



## Why Preach the Gospel?

Occasionally people ask why churches \_\_\_\_\_ souls to Christ. We're not trying to impose our \_\_\_\_\_ on anyone, but we do want people to know the truth. Today we're asking the question, "Why do churches evangelize?" People wonder why we \_\_\_\_\_ to the lost. In fact, they question if anyone is really \_\_\_\_\_. One famous preacher said he believed that people who had never read a \_\_\_\_\_ or heard the name of \_\_\_\_\_ were members of the body of Christ and saved anyway because they believed in a God. If this is the case, then there would be no \_\_\_\_\_ to reach out with the gospel. This may be \_\_\_\_\_ thinking, but it's not God's thinking? Is anyone really lost today? Yes. Does it matter whether people ever know the Scriptures? Yes. Does it take the gospel to save? Yes.

For many people, the words "gospel" and "evangelism" are \_\_\_\_\_ words associated with being judgmental. Today, many think that the \_\_\_\_\_ sin of all is to be "judgmental." So, the idea of evangelizing, telling people the gospel of grace and salvation, implies they are lost and in \_\_\_\_\_ of saving. This offends them, and so they don't \_\_\_\_\_ the idea of evangelizing. They're content to stay where they are and not \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus from Scripture. I can't think of anything \_\_\_\_\_ than not knowing about the Lord Jesus or the grace that He offers.

The gospel is by definition "\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_" not bad news. Yes, people in sin are lost and need saving; but that's \_\_\_\_\_ one of us. Paul said, "for \_\_\_\_\_ have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). That's you, that's me, that's everybody! We're all in the same boat, needing the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and salvation. There's no \_\_\_\_\_ in saying that we need salvation. What is a disgrace is to \_\_\_\_\_ that we're above sin and have no need for salvation!

Our reading today comes from Paul's epistle to the Romans 1:14-17 where he explains his obligation to preach.

I'm under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So, for my part, I'm eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I'm not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."

Let's pray together. "O, Father, help us always to listen to the gospel, the good news of Jesus, and help us to be obedient to Your will, and to love you always. In Jesus' name, Amen."

First John 1:8 says, "If we say that we have no sin, we're deceiving ourselves and the \_\_\_\_\_ is not in us." Again, he says in verse 10, "If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His \_\_\_\_\_ is not in us." I'm amazed at how some think that everyone is saved, and no one is lost. When I've taught people in one-on-one studies, I use the 'Upon the Rock' Bible study. You can find these studies online at searchtv.org. It often \_\_\_\_\_ people when they get to Matthew 7:13-14, which says, "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are \_\_\_\_\_ who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are \_\_\_\_\_ who find it." They don't realize most people take the \_\_\_\_\_ road to destruction rather than the narrow road to heaven. The reason for this program is to \_\_\_\_\_ people go to heaven and to avoid the road to destruction. We're in the saving business.

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**Longer quotations may not appear in the Study Sheet, but can be read in the accompanying transcript.**

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This study sheet is prepared by Jerry Campbell – [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org)

For people to be saved, they must \_\_\_\_\_ understand and deal with the fact that they are lost. People need Jesus. They don't always \_\_\_\_\_ that. They believe if they have a good life, help their neighbor, and pray, they believe they're going to go \_\_\_\_\_ to heaven; but the Bible tells us differently. We must realize that we \_\_\_\_\_ need the blood of Jesus to cleanse us from sin. Hebrews 9:22 says, "Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no \_\_\_\_\_ of sins." Jesus shed his blood to \_\_\_\_\_ you and me from our sins. First Peter 2:24-25 says Jesus "himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might \_\_\_\_\_ to sin and \_\_\_\_\_ to righteousness. For by his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."

Some people say, "aren't \_\_\_\_\_ people saved?" Acts 10:1-2 tells of a good man. It says, "At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, a devout man who \_\_\_\_\_ God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God." This good man was devout, generous, and prayerful; but that didn't \_\_\_\_\_ him. He still needed what everyone needs, the grace of God in the blood of Jesus. All his good works, praying, and devotion didn't take away his \_\_\_\_\_. Only the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus can do that. You can't find the salvation of your soul \_\_\_\_\_ from Jesus. It takes His blood. The good news is that He \_\_\_\_\_ you enough to die for your sins and to give you eternal life. You can't earn salvation, you can't win it, and you don't deserve it, so God graciously gave you an opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ salvation through grace in the sacrificial death of Jesus.

Romans 5:6-9 says, "For while we were still \_\_\_\_\_, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his \_\_\_\_\_ for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life." This passage tells us four things about ourselves. First we were \_\_\_\_\_ or helpless, like an infant. We couldn't save ourselves by ourselves. Second, we were ungodly; that is, we didn't have \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives. Third, we were sinners. We had sinned against God. Fourth, we were enemies of God, and hostile to God's \_\_\_\_\_.

God loved us \_\_\_\_\_. He loved us in our weakness, as ungodly people, sinners and enemies. Who would think of \_\_\_\_\_ for the sins of your enemy? God thought of it! That's how God \_\_\_\_\_, and what Jesus \_\_\_\_\_! He loves us even when we don't \_\_\_\_\_ it. Paul knew this personally. He said, "I thank him who has given me \_\_\_\_\_, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his \_\_\_\_\_, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received \_\_\_\_\_ because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to \_\_\_\_\_ sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received \_\_\_\_\_ for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an \_\_\_\_\_ to those who were to believe in him for eternal life" (1 Timothy 1:12-16). If Jesus could love the chief of sinners and save him, He can also love and save you. He used Paul as an example for all of us, so that He could show His perfect patience and love for us.

