that we normally associate with angels? How was the job that God gave to Ezekiel (and he gives to us) *even greater* than that of angels?

Goal: to learn the basic message that we will share as evangelists

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.

1. "We regard no one from a worldly point of view." How does the world look at people? What types of things does the world consider to be important? How do we, as evangelists, look at people?
2. Paul describes God's work with the word "reconciliation." What does that word mean? (For help, look up 1 Corinthians 7:10,11.)
3. What does the word "ministry" mean? Therefore, what is a "ministry of reconciliation"?
4. What is an ambassador? What gives an ambassador's message authority? What "message of reconciliation" does God ask his ambassadors to share?
5. In verse 19 we read that God does not count sin against the sinner. Verse 21 tells us how this is possible. It isn't that God just lets sin slide. Rather, how did God deal with sin?
6. One way to give a basic evangelism presentation is to use Romans 6:23: The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Evangelism Addendum #1



WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT "SIGNS"

2 Corinthians 12:12 — The things that mark an apostle — signs, wonders and miracles -- were done among you with great perseverance.

The ability to perform signs in the New Testament era was to indicate authentic apostleship.

Matthew 12:38-40 — Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a miraculous sign from you." He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Jesus resurrection is the only sign we need that the message of forgiveness is true.

John 10:40-42 — Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing in the early days. Here he stayed and many people came to him. They said, "Though John never performed a miraculous sign, all that John said about this man was true." And in that place many believed in Jesus.

God did not have all teachers authenticate their message with signs and miracles.

John 12:37 — Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him.

It is not the signs which convert people, but the message (Gospel) which accompanies the signs.

2 Thessalonians 2:9 — The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing.

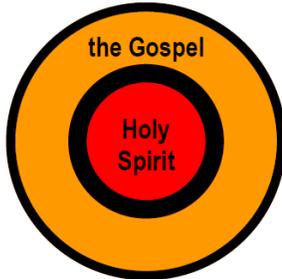
The devil also uses signs to try and deceive people into thinking they have discovered something good.

Evangelism Addendum #2



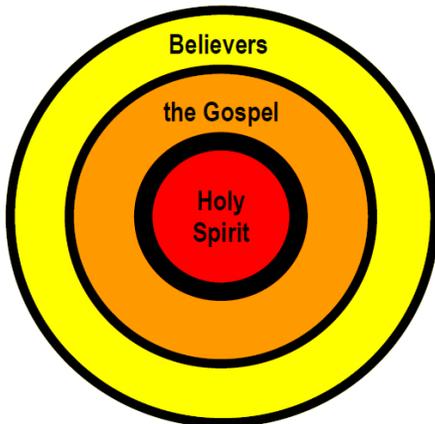
It all begins with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 — [Jesus said], "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."



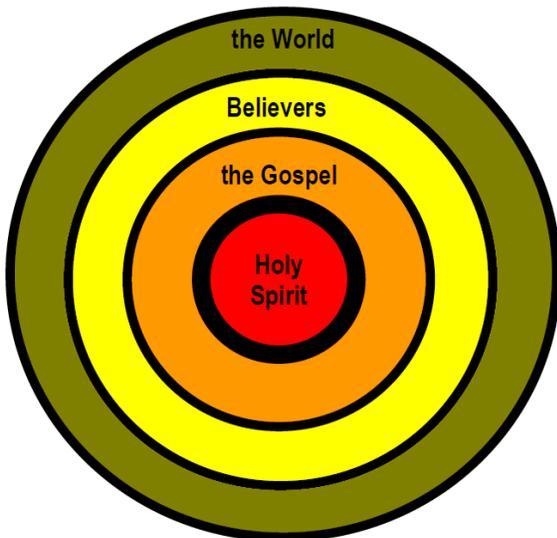
The Spirit works through the Gospel.

Romans 1:16 — I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.



God asks believers to share the Gospel (some in public ministry, all in personal ministry)

Acts 16:10 — "God had called us to preach the gospel to them."



God uses believers to reach out to the lost in the World.

Mark 16:15 — He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

Evangelism Addendum #3

SOME VALUABLE PASSAGES FOR EVANGELISM

Hebrews 4:15 — For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin.

Romans 3:23-24 — All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Matthew 5:48 — Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Romans 6:23 — For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 3:16 — “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

2 Corinthians 5:21 — God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.