

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

Course Code

TB-203

Student Manual

Manual Title: *Personal Evangelism*

Three works published in English have been consulted and helped in the preparation of this manual: *Personal Soul-winning* by William Evans; *The Helping Hand* by Wistar Hamilton; and *Personal Evangelism* by Ernest O. Sellers. Use has also been made of the following brochures, translated into Spanish: *Mormonismo*, by Benjamin Bogard; *Manual of Personal Evangelism* by Dr. A. Ray Stanford; *Manual of Personal Evangelism* by J. E. Davis; and *Personal Evangelism* by Rev. Gilberto Abels.

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

Course Code:

TB-203

Content

Syllabus	5
Lesson 1 - What is Personal Evangelism?....	7
Lesson 1 Quiz - Personal Evangelism.....	11
Lesson 2 - How does the messenger prepare to testify?....	13
Lesson 2 Quiz - How does the messenger prepare to testify?.....	18
Lesson 3 - Why should we testify?.....	19
Lesson 3 Quiz - Why should we testify?.....	21
Lesson 4 - What Are We Going to Testify?.....	23
Lesson 4 Quiz -What Are We Going to Testify?.....	31
Lesson 5 - Topics of Discussion	33
Lesson 5 Quiz - Topics of Discussion.....	48
Lesson 6 - Reasons to Believe in God and in His Word	49
Lesson 6 Quiz - Reasons to Believe in God and in His Word	56
Lesson 7 -Religions.....	57
Lesson 7 Quiz -Religions	85
Lesson 8 - Ideas to Witness	87
Lesson 8 Quiz - Ideas to Witness.....	95
References.	95

Syllabus

Course: Personal Evangelism

Course code TB-203

Required of all candidates for Associate Degree in Pastoral Theology

Requirements / Prerequisites: Introduction to the Bible

Sources of information

In the preparation of this manual, the following three Works were consulted and cited: Personal Soul-winning by Evans; The Helping Hand by Hamilton; and Personal Evangelism by Sellers. The following pamphlets, translated into Spanish, have also been utilized: Mormonism, by Bogard; Handbook of Personal Evangelism by Dr. A. Ray Stanford; Handbook of Personal Evangelism by J. E. Davis; and Personal Evangelism by Rev. Gilberto Abels.

Purpose of this course

This course makes available to the student a useful guide to evangelize and deal with the beliefs of various religions. It offers proof that creation is a scientific reality and that the theory of evolution is a falsehood. It provides the knowledge to offer assurance to believers that they can be saved eternally, and that God will never allow them to be lost.

Objectives

Didactic:

1. Learn practical, clear, and effective methods to lovingly reach people for the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Get answers to questions from agnostics, various religions, and sects about the gospel
3. Learn how to detect the truth of false doctrine.

Practical

1. Participate in four (4) in-person lessons and four (4) distance lessons
2. Complete quiz for each lesson
3. Complete readings and auxiliary assignments, as directed by teacher.
4. Complete a 500-word essay on the course's impact on your life.

Score

Attendance 10 pts.

Participation 10 pts.

Homework. 64 pts. (10 per lesson)

Essay 16 pts.

Grade scale

A. 90-100 points

B. 79-89 points

C. 69-78 points

All assignments must be submitted on time. If the student is unable to submit an assignment on time, they must contact the teacher immediately for approval.

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

Late Submission Policy

Late subjects: 5% deduction

Assignments delayed by more than one week: deduction of 10%

Assignments not submitted during the term of the course will not be accepted, except in special circumstances (ei. death in the family, health issues, etc.) to be considered, case-by-case and approval of the teacher.

Late Submission Policy

Late subjects: 5% deduction

Subjects delayed by more than one week: deduction of 10%

Subjects not submitted during the end of the course will not be accepted, except in special circumstances (ei. death in the family, health issues, etc.) to be considered, by case and approval of the teacher.

Content

This course is divided into eight lessons, each with a topic to develop and a test of acquired knowledge, to be taken upon completion of the lesson.

Lesson #1 – Definition of Personal Evangelism, Who Should Evangelize or Testify? Initial Requirements for the Evangelizer, and the Seven (7) General Rules of Personal Evangelism

Lesson #2 – How to Study the Bible and the Importance of loving the Work

Lesson #3 – the three reasons for evangelism: 1. Need, 2. It is divine commandment and 3. It's a privilege

Lesson #4 – God's Plan for Salvation, doctrines: a. We are all sinners, b. Wage of sin is death, c. Heaven is a perfect place, d. Salvation is by grace and not by works and e. Discipline and reward

Lesson #5- Topics in Evangelization: and Creation the Importance of Repentance; the meaning of repenting; the lordship of Christ in salvation; predestination, water baptism, baptism in the holy spirit, evolution and creation.

Lesson #6 – Reasons to Believe in God and His Word.

Lesson #7 – Religions: Jewish, Catholic, Twentieth Century Protestantism, Neo-Evangelicalism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh-day Adventists, Mormons, Christian Science and Unity.

Lesson #8- Ideas for Evangelizing: Seizing and Facilitating Opportunities; Presentation and practical and useful suggestions.

Code of Honor

The Great Commission Theological Institute operates based on a Code of Honor shared by the Great Commission Church, board of directors, administration, faculty, and students. This code, a reflection of our doctrinal values, defines the principles by which we are governed. Two essential concepts stand out: God is the source of our lives, redemption, and courage as His creatures; and our task is to reflect His glory in behavior and works. Although we understand that some may differ with some elements of the Honor Code, we expect our students and faculty to commit to respecting and abiding by the Honor Code of the Great Commission Theological Institute.

Lesson 1 What is Personal Evangelism?

“This is the faithful word, and in these things I want you to insist firmly, that those who believe in God may seek to engage in good works. These things are good and useful to men” (Titus 3:8).

Personal evangelism is the work that is developed individually, that is, each Christian is propelled by his faith to proclaim and share the truths that led him to the salvation of his soul.

Mark 16:15 says, “And he said unto them Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”. This work is biblical because evangelization was not limited to the apostles, the first Christians were also motivated by the effervescence that began to manifest itself in the beginnings of the church.

They were fully identified with the duty to testify or evangelize (to speak the word, to present the gospel). Although the Church faced difficult times of persecution after Stephen’s martyrdom, the apostles remained in Jerusalem; but Christians were scattered throughout the lands of Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:1-4) “But those who were scattered went everywhere proclaiming the Word.”

