

Understanding Salvation (taken from The Way of the Master)

The reason the church exists is to be a witness for Jesus Christ

Luke 19:10 *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." (NIV)*

Acts 1:8 *⁸But 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." (NIV)*

When we try to share the gospel we usually get very nervous. We struggle witnessing because most people really believe they are a good person and that they are going to Heaven. Thank God for giving us a key that helps us to understand and receive the Gospel. The Bible tells us that man, in his sin nature, has tried to take away the key to understanding the gospel

Luke 11:52 *"Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering." (NIV)*

What is this powerful key?

Psalm 19:7 *⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; (NKJV)*

People must understand they need a Savior before they can be saved...If you walked up to an average unrepentive sinner and tried to share the Good News with him, it is going to sound like foolishness and he will be offended. Foolishness because the Gospel does not make sense to him.

Jerm.6:10 *To whom can I speak and give warning? Who will listen to me? Their ears are closed so they cannot hear. The word of the LORD is **offensive** to them; they find no pleasure in it.(NIV)*

1 Cor 1: *For the message of the cross is **foolishness** to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (NKJV)*

If we tell them they are a sinner going to hell they will immediately think we are speaking foolishness and we become offensive to them. But if we take the time to share with them the Ten Commandments. And show them precisely what they have done wrong first... that they have actually angered God by violating His law....they will become convinced that they have broken the law and the gospel will not sound like foolishness.... It will be the power of God to Salvation.

How did Jesus witness?

Mark 10:¹⁷ *Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"*

¹⁸ *So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God."*

What would you do if someone ran up to you asking you how to inherit eternal life... Would you be really excited?! Probably not! But notice what Jesus did.

Jesus did not say "Oh my friend I am so glad you asked... listen... you have a God shaped hole in your heart that only I can fill.... And in a little while I am going to die on a cross... and if you will just believe in Me and say the sinners prayer with all your heart you will be forgiven and go to Heaven when you die. No... Jesus did not say that

Jesus said “Why do you call me good? There is none good but one and that’s God...”
So Jesus started by correcting this man's understanding of what “good meant.” And then Jesus pointed him to five of the Ten Commandments. You shall not lie... You shall not steal... You shall not commit adultery... You shall not murder... Honor you mother and father

So...How did Jesus get around the intellect of a person when He was witnessing to them? He spoke to their conscience.

Most people think you need to build a relationship with others before you can share the gospel. Maybe that is true; however, we can build a relationship in three minutes.

Why do we share the Ten Commandments with others?

To stop the sinner’s mouth. To stop the sinner from justifying themselves and saying there are many people worse than me. They try to say that they are not a bad person. But the law stops the mouth that tries to justify themselves and shows the sinner that they are guilty before God.

Romans 3:19 ¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.(NIV)

Romans 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. (NIV)

God’s law is like a school master to lead us to Christ that we might be justified through faith in His blood. The law does not help us it just leaves us helpless. The law does not justify us it just leaves us guilty before the judgment bar of the Holy God. We are not saved by the law we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. The law is like a mirror to show us that we are filthy dirty and are in desperate need of God’s cleansing.

Hebrews 9: ²⁷ *And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment (NKJV)*

In some ways modern evangelism has taken away the “key” of using the law to help turn sinners to Christ and has replaced it with a “life enhancement” gospel, meaning Jesus will give you peace, joy, love, fulfillment and lasting happiness if only you will pray to Him and ask Him for it. This is true; however, the reality is we don’t need to be saved because we want peace, joy, love, and fulfillment. We need to be saved because we will one day stand in the judgment seat of Christ.

Acts 17:30 ³⁰*In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent (NIV).*

When a person realizes there is a consequence for violating the law, they will run to the Savior to escape the wrath to come.

So how do we discover where people are at?

Jesus went around the intellect and went directly to the people’s conscious, which is the place of knowledge of right and wrong. The Bible says...

Romans 8:7 the **sinful mind** is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so (NIV)

We can not reason people into Salvation... the minds of man are hostile toward God. We must speak to their God given conscious... to their heart.

There are two types of people or two types of hearts within a person.

Proud heart: The person who is a proud person needs the Ten Commandments to see that they have violated God's Law and are in need His forgiveness.

Humble heart: The humble person who understand they need God's forgiveness and are ready to receive the gospel.

Speak to the person with a proud heart and help them to understand...

It's not an issue of happiness but of righteousness. (Righteousness means to have a right standing with God)

The Bible says... *Ill-gotten treasures are of no value, but **righteousness delivers from death**.*(NIV) Proverbs 10:2

People need to understand... Why we need Jesus?

Some say they don't talk about judgment day because it will scare people. We must read the Word of God and realize that....

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom Proverbs 9:10

By the fear of the Lord men depart from evil Proverbs 16:6

But we know that the law is good, if a man uses it lawfully..." 1 Timothy 1:8

Paul says in Romans 7:7 *"I have not known sin but by the law"*

How can someone repent if they don't know what sin is?

Most people think of sin as something they got caught at and feel bad about it or maybe something they did that they say they're sorry for. The only true way we can know what sin is...is by knowing what the Word of God says about the law...