What is the gospel? Paul tells us, "Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was \_\_\_\_\_, and that he was \_\_\_\_\_ on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. And then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still

alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all (Paul says), as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me” (1 Corinthians 15:1-8). The gospel tells the \_\_\_\_\_ of the death, burial, and resurrection, and the appearances of Jesus. That powerful story can impact our \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul said that he was “under obligation both to Greeks and to the barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So I am eager to \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I’m not ashamed of the gospel, for it’s the \_\_\_\_\_ of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:14-16). The gospel is powerful because it’s God’s good news. It can save because it tells that story of Jesus and tells us what we must do in \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus. Gospel preaching opens the \_\_\_\_\_ to the knowledge of God. First Corinthians 1:21 says, “For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it \_\_\_\_\_ God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.” The gospel message saves! It’s that message of love and grace and hope! And it’s necessary for your soul!

The gospel gives us the \_\_\_\_\_ to be forgiven, to change our lives, to have the past no longer held against us, and to be born again. That’s good news! Have you ever \_\_\_\_\_ a chance to start over, clean and fresh? Let’s stop here for a minute. Think with me. What sins have you committed in your lifetime? Have you lied, or gossiped, cheated, broken a law, lusted, used foul language, coveted, envied, or hated someone? If you made a \_\_\_\_\_ of all the sins that you’ve ever committed you might be surprised at how long that list is. If you took your sins seriously you’d probably be ashamed of yourself and wonder how you could have been so \_\_\_\_\_. Sin is a terrible thing. It offends God, it hurts others, and makes a person feel small in his own eyes. When people sin, they separate themselves from God.

Isaiah 59:1-2 says, “Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a \_\_\_\_\_ between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.” Sin builds that barrier that keeps us from \_\_\_\_\_ God. When sin enters our lives, God no longer hears our prayers but turns his face and favor away from us. Sin has \_\_\_\_\_ consequences as well. Paul said, “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the \_\_\_\_\_ of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

You can’t hang on to sin and expect to be \_\_\_\_\_ with God. The good news is the passage doesn’t stop there. First Corinthians 6:11 says, “But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.” You can be washed clean of sin, sanctified or made holy, and justified or declared righteous by the Lord Jesus. No matter who you are or what you’ve done, you can be saved when you’re washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. You don’t have to be lost eternally. You don’t have to miss heaven. Because of the grace of Christ, you can find salvation!

What kind of person would I be if I \_\_\_\_\_ how people can go to heaven and live with God eternally but never \_\_\_\_\_ anyone? I’d rather tell people the \_\_\_\_\_ about sin and salvation than to remain \_\_\_\_\_ while people are lost in sin. I’d rather point to Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life than leave people on an \_\_\_\_\_ road to destruction and hell. I’d rather say Jesus is the only way to heaven (John 14:6 and Acts 4:12) than leave them ignorantly thinking that they can save themselves some other way. Some people think it’s \_\_\_\_\_ to tell people about sin; but remaining silent about sin will condemn you eternally. Ignoring the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin is more than unkind—it’s criminal.

The gospel message has God’s \_\_\_\_\_ to save. The most important \_\_\_\_\_ in all the world is to tell the story of Jesus. We must tell sinful men to respond in faith and repentance to the gospel and be

baptized into Christ. I can't think of anything more important than to hear the gospel and obey it, before it's everlastingly too \_\_\_\_\_. Today is the day of salvation. Don't say no to God. Say yes and obey Him.

Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for our sins. He was \_\_\_\_\_ in the tomb on the third day, and God \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus from the dead. His death and resurrection fulfilled prophecies in the Old Testament. Because he died for our sins we can find forgiveness and live in the grace of God, enjoying every spiritual \_\_\_\_\_. Because He arose from the dead we can have life beyond this life, and hope. We can live in heaven with Christ forever. That's great news! When a person dies with Christ and is raised with Christ in baptism, he becomes a new creature; he's born again, free from sin, washed in the way all of those sins gone. You can start over, you can be born again, and when you put your trust in Jesus Christ, repent of your sins, confess Jesus as the Son of God and when you are baptized into Christ, you can be washed clean, and start over. So respond to the Lord Jesus, and He will wash away your sins!

Let's pray together. "Father, we're thankful for the gospel message, and we're thankful for the death of Jesus for our sins, and for the resurrection that we might have hope. Father, help us to respond with hearts filled with faith, help us to turn from our sins, and help us always Father to be obedient to Your will, and to love You every day of our lives. Father, we're thankful for good news, and help us to take it deep into our hearts and to believe it. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen."

How do I \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ and how is it that I can be "in" Christ? Paul answers in Galatians 3:26-27, "For you are all sons of God through \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." Faith and baptism are here described as the means to become a \_\_\_\_\_ of God and how we put on Christ. Paul makes it even more clear in Romans 6:3-7, "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin."

Every soul needs to hear this good news. Sadly, some people are unwilling to listen or respond to the gospel. Some love their sins or their pleasures too much to give them up. They would rather travel the easy road than travel the narrow one. You may not want to hear sin will cost you your soul, but would you rather that I lied to you? Would you rather hear the truth that sets you free or hear a lie that will please you today but cost you your soul in eternity? Don't risk your soul. Come to the Lord and obey the gospel today.

Focus your heart on God today by worshiping at church. Everyone needs a church family. And there's probably a church of Christ in your area. If you're looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we'll be happy to help you find one.