The importance of personal evangelism is that it really is Christ’s will for every believer to become a spokesman for his word and power (Mark 5:19; Luke 8:38-39). In this every Christian possesses an experience on the part of God, the act of mercy and love manifested on his behalf is reason enough for him to carry out the work of personal evangelism. scattered, they went everywhere proclaiming the Word.”

Who should Evangelize or Testify?

There is an urgent need for Christian men and women to devote themselves to the all-important task of becoming specialists in winning souls. present the plan of salvation in a clear and simple way, so that the lost can understand it. To achieve simplicity in the presentation of the gospel requires a lot of concentration, a lot of effort, and a lot of practice. The message should be communicated using words that people can understand. A doctor would not be able to communicate with most of his patients by using medical terminology. What the doctor has to say may be true, but most patients would not understand the meaning. In 2 Corinthians 3:12, the Scriptures tell us, “So, having such hope, we use much frankness,” and in 1 Corinthians 14:8, 9, “And if the trumpet gives uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle? So you too, if you do not give a very understandable word by language, how will you understand what you say? Because you will speak on the air.”

Communication is done with words, and they have to be at the level of the listener’s understanding. Christ said, “Feed my sheep,” and not “Feed my giraffes.”

It is a crime to prevent people from knowing the Lord as Savior just because we have the need to exhibit our “rich vocabulary. “Some may think that a preacher is not “educated” because he does not use words that listeners cannot understand. They completely overlook the fact that to make something understandable requires a lot of intelligence, meditation, or work. As you strive to make the message clear, you will discover that “simplicity” is not a simple thing... but it will greatly increase the fruits of his ministry.

Initial requirements for the evangelizer

It is necessary that the one who is going to carry out the work of evangelism be a regenerate person, baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and be in the exercise of a new life;

it is convenient that you know certain essential requirements so that they give you security, both in what you do and in what you say.

We will classify this aspect into two parts: moral and spiritual: St. Paul says to Timothy (1 Tim. 4:16): “Be careful of yourself”, this refers directly to the care of your person, forced to live an exemplary life, free from any suspicion or dubious conduct, your life must be whole; so that the people he evangelizes can look at him from any angle and always find in him, a true Christian, and a worthy bearer of the word of God.

St. Paul adds: “and of the doctrine”, this does not mean that it is incomplete and that it must be complemented, but in drawing well the word of God and speaking in accordance with what the doctrine demands.

Testimony

“This is the faithful word, and in these things I want you to insist firmly, that those who believe in God may seek to engage in good works. These things are good and useful to men” (Titus 3:8).

The Bible tells us to be careful to maintain good works. You can be sure that Satan will use countless tricks to make you ruin your testimony. The scriptures say, “Be sober, and watch; for your adversary the devil, like a roaring lion, goes around looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

You will have to put on “the whole armor of God, that you may stand firm against the wiles of the devil” (Ephesians 6:11).

It often happens that when a Christian is doctrinally sound and determined to testify, Satan sneaks in, “through the back door,” into that person’s life, and ruins that Christian’s effectiveness because he was not careful of his testimony.

This is so important! God warns us, “Let us not give anyone any opportunity to stumble, lest our ministry be reviled” (2 Corinthians 6:3). In every situation you will have to do what is appropriate, because people will use their own testimony to criticize Christian work.

If people learn that you lie, cheat, steal, speak using clumsy words, are gossipy, have no regard for others, etc., you will not be appreciated, and this will cause great damage to your ministry. People will look at the life you lead and say, “If that’s an example of Christianity, then I’m not interested.”

The Lord admonishes us, “Abstain from every kind of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:22). Some things may seem perfectly innocuous to you, and in no way would they be sinful to do, except that, for one reason or another, some Christians will regard them as a sign of poor witness. In such cases, God tells us to abstain from them. Simply, you should not do them because they are not worth it.

Your ministry—what you are trying to accomplish in your life for the Lord—is too valuable to risk losing effectiveness in your testimony. God knows the heart of the believer who is faithful, and He will bless him for his faithfulness.

The apostle Paul was in a situation similar to this. At that time it was common for the food that had been offered to idols to be then put up for sale in the market. Paul knew that the food in question was neither blessed nor cursed because of idols (1 Corinthians 8:8), but there were Christians who thought he should not eat that kind of food. Could Paul have eaten that food? Of course. But did Paul participate in it? Why? He tells us, “It is good not to eat meat, or drink wine, or anything that your brother stumbles upon, or is offended, or weakened” (Romans

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

14:21). “Wherefore, if food is an opportunity for my brother to fall, I will never eat meat, lest my brother stumble” (I Corinthians 8:13).

In our Christian work we cannot offend others. and we cannot be offended either. If you allow people to hurt their feelings, you will be prevented from having with them the ministry you need to influence their lives.

The apostle Paul disciplined his life so that he could serve and help others. In your dedication to winning souls, you will probably “give up” things that the ordinary Christian would not even question—not out of obligation, but because of the great love you profess for the Lord, you will not want anything in your life to prevent others from trusting in Christ Jesus as Savior.

“All things are lawful to me, but not all things are convenient; all things are lawful to me, but I will not allow myself to be dominated by any” (I Corinthians 6:12).

It is amazing to see how high the standards of conduct that even the world sets for Christians are, and truly, we should live a life and testimony that are as good as possible.

Chapter two of 1 Thessalonians lists many of Paul’s qualities as a soul winner. As you study this passage, you will notice that he: (1) was a devoted servant; (2) he did not use deception or error; (3) he fulfilled his task and pleased God; (4) he was honest; (5) he did not seek the praises of men; (6) was benign; (7) he had great love and zeal for the work; (8) worked diligently; (9) gave a good testimony; and (10) I teach others how to live for the Lord.

GENERAL RULES

General rules are understood as the aspects that each evangelizer must keep in mind, as a reflection of his personality he must shape and correct his habits. The exponent of the gospel must be of a noble and sincere character, therefore; will put all your commitment to carry out a work of excellence, also keep in mind what is suggested below:

A. To be fully aware of the need of man who is far from God, and have love and compassion for him. (Mark 6:34)

B. Have conviction of the doctrine he professes which constitutes in him an inexhaustible source of knowledge and a generator of his hope. The Apostle Paul said as a seal of his ministry, 2 Tim. 1:10-12 “Of which I am made a preacher and apostle and teacher of the Gentiles by whom I also suffer this; but I am not ashamed because I know who I have believed.” For the evangelizer, an indecisive stance on salvation and eternal life would be fatal.