1 Tim 1:8-10

⁸We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. ⁹We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine (NIV)

To share like Jesus we must:

1. Relate to the person. (why?... because the Bible says... spiritual things to a non-believer are foolishness).
2. Create an opportunity to witness to them bringing out the things of God.
3. Convict them using the law of God. (Ten Commandments)
4. Reveal the gospel to them.

Transitioning into the gospel....

The principle of evangelism is to prepare the ground before you plant the seed of the gospel. God uses the Ten Commandments as a mirror to show people that they are sinners.

Different people want to believe different things at different levels... if it were up to man... what is right and wrong could never be determined. To some stealing a pencil is ok and to someone else it is not ok...but they take it anyway....

People make up a lot of things to believe in.... but that does not make it true... The only truth we can count on is God's truth... God is truth... and He never changes...

One of the most common symptoms of idolatry is **self-righteousness**. "When a person has no understanding of the Holiness of God and His perfect standard of goodness a man will very easily declare himself to be a good person because he has done good deeds. And he will stand on the mountain of his good works and say "I am a good person" why? "Because I give to charity, I help with this social group" "I" "I" "I"

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Go for it! Ask three questions to those God would have you witness to.

Do you consider yourself to be a good person? Most will answer "yes"

Do you believe God has standards for people to be in Heaven with Him?

God gives us His standards through the Ten Commandments. Can we use His Word to see how good you really are?

1. Have you ever lied? What does that make you? A liar
2. Have you stolen? What does that make you? A thief...
3. Jesus said, ^{matt 5: 27}"*You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.* ²⁸*But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.* Have you ever looked at a women (or male) with lust?

The Bible says ... *and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.*" Rev. 21:8 (NIV)

The conversation may go something like this...
What do you believe God's standards would be?
Have you ever heard of the Ten Commandments ?
God gave us the Ten Commandments so we could know exactly what His standards are. <small>Romans 7:7</small>
Do you mind if I show you how God uses the Ten Commandments as a mirror in our life to reveal His standards to us.
Do you believe you're a good person?
Can I ask you a few questions to see if it's true?
Have you ever lied ? What does that make you?
Have you ever stolen anything? What does that make you?
Jesus said "If you look after a women and lust after her in your heart you have already committed adultery with her in your heart.... Have you ever looked at a woman/man and lusted after them. (<small>Matt 5:27</small>)
OR
Have you ever used God's name as a curse word.
What do you think? If God were to judge you by the Ten Commandments would you be innocent or guilty according to God's standards?
We would all be found guilty and the judgment for our crime would be eternal separation from God.
But God does not want it that way... John 3:16,Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Romans 10:9

Keep it simple from lesson 2

The Ten Commandments is a powerful key that we need to use to help other realize their need for a Savior.

The message of the cross is “foolishness to those who are perishing” thus we must use the key God has given to go around their intellect and speak to their God given conscience.

There are two types of people:

Proud: The person who is a proud person needs the Ten Commandments to see that they have violated God’s Law and are in need of His forgiveness

Humble: The humble person who understand they need God’s forgiveness and are ready to receive the gospel.

God’s law is the school master to lead us to Christ that we might be justified through faith in His blood.

Keep it simple...from lesson 3

1. It’s not an issue of **happiness but of righteousness**. (Righteousness means to have a right standing with God)

2. Our greatest need **is not for happiness but for righteousness**... or having a right standing with God.

3. **Putting it into the proper perspective:** Peace and joy are the legitimate fruits of salvation, they are the results of salvation, but it is not legitimate to use those fruits as draw cards for Salvation. Why... because if a person comes to Jesus looking for peace, joy, and happiness, but they don’t have a surrendered heart to God and grieve that they have violated God’s law, coming through the door of repentance, they won’t find peace with God. They won’t know the joy of the Lord, they will remain separate from God because of their sin.

4. We must **preach the truth** that God commands that all men everywhere repent because there is a day of which He will judge the world in righteousness and without the righteousness of Christ he will perish.

5. We need to help a person **see what their sin is...** Once a person sees his need for God’s forgiveness, you can share the gospel and a person will listen... because you are not addressing his natural intellect but his conscious (that place that bears witness to God’s law)

Summary from lesson 4

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom Proverbs 9:10

By the fear of the Lord men depart from evil Proverbs 16:6

But we know that the law is good, if a man uses it lawfully...” 1Timothy 1:8

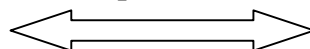
Paul says in Romans 7:7 *“I have not known sin but by the law”*

How can someone repent if they don’t know what sin is?

We preach the gospel of grace without people knowing they are a transgressor of the law.

Biblical evangelism almost without exception is:

Law to the Proud



Grace to the humble.

Jesus used the law to break the hard heart and with the gospel He heals the broken heart... why... because God resists the prideful heart and gives grace to the humble heart.

James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5 ... *God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble* (NIV)

The law brings the knowledge of sin and becomes the school master to help us see we have personal sins that separate us from God. Meaning... God gave us the law so we would know what sin is... So we would be able to qualify sin, understand sin, and know exactly that stealing, for an example, is a sin against God

The Way of the Master has been a real encouragement to me. I would suggest that anyone who wants to get serious about being a witness for Jesus Christ to check out their material... The notes that are presented in this paper are the notes I took when watching some of their video series....

www.wayofthemaster.com/