

Hebrews 10:1 (NKJV) For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, [and] not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.

Hebrews 10:4 (NKJV) For [it is] not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

Hebrews 10:11-14 (NKJV) 11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. 14 ***For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.***

The believer's reality

The kingdom is at hand. It's within reach. It's among us. We get to enjoy it now. The peace that comes with knowing that because of Jesus, we will not come under judgement for our wrongdoings, but have been forgiven and are preserved for everlasting life..

- John 5:24 (NKJV) "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

Because of Jesus, we have access to all of Heaven's resources. Salvation, healing and restoration, joy, peace of mind, freedom from bondage, victory over sin.

The kingdom of God made available to every believer, **but at what price?....**

- Our sin demands God's judgement

Hebrews 9:22 (NKJV) And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, ***and without shedding of blood there is no remission.***

- Remission: cancellation of debt. Freedom from bondage

The glorious cross of Christ

Flogging

Before being crucified, He was flogged.

- For this process, the Romans used a flagrum: a whip designed rip skin off the body and cause excessive bleeding!
- After just a few lashes, His flesh would've began to come off like ribbons, as His muscles tore.

- After a few more lashes, His muscles would've become like pulp, until arteries and veins were laid bare.
- In some cases, the flagrum would reach around the abdomen, and the abdominal wall would give way, causing the victim's intestines to spill out.
- It wasn't at all uncommon for victims to die in the flogging process alone.

Crucifixion

After the flogging, Jesus was nailed through His arms to a cross beam.

- The nails would go right through the median nerve, causing extreme pain and incapacitating the hands.
- A seven inch nail would've then been driven through both feet.
- He was forced to hang from His arms, making it nearly impossible to breathe.
- He would've had to use what energy He had left to push (up) against the nail in His feet so He could breathe out.
- He could breathe in as He sagged back down, but He would have to push back up to breathe in again.
- When victims would finally run out of energy, and they couldn't push up any longer, they would die of asphyxiation...
- This is why the Romans broke the legs of the robbers next to Him. Without their knees, they couldn't breathe out, so they died.
- To ensure the victims were dead they'd either break their legs (so they'd stop pushing up), crush their heads, or in Jesus's case, pierce the victim's heart with a spear.

But why? Why did our sinless Messiah endure the cross?

For souls. He went to the cross for souls

Luke 19:10 (NKJV) "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV) 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 ***"teaching them to observe (OBEY) all things that I have commanded you;*** and lo, I am with you always, [even] to the end of the age." Amen.

- At this point the apostles had spent three years with Jesus, observing His every move, hanging on His every word...
- They were instructed to go into the world and seek out lost souls to make duplicates of themselves.
- They were instructed to teach people to obey all that Christ had commanded of ***them...***

The major disconnect

- Studies show that 90% to 95% of Christians will never lead another person to Christ in their lifetime....
- 80% of believers do not consistently share their faith...
- Surveys of specific denominational leadership (including elders and deacons) show that roughly 63% have not led a single person to Jesus in a two-year span.
- While actual sharing remains low, modern studies from organizations like [Barna Group](#) show that a strong majority of churchgoers (around 60% to 80%) say they pray for opportunities **or feel an underlying desire to talk about Jesus**, pointing to a gap in practical follow-through rather than personal desire.
- Newer data from [Lifeway Research](#) indicates that 3 in 5 churchgoers have shared their faith with two or fewer people over a six-month period, and over 25% have not shared the gospel at all...

And I don't blame you one bit.... Why?

The model most of us have seen for evangelism is either:

- 1) Detestable - fire and brimstone preachers outside of sports events with seemingly zero compassion for the lost.
- 2) Out of reach and impractical - preaching at a crusade like Billy Graham targeting mass conversions rather than making disciples - maybe your ministry is unto one or two and is more relational...
- 3) Unbiblical - void of the Spirit of God, void of the declaration of the benefits of coming into the kingdom of God, signs and wonders. A gospel preached with a blatant disregard for the power (for transformation) therein.

The Church has not been equipped

- 1) primarily due to the absence of the evangelist, the church hasn't been trained up...

What if evangelism (for you) didn't have to look like that? What if it could look more relational?

Acts 4:13 (NKJV) Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

Are you walking in the fruit of the Holy Spirit?

- Do you actually have a devotional life?
- If you're carving out time in your mornings to pray, get in the word, and meditate on the word, you'll be amazed at how that time will effect your mood for the rest of the day...
- If you carry yourself like you've been with Jesus (because you actually have), you're going to stand out in whatever sphere of influence you're in...
- If you're walking in the fruit of the Holy Spirit, expect to be noticed and expect conversations to happen organically...

The disciple who is set apart to Jesus Christ draws people in because they carry something the world desperately wants and needs, and from there evangelism is just easy.