C. Be always respectful and reverent in the development of your work, treat seriously and even more when you know the evangelizing. Do not use jokes, words or incidents outside of what is the clean and pure language of the gospel, do not call by nicknames any of the companions. In this delicate work there is no room for frivolities, because this is in bad taste and does not edify, before, detracts from the seriousness of the value of the message. Be careful in your attitude.

D. Become familiar with biblical language. It will be improper for the evangelizer to be reading any reference reading to pronounce badly, in this he will make a bad impression (it is advisable to read privately and aloud to achieve a better pronunciation).

E. Accurately presenting the verses quoted because failure to do so will sow distrust and doubt.

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

When he dares to say them by heart, he will be careful not to show indecision and insecurity. We will cite an example: "Look, sir, the Bible says it seems that in the first or second Corinthians, I do not remember very well, it says in acceptable time I have helped you and in... no, it seems to say: "on a health day I have heard you... no, I don't remember very well, but more or less". Notice that you did not say anything in particular, these inaccuracies do not convince anyone, it is better (when you betray memory), read the biblical quote.

F. You should channel your conversation to a defined topic so that you leave a clear idea of the message presented. The evangelizer will be aware of his work, he will not allow it to become only a criticism of other religions or a conversation of prohibitions, for example: Jehovah's Witnesses are wrong, they do not believe in heaven or hell; Baptists don't believe in this, Catholics here and there; etc., or refer to prohibitions such as: You must quit smoking; you should not drink liquor, or say bad words; all this is a great truth, but it is not the time to pronounce it, (these comments have their time or moments of application in the discipleship of the new believer).

G. The person must be made to feel the need for the salvation of the soul and this is only achieved when the evangelizer hears concrete themes that have both introduction and conclusion of them; since the conclusion is like a shake to the conscience and it moves positively and makes a decision according to the message received.

**Lesson 1 - Quiz
Personal Evangelism**

**Click following link to take the quiz: <https://forms.office.com/r/y2f1RJwG6W>
If the link doesn't work copy and paste it into your browser**

1. What is Personal Evangelism?

2. Who should Evangelize or Testify?

3. What are the initial requirements for the evangelizer?

4. What are the seven (7) general rules of personal evangelism?

Lesson 2

How does the messenger prepare to testify?

Time

No one can tell you how to live your life... what you should include or exclude from your schedule of activities. You could give a reasonable explanation, and justify any activity you wanted. But between you and the Lord, you must decide what is best to serve Him.

The time you have is your life. You don't know how much time you have left. How you use your time each day will determine the total value of your life. Your future is being determined by what you do every day. If your life is mostly made up of sports, money, pleasures, television, social clubs, etc., then your life will go unnoticed—and very little will be able to accomplish for Christ in it.

Paul said that, for him, Christ was the reason for his existence. Paul spent his time on things that were of use to Christ. How do you use your time? Almost everything for you or almost everything for Christ? Could you say with Paul, "For to me living is Christ, and dying is gain" (Philippians 1:21)? If your time is used for Christ, then dying will be truly gainful for you, for you will have much reward in heaven.

The Bible

In 1 Timothy 3:15, God says, "... the Holy Scriptures... they can make you wise unto salvation by the faith that is in Christ Jesus." And in Romans 10:17, "So faith is by hearing, and hearing, by the Word of God."

God exalts His Word even above His own Name (Psalm 138:2). With such good recommendations from God Himself, we should certainly know the Bible well, for our own well-being and exhortation, and to bring the gospel message to the lost. We should take very seriously the familiar words of the verse in 1 Timothy 2:15, "Diligently seek to present yourself to God approved, as a worker who has nothing to be ashamed of, who uses the word of truth well."

Of course, it is quite possible that we can win souls with very little knowledge of scripture. A child in Christ cannot be expected to know as much as a college student. But when a child remains childish all his life, that is certainly a great tragedy. In 1 Peter 2:2, God counsels us, "Desire, as newborn children, unadulterated spiritual milk, that you may grow by it..."

Believers who wish to become winners of fruitful souls must be "always prepared to present defense with meekness and reverence before all who demand reason from you for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15). Paul said that he was "... soon... to proclaim the gospel to you" (Romans 1:15).

In order to be prepared to preach the gospel in a way that answers the questions of the lost, you will be required to take the time to memorize scriptures about salvation and to study carefully the passages that answer the questions of unbelievers.

God's word is power! Knowing God's Word and knowing how to present it well will be your best "weapon" to testify effectively. "For the word of God is living and efficacious, and sharper than every two-edged sword; and penetrates into the soul and spirit, junctures and marrows, and discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

Even if you're talking to someone who says they don't believe the Bible, don't stop using it. The apostle Paul received a higher education from the best instructors of his day, yet with

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

regard to his testimony, he said, "And neither my word nor my preaching was with persuasive words of human wisdom, but with demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith may not be founded on the wisdom of men, but in the power of God" (1 Corinthians 2:4, 5).

Use the scriptures! We could never exaggerate our emphasis that the gospel is the power God uses to save people. Of course, by this we do not mean that you could not adapt your own illustrations and examples to particularly interest the listener to whom you will be testifying. You must testify to him taking into account your background.

For example, you could use the scientific statements of the Bible to interest a chemistry student, or biblical statements about medicine or astronomy to interest people who know these subjects, etc.

Use those points in your own testimony that serve to establish harmony in the conversation. For example, when I talk to a person of Jewish descent, I usually mention that, in part, I am also Jewish, and that, for two years, I attended a synagogue. When I talk to a Catholic I might mention that I studied a course on catechism that lasted six months in a Roman Catholic church. And when I speak to a Protestant I mention that for three years I was attending different Protestant churches. All of these things are true, but not all of them would matter to every person with the same degree of interest. Therefore, I try to think in terms of other people's backgrounds to establish common ground between us.

This does not mean that we will compromise on doctrine, but it will allow us to establish a situation in which we will be aware of the feelings of others, which is very helpful when we testify.

Try to remember your own past life, and you will be amazed to discover how many interesting things have happened to you (which must be true to mention), which can be used advantageously when you testify. And then you remember them, use them. But it is the scriptures, and it is the gospel, that saves, and not its wisdom. Because of man's natural pride, it would be very easy to fall into this trap of Satan, of using too much of his own philosophy and not enough of God's Word.

How to Study the Bible

Whenever possible, it would be wise for you to set aside and devote a special hour to Bible study, and not allow anything to distract you into anything else during that hour. To study your Bible so that you gain a fundamental and practical understanding of the Scriptures, it is important that you, as a soul winner, understand the following reasoning:

(1) It is what God commands you to do (2 Timothy 2:15).

