

## **Bible Study on Evangelism – Handout 3** **Developing Biblical Understanding**

**Grace Bible Chapel**  
**September 25th, 2011**  
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This session we will continue the focus on the “what” of salvation in relation to evangelism.

- The essential understanding of salvation:
  - According to the dictionary: “salvation is a saving or being saved; preservation from destruction; rescue.” There could be volumes written concerning the details of Biblical salvation, but at its core and placed into its simplest understanding it must comply with this essential framework:
    - The solos of the reformation (which brought the then church back into conformity with the truths of Scripture) are applicable to keep the church and thus evangelism on track today. These essentials keep the framework of evangelism focused correctly: to God alone be the glory, on Christ alone, by grace alone, through faith alone, upon the Scriptures alone.
    - Man is dead in trespasses and sin, hopelessly lost, and cannot (has no ability) to help himself out of this condition, nor does man even want of himself to be rescued from his condition (Gen 3:7-24; Prov 19:3; Is 59:2; Jer 17:9; John 3:36; 5:42; 8:44; Rom 5:10; 7:18,23; 8:7, 20-23; Eph 2:1-3; 4:18; Rom 3:9-20; 2 Tim 3:2-4; Tit 1:15; Heb 3:12; 1 John 5:19).
    - God has sent His Son purposely to save (rescue) a specific people from this condition (Mat 18:11; Eph 1:4-11; John 15:16; Acts 13:48 - Rom 13:1 appointed; 2 Thess 2:13; John 10:26; 1 Cor 1:26; Rom 9:7-13; 2 Tim 1:9).
    - Salvation requires a sovereign work of God in the heart (Ezek 36:25-28; John 1:13; 3:3-8; 6:63; 1 Cor 6:11; Eph 2:8-9; Col 3:10; Titus 3:3-7; 1 Pet 1:3).
    - Salvation mysteriously comes about through the presentation of the Word of God by the Spirit of God (John 8:31-32; Rom 1:16; 10:17; 12:2; 1 Cor 1:18; Gal 3:5; 1 Thess 2:13; Heb 4:12; James 1:18; 1 Pet 1:23).
    - Salvation transforms the life (Mat 7:16-20; Acts 26:18; Gal 5:22-23; Rom 6:17-19; 1 Cor 6:9-11; 2 Cor 5:17; Eph 2:10; 1 John 3:9-10).
  - Anyone determining to understand how to proceed to please God by being obedient in evangelizing must understand these essentials. Secondly, the person must look at those methods of evangelism being heralded and practiced by the majority of the visible professing church and line those practices up with these Biblical truths to see if they are in alignment.

### **Points of Discussion:**

- The focus of modern evangelism:
  - Charles Finney (1792-1875) is credited as the primary beginning factor for most of modern evangelism. Finney’s one question for any given teaching was, “Is it fit to convert sinners with?” One result of Finney’s revivalism was the division of Presbyterians in Philadelphia and New York into Arminian and Calvinistic factions. His “New Measures” included the “anxious bench” (precursor to today’s altar call), emotional tactics that led to fainting and weeping, and other “excitements,” as Finney and his followers called them. In Finney’s theology, God is not sovereign, man is not a sinner by nature, the atonement and justification by imputation are only adequate as men put them into effect through their actions, the new birth is simply the effect of successful techniques, and revival is a natural result of clever campaigns (from wikipedia).
  - “Faith in Jesus Christ is a firm conviction that He is who He says He is and that He will help us when we seek Him. Faith in Christ means trusting in Him, remembering Him, and following His teachings. It is a conviction that He is the Son of God, “The way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6). As we follow His example and live according to His words, we will feel our faith growing until it becomes an active force in our lives, helping us repent of our sins and deal with our challenges. Faith in Jesus Christ isn’t a simple declaration of belief—it is a source of power we can renew every day by studying His words, praying, and by trying harder to follow His example.” From the “mormon.org” website.
  - “*Catholic Evangelism is a lay apostolate* in service to Jesus Christ, the Word of God (Ap 19:13) (Jn 1:1) incarnate. Christ founded one Church, which is the universal family of God. God created man in his own image (Gn 1:26-28), and Christ extends to humanity a new covenant (Mt 26:26-29) (Lk