- when people start noticing there's something different about you, conversations about what you're carrying happen naturally.
- At this point you just have to know how to share the gospel in a way that a child could understand it...

Whether that be the peace that's on your life, the measure of patience you're walking in, the joy of the Holy Spirit, the self control....

- When you carry self control in the work place, that speaks volumes to your coworkers...

What if we were truly known by our love for one another? What if that would be the very thing that drew people in?

Unbiblical ideas about evangelism

Mark 16:15-16 (NKJV) 15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

I've heard interpretations or theories about evangelism with little to no biblical backing that are to me incredibly concerning: one being, I share Jesus with people, but no one ever receives Him when I preach, therefore I'm only a sower, and am not an evangelist...

- Evangelism simply means: a bringer of glad tidings, in other words, a messenger of the gospel.
- A person's rejection of the gospel message doesn't disqualify the messenger, in the same way that a person's rejection of the gospel message doesn't render the gospel message powerless!
- To say that is to say that a person's rejection of the gospel message defines (and even nullifies) the call to do the work of an evangelist on a believer's life. That's (not only) to say that a person's rejection of the gospel makes the power of the gospel message of no effect, it is also to say that a person's rejection of the gospel message decides the call of God on a believer's life. How can we grant a lost soul that much authority over our lives?
- Jesus said He who receives you receives Me, and he who rejects you rejects Me (Luke 10:16). When a person rejects the gospel message, he rejects God, not you.
- Is God Himself *powerless* seeing as how He can be rejected by His own creation? Absolutely not! In the same way the gospel message holds its power regardless as to whose delivering the message, and regardless as to whether it is rejected
- Having this perspective reveals that even when the gospel message is rejected, the power in the gospel message itself is revealed. How? In this instance, the gospel message reveals the condition of the sinner's heart: that he is in his current state, in complete opposition to God.... That doesn't disqualify YOU from anything, and it

definitely doesn't give the believer a pass to bow out of what God purposed you to do: preach the gospel!

- Perhaps in some instances, God would have us preach the gospel message knowing it would be rejected by the hearer. Perhaps the mercy of God stands to be glorified by His willingness to redeem and restore one who formerly rejected His gospel.
- When a person rejects the gospel, the enemy would love to use that moment to deceive God's messenger into believing that they aren't called to do the work of the evangelist. Or that preaching the gospel is pointless.... He would strive to have them convinced that the anointing for this assignment isn't on their life.
- He'll bring the same accusation against a believer who sees a Billy Graham leading millions to Christ. It's just packaged slightly differently: "that's what the anointing looks like, and you don't have that!" The enemy will use any lie to get a believer out of the fight.
- What does God say? That the person who rejects the gospel is the one who forgoes the blessing. It's not that the messenger is disqualified, it's that he who rejects the gospel rejects God's only means of salvation, and therefore brings upon himself the condemnation due to him. How? By rejecting the gospel.

The heart of biblical evangelism

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 18 Now all things [are] of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 **that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.** 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore [you] on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin [to be] sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- Paul addresses the whole church of Corinth (and not just a select few) declaring that God has given *us* the ministry of reconciliation...
- you feel the sincerity, the conviction within Paul's plea. And it is just that: he is pleading with souls (even begging them) to be reconciled to God with such genuine passion, care, and concern.
- Essentially the cry is: see how deeply He (God in Christ) cares for you (the sinner), for He took upon Himself the condemnation and shame for your sin and the sin of the whole world so that all who come to Him could be forgiven, granted eternal life, and be completely made new. So that the chasm between sinful man and a holy God could be bridged, and mankind and all of creation could be restored to oneness with the living God just as it was originally intended to be.
- Verse 11 says, knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men... the idea here isn't "look at the terror of the Lord and let fear of His wrath drive you to

repentance"... it is I have been delivered from the terror of the Lord, and you can be delivered too! How does one come to know the terror of the Lord? Look no further than the cross! Christ endured it Himself for sinners!

- Paul seeks out sinners as their equal, as a brother, as a father, and as a pier, and not from a pedestal. He goes into the highways and byways to find them right where they're at. He inserts himself into their lives as a servant, with a desire to give them the greatest gift one could ever hope to receive: the keys to the kingdom of God in the testimony of Jesus.
- In Paul's gospel presentation there isn't a hint of self-righteousness! For He made Him who knew no sin [to be] sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. He regards himself as one who is just as worthy as them (and even more so) of condemnation, but has received the mercy and favor of God.
- That we might become the righteousness of God in Him. In this declaration, Paul is admitting that even though he's received Jesus, he has not arrived! He is himself in the sanctification process...

Challenge: begin praying daily that God would give you His heart for the lost (if you're not carrying His burden for the lost it is the will of God that you would pick it up), and compliment someone on their cross necklace and ask them what it means to them. Be ready to listen, but also look for an opportunity to share about what the cross really means and share about your experience with me or at your home group.