(2) God's Word brings faith (Romans 10:17).

Not only will it bring the knowledge of salvation to the lost, but it will also strengthen their own faith.

(3) You will use the Word to edify, exhort, guide, and comfort other Christians who are under his care (2 Timothy 4:2).

(4) The Bible is your own "traveler's guide" to every situation in life, and you will want to know "inside out" what God says in His Word (Matthew 4:4).

(5) The Word of God is part of their defensive weaponry against Satan's attacks

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

directed toward you (Ephesians 6:17). Remember how Christ Jesus rebuked Satan using the Scripture (Matthew 4:10, 11).

Here are some suggestions for successful Bible study:

- A. Read the scriptures to remember what you read.
- B. Repeat the reading until it is clear in your mind what you have read.
- C. Take notes of the things that impress you the most as you read.
- D. Compare writing with writing to understand the passage in its proper relationship to the remnant of God's Word.
- E. Analyze the verse:
 - 1) Who wrote it?
 - 2) To whom was it written?
 - 3) What general topic is being discussed? (Consider the context.)
 - 4) What does it not say?
 - 5) What things could it mean?
 - 6) Eliminate possible meanings by comparing it to another Scripture until you are sure it has the correct meaning.
- F. If you still do not understand the passage:
 - 1) Use a match to look for words that are not very clear in your mind.
 - 2) Look for the same passage in other good Bible translations.
 - 3) Study the passage with the help of good comments.
 - 4) Discuss the meaning of the passage with another Christian and get their point of view on it.
- G. carry a notebook. When you are satisfied with a particular explanation, write your conclusion in the notebook and also archive the data under the heading of the topic in question. After a while you will have gathered a lot of valuable information that will help you in your private scripture study and in your ministry of teaching to the public in the future.
- H. Write down your Bible. When a verse stands out in your mind, such as one of the key verses on a particular topic, use the margin of the page immediately to the right of that verse, to note quotations from other verses on the same topic.
- I. acquire a bible with a well-readable type of printing press. Get a Bible with the best cover and paper you can buy, because it will last you longer. Treat your Bible carefully.
- J. As you continue to study, memorize the plan of salvation in the form of a brief outline, perhaps including just seven points, which could be the following:
 - 1) We are all sinners (Romans 3:23);
 - 2) The result of sin is death (Romans 6:23);
 - 3) Heaven is perfect (Revelation 21:27);
 - 4) We cannot earn salvation (Ephesians 2:8, 9);

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

- 5) Christ made the payment and gives us the righteousness we need (2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:9);
- 6) We must only believe (John 3:16);
- 7) We can know that we have eternal life (1 John 5:13).

This will be very useful to you when you testify... not to quote him by heart, but so that his mind is free and allows him to start the gospel right away, even when he feels nervous, he may find himself short of words because he does not know how to start the conversation.

Learning by heart the main points of what one wants to explain has been a successful procedure in business where direct contact with people in any type of sales or representation is re-wanted. The soul winner must use any method or technique that contributes to helping him in his effort to testify.

Love for the Work

In Romans 1:1, Paul says that he is a "servant" of Jesus Christ. The Greek word translated "servant" is *doulos* and means "slave." Paul served the Lord with a willing love. The person in love feels constrained to please the one he loves, but he is not obliged to do so. No law says that a young man must be courteous and kind to the young woman he loves... He doesn't have to, but he finds that he wants to do it.

What lady would want to receive flowers if the young man she loves felt that she has to bring them to her? What young woman would want chocolates or perfume as a gift if her celebrant felt that he is obliged to give them to her? When one is in love, one desires only the voluntary expressions of love. The obligation would take away all the beautiful meaning it might otherwise have.

God did not choose to make us puppets to act when He handles us, bowing down when He manipulates one thread, speaking when He manipulates another... Our lover God is the person who wanted us to have a great capacity to love Him and love others. But love must be voluntary, otherwise it would not be true love.

No human being can completely fill another's need for this love. A philosopher named Pascal put it correctly when he said, "In every man there is a void in divine form, and only God can fill it." It was verses such as John 3:16, which speak of God's great love, that made me accept Christ Jesus as my personal Savior. I feel something in the depths of my being when I fully realize that the God who created the entire universe really loves me. I don't understand how this can be, but I believe it, and I have responded to HIS love in such a way that it has changed my whole life. There's something about my human build that makes me want to please someone who truly loves me. I cannot be indifferent to a person who loves me... Can you?

It's not always easy to analyze why we love someone, but when it comes to our love for the Lord, reasons abound. A Christian cannot read his Bible for long without encountering countless peculiarities of our Lord that simply compel us to love Him more and more.

The more you serve the Lord and the more you live according to Him, the more your love for the Savior will increase. Many Christians express a desire to feel closer to the Lord. Reading His Word is something that will help you remarkably to achieve this, but the sure way is to really go out and serve the Lord wholeheartedly.

When we go out to work "hand in hand" with the Lord, a great bond of pleasant and conscious companionship is formed that is extremely satisfying. I am convinced that this is what the apostle Paul was trying to express when he said, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

patience..." (Galatians 5:22). The result of allowing life to be controlled by the Spirit, of obeying the Lord's guidance, truly brings love into the believer's life. Love for the Savior, love for the lost... and love for Christians as well.

It is because we are saved as a gift of God's grace that we feel an indulgent debt of gratitude to the Lord, and simply being able to do anything for Him gives us great satisfaction. How could we possibly, begin to give back to God for what He has done for us?

In Luke 7:47 Christ Jesus explains that he who has been forgiven of many sins will certainly love God very much. Therefore, do we not have abundant capacity to love Him? It is a very sad thing to learn that seemingly sincere members of different religious cults live lives of horrible physical and mental torture, thinking that, somehow, that might please God. If only they believed God when He says over and over again in the Bible that He does not delight in our "sacrifices and offerings" for salvation, and that moreover, it is the "love of Christ" that should constrain us to serve Him, and not fear. That's right, fear can drive us, but God prefers much more that we serve Him because we love Him.

Reflect for a moment on the following:

God saves us by His grace;

God keeps us saved by His grace;

God guides and leads us by His grace;

God allows us to serve Him by His grace;

God rewards us with love, joy, and peace in this life because we serve Him by His grace;

God rewards us in heaven for having served Him on earth.

Truly, His grace is wonderful!

Surely God is extraordinarily good, and with the psalmist we must say, "What will I pay for all his benefits to me?" (Psalm 116:12).

Lesson 3 Why should we testify?