22:15-20) (Jn 3:3-8) (Mt 12:46-50) (Mt 7:19-23) (Rm 6:3-23) (Ap 20: 11-15) (1 Co 11:23-29) to share in the very life of the Trinity (Rm 8:13-23) within His mystical body the Church.(1 Co 12: 20-27) (Cl 1:15-23) (Rm 12:1-8) (Ep 5:23-24) (Ep 2:11-22). We continue as disciples, and "as sons in the Son" (Ep 1:3-14) (1 Pt 1: 3-6) (Lk 9:23-26) (Mt 16:24-27) (Gl 2:20-21) in spirit, truth, (Jn 4:23-26), and love, (1 Co 13) (Rm 12:1-21) the mission of Jesus Christ in reconciling humanity to God the Father (Rm 5:11) (Jn 12:32) (Jn 17:17-26) (Mt 6:5-13) (Hb 2:1-18) (Hb 3:6) (Hb 12:1-29) (1 Tm 2:1-6). Christ prayed "...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us..." (Jn 17:21-26) (NIV). Welcome to the universal family of God the Church." *Frederick Pogorzelski, Catholic Catechist* (from the website: "catholicevangelism.org")

- A four step process of evangelism:
  - #1 - God Loves You! The Bible says, "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 - All of us have done, said or thought things that are **wrong**. This is called **sin**, and our sins have **separated** us from God.
  - #3 - God sent His **only Son** Jesus Christ to die for **our sins**. Jesus is the Son of God. He lived a sinless life and then died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. "God demonstrates His own love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." Jesus rose from the dead and now He lives in heaven with God His Father. He offers us the gift of eternal life -- of living forever with Him in heaven if we accept Him as our Lord and Savior. Jesus said "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except by Me." God reaches out in love to you and wants you to be His child. "As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe on His name." You can choose to ask Jesus Christ to forgive your sins and come in to your life as your Lord and Savior.
  - #4 - If you want to **accept Christ as your Savior** and turn from your sins, you can ask Him to be your Savior and Lord by praying a prayer like this: "Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Son of God. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. Please forgive my sins and give me the gift of eternal life. I ask you in to my life and heart to be my Lord and Savior. I want to serve you always" (from the website "jesus2020.com").
- "A common Christian expression is the admonition to 'invite Christ into your life' or 'invite Jesus into your heart' or similar terms which emphasize that salvation (freedom from the power and penalty of sin) requires a personal decision. Just believing in God or Jesus is not enough. The Bible says belief must be coupled with a specific **action step**: Consciously invite him into your life ... confess your sins ... ask for forgiveness and salvation ... desire to turn from your sins ... and let him take control in daily living" (from website: "faith explorer").
- "God elected the *means* of salvation as well as the recipients of salvation. His Word reveals that He chose to save His own people through preaching and witnessing: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." But we must always remember that preaching and prayer are the means and not the cause of anyone's salvation. The cause is God's unconditional, electing love. For God so loved the world that the "whosoever" will believe and will not perish" (from the website: "founders.org – Ernest Reisinger).
- Conclusions - How any person is saved or what must be considered as we evangelize:
  - It requires an understanding of man's condition, and that naturally man is blind to God's truth, disinterested, and selfish in personal motives toward religion.
  - It requires the presenter to understand it is not their manipulation of the emotions or sales tactics that contribute to whether a person is to be saved or not saved.
  - It requires the truth – ie: the Word of God accurately and appropriately presented.
  - It requires the work of the Spirit of God in the heart granting understanding and faith. Thus from man's perspective, God is sovereign in salvation, a key component for evangelism must be prayer.
  - It requires the presenter to understand they cannot make salvation a reality by following a prescription of pressing mere acknowledgments and pattern prayers.
  - It requires an understanding that true salvation is more than just an assent to facts, joining a church, being baptized, or any action on the persons part but a radical transformation of the life which will demonstrate itself in a real change of affections, desires, and will be accompanied with the actions of: repentance, faith, obedience, continuance, & endurance – all of which require the power of God effectually working in the sinner.