Presenting the Gospel

*2 Corinthians 5:20*

**I. Sharing the Gospel**

**A. Understanding the Gospel**

**1 Corinthians 15:1, 3-4**

*Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you,…For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

**1.Avoid the Extremes**

**2. Have a Plan**

**B. Giving a Clear Presentation**

**1.Understand that God LovesYou**

The first thing that you need to understand is that God loves you. He loves you so much that He gave Himself for you.

**John 3:16**

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

But that’s not all. God not only loves you; He wants you to know that you can have a home in Heaven with Him. Some people think we can only hope we will be in Heaven. But God wants us to know.

**1 John 5:13**

*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

So, if God loves us and wants us to know we have eternal life, why doesn’t everyone automatically go to Heaven? That’s what we have to understand next.

**2.Realize Your Condition**

The Bible tells us that we are all lost in sin. Sin is any act contrary to God’s laws and commandments, and all of us sin.

**Romans 5:12**

*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

But the Bible teaches that our sin separates us from God.

**Romans 3:10**

*As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

**Romans 3:23**

*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

**3. Notice God’s Price For Sin**

**Romans 6:23**

*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

A wage is what you earn for what you do. For instance, a man earns a paycheck for the work he has done. Even so, we deserve eternal death in Hell for the sins we have committed.

Some people believe they can pay the price for sin by doing good works or being involved in religion. This may seem logical, but it’s not what the Bible says. In fact, the Bible specifically tells us that we can’t earn our way to Heaven through good works.

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

**4. Believe Christ Died For You**

Though we deserve eternal death for our sin, Jesus paid our payment when He died for us. We were lost and separated from God, but He loved us. Because He is love, He sent His own Son—Jesus Christ—to die on the cross for our sin. After His death, He rose from the dead three days later.

**John 3:16**

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**Romans 6:23**

*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

This is a gift Christ paid for when He died for our sins. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus became the payment for our sin. Now we do not have to pay for our sin ourselves. By His grace, salvation is provided.

**Romans 5:8**

*But God commendeth [showed] his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

**5. Confess Your Faith in Christ**

To have a relationship with God and an eternal home in Heaven, we must stop trusting ourselves, our works, or our religion and place our full trust in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for forgiveness of our sin and for eternal life.

**Romans 10:9-11**

*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*

To “be saved” speaks of being saved from the penalty of our sins—eternal separation from God in Hell. Although we are sinners separated from God, Jesus Christ—the perfect, sinless, Son of God—provided the way of salvation.

**John 3:7**

*Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

To be “born again” is to be born into God’s family—to have a spiritual birth date when we turn from trusting in ourselves or our religion and place our trust in Jesus and His sacrifice for our sins. It is when we in faith call on the Lord to save us.

God Himself promises that if you realize your sinful condition and confess Christ as your Saviour, trusting the payment He made for your sin and turning to Him alone to be your Saviour, He will save you.

**Romans 10:13**

*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

**C. Leading to a Decision**

• Do you believe that you are a sinner, separated from God, and without the ability to save yourself?

• Do you believe that Jesus, God’s Son, shed His blood to pay for your sin?

• Would there be anything that would keep you from turning to and trusting in Jesus Christ as your Saviour today?

• As we saw a moment ago, God promises:

**Romans 10:9-10, 13**

*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

• Even as you “confess with your mouth” that you are putting your trust in Christ, it is important that you also “believe in your heart.” It is the faith of your heart that saves you.

**Prayer**

Dear Lord, I know that I am separated from you because of sin. I confess that in my sin I cannot save myself. Right now, I turn to you alone to be my Saviour. I ask you to save me from the penalty of my sin, and I trust you to provide eternal life for me. Amen.

**D. Preparing to Share the Gospel**

**John 3:16**

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

**Romans 3:10**

*As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

**Romans 3:23**

*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

**Romans 6:23**

*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

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**Romans 10:13**

*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

**II. Dealing with Common Questions**

**A. Common Objections**

**1. “I have always been a Christian.”**

**Psalm 51:5**

*Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

**John 1:12**

*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

**John 3:3**

*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

**2. “I have asked God to forgive me many times.”**

**John 1:12**

*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

**Romans 10:13**

*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

**Revelation 3:20**

*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*

**3. “This is too simple. I need to do something to earn it.”**

**Romans 6:23**

*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

**Titus 3:5**

*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

**4.“I’m good enough. I’m not a very bad sinner.”**

**Isaiah 53:6**

*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

**Isaiah 64:6**

*But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

**Romans 3:12**

*They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

**5. “Doesn’t death end everything? How do we know there is a real Heaven and Hell?”**

**Hebrews 9:27**

*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

**Matthew 6:9**

*After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*

**Luke 16:22-24**

*And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.*

**6. “I don’t want to give up my lifestyle or my friends.”**

**Mark 8:36-37**

*For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

**John 15:13**

*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

**Philippians 2:13**

*For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

**7. “I think as long as I’m sincere in what I believe, that’s all that matters.”**

**Proverbs 14:12**

*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

**John 3:36**

*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

**John 14:6**

*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

**Acts 4:12**

*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

**1 John 5:12**

*He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

**B. The Deity of Christ**

**1 John 3:5**

*And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.*

**1 John 2:2**

*And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

**1 John 4:3**

*And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*

**1 Timothy 3:16**

*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

**1. His deity is shown through His names.**

**Isaiah 9:6**

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

**John 20:28**

*And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.*

**2. His deity is shown through His works.**

**John 1:3**

*All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

**Hebrews 1:3**

*Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:*

**Mark 2:7-11**

*Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only? And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts? Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins…*

**John 17:2**

*As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.*

**3. His deity is shown through worship.**

**Matthew 2:2**

*Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.*

**Matthew 14:33**

*Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.*

**John 9:38**

*And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.*

**Hebrews 1:6**

*And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.*

**4. His deity is shown through His attributes.**

**Matthew 28:18**

*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

**John 16:30**

*Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God.*

**Matthew 16:21**

*From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.*

**Matthew 28:20**

*…and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

**John 1:1**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

**Hebrews 13:8**

*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*

**5. His deity is shown through His resurrection.**

**Luke 24:1-7**

*Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen…*

If you read through the New Testament specifically looking for each time the gospel is presented to a lost person, one of the things you’ll notice is that no two presentations are exactly the same. When Peter preached at Pentecost in Acts 2, he used a different approach than Philip did when he talked to the Ethiopian man traveling through the desert in Acts 8. When Jesus talked to Nicodemus in John 3, He used a different approach than when He talked with the woman at the well in John 4.