Reason for evangelism

The population growth that is registered in today's society as well as the multiplication of sin, should be a cause of concern for the church today. If humanity multiplies every day, we must be interested in how to win it to Christ.

That is why evangelization must occupy the first place within all the activities that take place within it.

The church as an institution of God must always be in campaign, in conquest of souls. That is the mission of the church, for it weighs upon it, the commandment of Christ: "Go and preach the gospel to every creature."

The meaning of these words suggests the idea of progressive motivation "I'd" and not a static posture. On the other hand, every Christian has the inescapable duty to work for the Lord, conquering souls for the kingdom.

Because every Christian has a transformative experience, moreover, for this he was called (1 Peter 2:9) and has enough to present the one who is Lord of his life.

1. The need

God is real. The sky is real. Hell is real. The Bible is the Word of God and tells us that all those who have not received Christ Jesus as personal Savior will spend eternity in hell... separated from God, in conscious torment (Luke 16:23-26 and John 3:18). Knowing the terrible fate of the unsaved should motivate any believer who has a little compassion to explain to them the plan of salvation. Paul said, "Knowing therefore the fear of the Lord, we persuade men" (2 Corinthians 5:11).

I do not understand how any Christian, who truly knows that he will go to Heaven when he dies, can be so selfish as to deprive the lost of the best news in the world, when they so desperately need Christ as Savior. It is the same as watching a building catch fire and not warning the unnoticed occupants of the great danger they face. Standing near the building and watching it burn, letting its occupants die in the flames, would be an extremely grave sin.

When we appear before the Lord Jesus Christ, every Christian will desire that time go back, to begin to testify as he should have when he was in the earth, because only then will it truly realize the need that souls have for Christ as their Savior. Now is the time to testify.

2. It is a divine commandment

God has given every Christian a task, a commandment, a responsibility. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). You can obey God's commandment—and you can also disobey it. But the orders he has been given are still to testify. Remember that testifying is a commandment of God. God is concerned with leading to a particular field of service, those who are already obeying His commandment.

"I make you more expensive before God and the Lord Jesus Christ. that you preach the word; that you urge on time and out of time. . ." (2 Timothy 4:1,2). "For if I proclaim the gospel, I have no reason to boast; for necessity is imposed on me; and woe to me if I do not proclaim

the gospel!" (I Corinthians 9:16).

We must communicate the gospel when we feel with desires, and also when we do not feel very eager to do so. We are in a battle for the souls of men. Soldiers who are on the battlefield can't stop fighting just because they don't want to. God has chosen us as soldiers for Him. The world is already full of "conscious opponents." And God is looking for loyal troops on the front lines—soldiers who will sincerely give themselves fully to carry out the task ahead... boldly communicating to others the good news of salvation.

3. It's a privilege

God could have chosen angels to carry the message of salvation—but He didn't. God gave every Christian the privilege and responsibility of being the bearer of the gospel. "But as we were tested by God that the gospel might be entrusted to us, so we speak; not as if to please men, but God, who tests our hearts" (I Thessalonians 2:4). "That God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not taking into account men's sins, and entrusting us with the word of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:19).

Since God has loved us enough to pay for our sins and give us eternal life, we certainly will not be ashamed of the gospel. Romans 10:17 tells us that "faith is by hearing, and hearing, by the Word of God." People are saved when they hear the gospel. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to all who believe" (Romans 1:16).

No Christian can claim a lack of ability to testify, blaming God for it, because the last words of Christ Jesus here on earth were "For you shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). As Christians, we already have the power, but sometimes, apparently, we don't want to make use of that power. There is no greater joy than that of leading a person to Christ Jesus.

No book that men could ever write could awaken in you the desire to testify. Only God's great love can constrain him to do so (2 Corinthians 5:14). Salvation is voluntary... You had to decide to accept Christ as your Savior. The service is also voluntary... You must decide whether the salvation of souls is worth it for you to discipline your life in order to win them to the Lord.

Lesson 3 Quiz
Why should we testify?

[Click here to take quiz: https://forms.office.com/r/QWkfAJyYDF](https://forms.office.com/r/QWkfAJyYDF)
If the link doesn't work copy and paste it into your browser

Explain the Three Reasons for Evangelism

1. The need _____

2. It is a divine commandment

3. It is a privilege

Lesson 4 What Are We Going to Testify?

God's Plan for Salvation

It would be wonderful if every person understood the whole Bible. There are numerous biblical doctrines that constitute extremely interesting topics of conversation. But as you try to lead a person to the Lord, we ask you to remember that that person needs to understand the plan of salvation and nothing else, until after he is saved.

Correctly present the plan of salvation. It is important to make the person understand:

His condition: Sinner - condemned to hell John 3:18, 36

The Solution: Christ Died for Him - Faith in Christ Saves You

No one is ready to take medicine if they don't first find out they're sick and need it. God tells us that "... Natural man does not perceive things that are of the Spirit of God, because to him they are madness, and he cannot understand them, because they are to be discerned spiritually" (1 Corinthians 2:14). Unbelievers cannot really comprehend spiritual teachings because they are not born again and do not have the Holy Spirit inwardly to teach them all these things.

God wants the unsaved to trust in Christ as their personal Savior, and He wants to deal with the lost and help them understand the verses about the plan of salvation (John 16:7-11). Wait until the person is saved before you begin to speak to him regarding consecration or any of the so-called "profound truths" of Scripture.

What we say below will help a person see his need for a Savior and learn how he can be saved. Because of the great differences in people's religious instructions, each person will not need the same degree of emphasis on each point. As you explain the plan of salvation to someone, you should watch for areas in which that person needs more detailed explanation.

Here are some Biblical doctrines and how to present them:

1. Doctrine—Each of us is a sinner, less perfect than God. "For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "There is certainly no righteous man on earth who does good and never sins" (Ecclesiastes 7:20). If you compare your life to the lives of those around you, you may believe that you are a good person; and the way today's society considers what kindness is, you could be. But when you compare even your best qualities to those of Almighty God, you immediately realize that you are not as perfect as God. No one is. One of the words God uses when He says that we "sin" is the Greek expression "hamartano," which means "not to reach the mark."

Presentation—Be careful how you tell an unbeliever that he is a sinner. First admit that you are, and then he will be much more willing to admit that he is a sinner. An effective way to do this, that is, "God says everyone is a sinner—I am, you are, all of us are sinners." Some people associate the term "sinner" solely with "criminal lows." Explain that when the Bible says we are sinners, it means that "good people" are also sinners, because even good people are not perfect.

While we should never act as "saints" or imply that we are because of personal justice, it will also not be wise for us to go to the other extreme. Don't explain your past (or present) sins. Don't use phrases like, "I used to be a sinner, but now I'm saved." Every believer will always be

a sinner until he receives his glorified body.

I once heard a person say that he had not sinned in three years. The verse of I John 1:8 tells us that, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." There will be times when an individual will feel that he is too great a sinner for Christ to save. For such a person, an effective expression is, "God cannot save a good person!" (Good people do not exist—see Romans 3:12.) When the non-believer accepts that he is a sinner, do not torment him until he feels "discredited," but continue to the next point you want him to see in the Bible.

Always keep the debate between the Bible and the unsaved, and not between you and the unbeliever. The point is not that you have the answers, but that God has the answers. Avoid referring to "my opinion; to what my preacher says; or what my church accepts." Always point out that, "This is what the Bible says."

2. Doctrine—The result and penalty of sin is death—separation from God. "For the wages of sin is death. . . ." (Romans 6:23). The payment one receives for sin is death. Sin cannot be paid for through good works, penances, religious affiliation, water baptism, etc.

Sin is paid for with death. God does not hate the sinner, but He hates sin. God hates sin because it separates us from Him. "In flame of fire, to give retribution to those who did not know God, nor obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; who will suffer the penalty of eternal perdition, excluded from the presence of the Lord and the glory of his power" (2 Thessalonians 1:8,9). God does not want us to be separated from Him (Isaiah 59:2).

Except for the people who will be raptured at the Coming of the Lord, all men will die physically. The body returns to dust, and the soul goes to Heaven or Hell. All are born spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1). Our soul is separated from God because we are sinners. For this reason Christ said, "It is necessary for you to be born again" (John 3:7). Only through a new birth of the Spirit can man have eternal life. If a person dies without having trusted Christ as personal Savior, his soul will be separated from God, and he will eventually be cast into the eternal lake of fire. The Bible calls this "the second death" (Revelation 20:14,15).

Presentation—For most people, a simple statement, such as: "God loves us, but He hates our sin because the penalty for sin is death and our separation from Him." When you do not perceive any resistance to this point—and you will generally have no opposition here—continue to the next point you need to explain.

3. Doctrine — Eternal heaven will be a perfect place. Sin will not be able to enter it. "Man must be perfectly just to go to heaven." But we wait, according to his promises, for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:13). "No unclean thing, or that makes abomination and lies, will enter into it, but only those that are written in the lamb's book of life" (Revelation 21:27). This is God's Heaven. He has created it (Genesis 1:1) God lives in it (Psalm 115:3). God says that in heaven there will be no tears, no sorrow, no pain, no death. (Revelation 21:4), and God has the right to say who will enter there. If any kind of sin were allowed into heaven, death would be there, for, as we have seen, "... the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23). Not only must we acknowledge the fact that we are sinners and need our sin to be paid for before we can enter heaven, but also that this body we now have could not live forever anyway. Our body will age, weaken, get sick and die.

Not only does God offer us the payment of our sins so that our soul will go to heaven, but

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

He also offers us a new, glorified body that will live forever, completely free from sin, sickness, and death. This body will be like the glorified body of our Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:21 and I John 3:2).

Presentation—When an unbeliever realizes that he is a sinner, and that with his sin he could not enter heaven, then he will be prepared for the next point to explain. Usually, a statement like, “Heaven is a perfect place and no sin could enter heaven, since any sin would bring death,” will suffice.

4. Doctrine—Nothing man can do will help him obtain the absolute perfection that God requires to give eternal life. “For by grace ye are saved through faith; and this is not yours, for it is a gift of God; not by works, that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8,9). “But he who does not work, but believes in him who justifies the wicked, his faith is told to him by righteousness” (Romans 4:5 “He saved us, not by works of righteousness that we would have done, but by His mercy. . . .”(Titus 3:5).

If there is one thing that is clear in Scripture, it is that man is saved by faith in the total payment that Christ has made for all sin, on the cross, and nothing else. “The efforts of men, no matter how good or well-intentioned, have nothing to do with salvation, neither before nor after it. Salvation is through the work accomplished by Christ Jesus, and we can add nothing to that work” (Florida Bible College Doctrinal Statement, Article 6). One of the things that an unsaved person will find most difficult to comprehend is that one cannot be saved by one’s own works, nor can one help Christ to save one by the works one does, nor can one help to be saved by personal works. This is one of the most important things a person should believe... for if a person does not believe this, then he will not be saved. God tells us that one is not saved by personal works, but by grace through faith. “And if by grace, it is no longer by works; otherwise grace no longer grace. And if by works, it is no longer grace; otherwise the work is no longer work” (Romans 11:6).

Presentation— The way to overcome this false teaching, that man needs to do good works to save himself, is to present to that person the inerrant utterances of God’s Word about salvation through faith alone, without works of any kind.

Sometimes you will only need to refer to a few verses. Better like this! But other times, it is because people have been deceived so much, and indeed have been almost blinded by some religion of the type “do good to be Christian,” that you will have to go over and over again the verses that clearly indicate that “salvation is by faith.” If the person insists that he must work for salvation, show him a verse like Ephesians 2:8, 9 and stop at this verse. Ask him, “How would you interpret ‘not by works’—that it is by works? God says it is not by works!” you will discover that the interpretation of Scripture by the non-believer will not be a problem, but the belief in Scripture.

5. Doctrine — Christ Jesus made full payment for all sins and offers us His righteousness. “He who knew no sin (Christ) for us (God) made him sin, that we might be made righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Christ never sinned. He lived a perfect life. However. He bore our sins upon Himself and paid for them.

He did all this to be able to righteous God instead of what we deserve for our sins. “All of us went astray like sheep, each one went away in his own way; but the LORD (God) bore in Him

(Christ) the sin of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).

We are all sinners. We do what we want to do. But God allowed Christ to carry our sins upon Himself and pay for all of them. "For Christ also suffered only once for sins, the just for the unjust, to lead us to God, being to the truth dead in the flesh, but quickened in spirit" (1 Peter 3:18). Christ was the righteous One.

We are the sinners. But He came into the world, took human form, died on the cross, and rose from the dead, so that we might live forever in heaven with the Lord. "He who himself bore our sins in his body on the wood, that we, being dead to sins, may live to righteousness; and by whose wounds ye have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

Christ Jesus paid for our sins for Himself. He didn't need any help. We were dead spiritually, because of our sins. But He died so that we could live spiritually because He would give us His righteousness. We have been healed because He received our punishment.

"And to you, being dead in sins and in the circumcision of your flesh, he gave you life together with him, forgiving you all sins, annulling the act of the decrees that were against us, which was contrary to us, removing it from the middle and nailing it to the cross" (Colossians 2:13, 14). We—the believers—were spiritually dead. . . . But we have been spiritually revived when we trust in Christ's payment on the cross for our sins. Then He forgave us all our iniquities. Christ can forgive us because He bore all our sins and paid for them.

"Who gave himself for all of us to redeem us from all iniquity..." (Titus 2:14). "Know, therefore, this, men brethren: that through him forgiveness of sins is announced to you, and that of all that by the law of Moses you could not be justified, in him is justified everyone who believes" (Acts 13:38, 39). Law enforcement could not save us. But Christ paid for all sins.

Therefore, if we believe in Christ, He forgives us and justifies us for all the evil we have done. "In that will we are sanctified by the offering of the body of Jesus Christ made once for all. For with a single offering he made the sanctified perfect forever" (Hebrews 10:10, 14).

It is by God's will that we are made pure and holy because Christ Jesus offered Himself for our sins. the one and only payment made by Christ was sufficient for all sins, of all ages, for all people. By that single offering we believers are made perfect forever.

We are purified and sanctified through HIS death. If Christ had not paid fully for all sins, we could not receive justification, and He would not have returned from the dead (Romans 4:25). Since the wages of sin is death, He would still be in the grave. But Christ has risen from the dead, showing that God is satisfied with the payment Christ made for sin.

Why did Christ come into the world? To live? Or to die? "For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). A ransom is the price paid to release someone in captivity. Christ died to pay the full price of our sin and deliver us from our captivity in the satanic consequences of our sin—spiritual death. Sin has been fully paid—paid in full.

What do we lack? We lack justice. God is eagerly waiting to give us His righteousness. God bestows His righteousness on everyone who accepts Christ's payment for their sins and He gives His righteousness the moment a person accepts Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21). God's righteousness is given only by faith—never by works. (Read Romans 4:5-8; 4:22-24; 9:30-32.)

Presentation— Since the above is the very heart of the gospel, you should carefully review all the verses that teach that Christ paid for all sins. If at first the person does not accept the teaching of Scripture, repeat with the same verses, trying to make them as clear to the listener as possible. (A way to clarify the plan of salvation using hand gestures, especially on this point, is explained and illustrated in Chapter 23.) When the person sees that "Christ paid for everything," then proceed to the next point to address.

6. Doctrine— All a person must do to be saved is believe that Jesus was the Lord who paid for all their sins—to receive Christ as their personal Savior. God bestows eternal life only to those who accept it by faith alone. John 3:16 tells us, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

Notice that it is not those who try to work and earn eternal life, but those who believe. John 6:47 says, “Truly, truly, I say unto you, He who believes in me has eternal life.” Christ Jesus, who never told a lie, emphasized this statement by saying: Truly, certainly, he who believes in Me now possesses eternal life. John 1:12 states, “But to all who received him, to those who believe in his name, he gave them power to be made children of God.”

Salvation is always receiving. We do nothing. We accept what Christ I have done for us. We welcome Him as our Savior. John 6:28, 29: “Then they said to him, What should we do to put God’s works into practice? Jesus answered and said to them, ‘This is the work of God, that you may believe in the one whom he has sent.’” God and did the work, and He only asks us to believe in Christ.

We must accept salvation as a gift that God gives us, otherwise we will not be able to obtain it; “not by works”: this does not mean that Christ Jesus has already done enough and we must help him. “Not by works” means what it says: not by works! “that no one may boast”: God does not want there to be boastful in heaven, and therefore there will be none (1 Corinthians 1:29). All praise will be for the Lord Jesus Christ.

One becomes a child of God through faith in Christ, and He takes care of us. Romans 5:1 states, “Justified, then, by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Since we have trusted in Christ, God sees us justified—“as if we had never sinned.” God sees the righteousness of Christ instead of looking at our sins. Therefore, we have peace with God. Christ reconciled God to the believer (see Romans 5:8-11). This is extremely important. Jesus Christ paid for everything!

Presentation— Since the vast majority of people one encounters are somehow trying to “carve out” the way to heaven, we can assume that they are not trusting Christ alone for salvation. As you deal with these people, it will be important to remember that they may never have really understood the gospel. Many of the churches that call themselves “Christian” do not clearly state the plan of salvation, and some do not even know what the plan of salvation is to begin with.

Notice that John 3:16 tells us, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life. “How long does eternal life last? Does it last six months? Ten years? Does it start and end? No! Eternal life lasts forever and ever! “Truly, truly, I say unto you, he who believes in me has eternal life.” “has eternal life” is in the present tense. If one has eternal life right now, he is safe forever. One does not have to wait until he dies to receive eternal life. One receives eternal life the instant of trusting in Christ as one’s personal Savior. 1 John 5:13 tells us, “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may believe in the name of the Son of God.”

Once a person truly receives Christ as his Savior, it will not be difficult for him to realize that he now has eternal life. Heaven is the superlative inheritance of God’s children, and it would be a real tragedy if the Christian did not have the complete confidence to know that he will go to

heaven when he dies.

Those who don't know that they are really saved forever, are usually not even saved. Eternal Life, Eternal Security is not a doctrine apart from salvation. If one is not saved forever, one is simply not saved. Those who think they are saved now, but might lose their salvation later, have one of two problems: (1) they are relying, to some degree, on their works to save themselves, or (2) they do not understand that by trusting in Christ as their personal Savior their destiny is in God's hands.

They may have had little or no biblical instruction and therefore do not realize that God has determined that people who believe in Christ go to Heaven when they die. The first group, those who believe that living a poor Christian life will result in them losing salvation, actually need to be explained the plan of salvation clearly. In some detail they have not well understood that Christ's death paid for all their sins; that their works have nothing to do with their salvation, and that faith in Christ alone saves them. It is a well-defined case of "grace and works."

John 6:39 says, "And this is the will of the Father, who sent me: That of all that he gives me, I should lose nothing, but that I should raise it up in the last day." God's will is that no saved person should ever be lost. God saves us forever. That is His will!

1 Peter 1:4, 5, says "For an incorruptible, uncontaminated, and unfathomable inheritance, reserved in heaven for you, who are guarded by the power of God through faith, to attain the salvation that is prepared to be manifested in the latter days."

Notice who is keeping our salvation... God Himself, through the power of His own omnipotence! And He is reserving a place in heaven for us. John 10:28, "And I give them eternal life; and they shall never perish, nor shall anyone snatch them from my hand."

Those who receive such eternal life will never perish! John 5:24, "Truly, truly, I say unto you, whoever hears my word, and believes him who sent me, has eternal life: and shall not come to damnation, but has passed from death to life." Christ says that those who have eternal life (they already have it) will not be condemned (promise for the future).

Since God promises that believers will not be condemned, why should we not accept His Word and believe that they will not be condemned? Believers cannot go to Hell... for they have already "passed from death to life."

Discipline and Rewards

Yes! Eternal life is guaranteed to all believers, but we must never make the mistake of thinking that Christians can live as they please. Believers cannot live as they please. They may try to do it, but God is not going to allow them. You should clarify this point while you are busy testifying. This is very important because their carelessness in clarifying this matter well may prevent a person from coming to trust Christ as their personal Savior.

When one is saved one becomes a child of God, and although this grants us certain privileges, we must remember that God is now our Father, and has the responsibility to take care of us. If a person thinks that a Christian can live in sin and not be punished for it, that person does not know much about the Bible, nor does he understand the work of the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Christian.

History corroborates the fact that when evil is not punished, it causes much distress and multiplies the damage. Confucius created a social situation that astonished the world... Under such a system there was no problem of crime. Why? Because crime was punished and good rewarded.

Confucius followed the same plan God uses in dealing with His children. God deals with His children primarily in two ways: (1) When one responds to and obeys the Lord's guidance in one's life, the discipline one receives is primarily one of direction, encouragement, and additional instruction; (2) when one rebels against the Lord's leadership, He deals with us to the most severe measure necessary to get us to obey Him. People are mainly motivated by two things: love and fear. God uses both in a perfect combination that is precisely the right dose for every Christian.

Proverbs 3:11, 12, "Do not belittle, my son, the punishment of the Lord, nor be weary of its correction; for Jehovah whom he loves punishes. Like the father to the son he loves." This is quoted in Hebrews 12:6. Notice that when God corrects us, is it because He hates us? No, but because He loves us, and Knows what is best for us. Job 5:17, "Behold, blessed is the man whom God punishes; Therefore, do not belittle the correction of the Almighty."

When a Christian disobeys God, he should confess it immediately. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all wickedness" (1 John 1:9). Every time we sin we must confess it. Every time we confess it we will be forgiven.

Please note two more things regarding 1 John 1:9. (1) God does not guarantee the restoration of communion based on confession of sin. Communion with the Lord comes when the Christian disciplines his life so that he has "things in common" with the Lord. (2) God does not guarantee the restoration of the harm that results from sin based on confession of sin.

For example, perhaps a Christian has gone astray from the things of the Lord, and begins to drink excessively and ruins his kidneys. If such a person confesses his sin, of course, the Lord will forgive him... but that forgiveness... it will not heal the damage done to your kidneys! There is a natural result of sin, as well as God's personal punishment in our lives.

Galatians 6:7 says, "Do not deceive yourselves; God cannot be mocked: for whatever man sows, that too will reap." Notice that God does not add, "except if He confesses it." A Christian can do bad things, but he will not be able to escape the consequences of having done them. A person can put a hand in the fire if he wants, but he will not be able to prevent it from burning.

Some Christians want to sin all week and then pray at the end of the week to be forgiven for the bad harvest! One cannot know how many times one might commit the same sin before God punishes him severely for it. The Lord uses His discretion in each case. You will receive "personal attention." Often people want to know "what God will do to them" if they do "this or that thing." Hebrews 12:11 tells us that when God punishes us, he is never pleasant, "It is true that no discipline at present seems to be a cause of joy but of sorrow; but "then bears fruit' peacefully of justice to those who are exercised in it."

A disobedient son is never happy. Continuing in sin often brings weakness and sickness into our lives. If we refuse to respond to God's treatment of us, if we refuse to discipline our lives, God could still take us home sooner than He has planned (1 Corinthians 11:30-32).

An example of a Christian who God brought Home before his time because of his sin is found in 1 Corinthians 5:1-5. This person was committing adultery with his stepmother. Verse five says that the body of that believer was destroyed and taken home, but please note that he did not lose his salvation. In 1 Corinthians 3:15 we read, "If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved..." Sin in the Christian's life results in the loss of joy, power, witness, fellowship, and reward.

Ephesians 2:8, 9 tells us that we are saved by grace through faith, but verse 10 says. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance for us to walk in." God wants His children to live a life of service for Him—not to be saved, but because we are saved.

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

After a person trusts in Christ for salvation, he should heed Romans 12:1, 2 for service, "So, brethren, I beg you for the mercies of God, to present your bodies in living sacrifice, holy, pleasing to God, which is your rational worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed through the renewal of your understanding, that you may see what is the good will of God, pleasing and perfect."

A life of service to the Lord is richly blessed in the present as well as in the future. When one obeys God's Word and allows the Lord to manage our lives, one has joy, love, and peace in one's life (Galatians 5:22). God promises that "If you hear, and serve Him, you will end your days in welfare, and your years in bliss" (Job 36:11). Jesus said, "... I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

It is the Lord who will reward you. Men are certainly not going to reward him. "Knowing that the good that each one does, he will receive from the Lord, whether he is a servant or a free one" (Ephesians 6:8). In your Christian service sooner or later situations will occur in which you will have done something for the Lord, but another Christian apparently gets all the credit. Don't let that bother you at all. The Lord is the one who maintains the books. you will be rewarded for what you do, no matter how you are looked at by the people here on earth. "And the one who plants and the one who irrigates are one and the same; though each will receive his reward according to his labor" (1 Corinthians 3:8).

"So, my beloved brethren, be firm and steady, growing in the work of the Lord always, knowing that your work in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Lesson 4 - Quiz
What Are We Going to Testify About?

[Click here to take quiz: https://forms.office.com/r/55gacHwfbm](https://forms.office.com/r/55gacHwfbm)
If the link doesn't work copy and paste it into your browser

1. Explain God's Plan for Salvation

2. Explain the doctrine 'We are all sinners'

3. Explain the doctrine 'The wages of sin are death'

4. Explain the doctrine 'Heaven is a perfect place'

5. Explain the doctrine 'There's nothing man can do to be saved'

6. Explain the doctrine 'Christ paid in full for our salvation'

7. Explain the doctrine 'All we need to do to be saved is believe'

8. Explain 'Discipline and Reward' in our relationship with God

Lesson 5 Topics of Discussion

The Importance of Repentance

What place should repentance occupy in your presentation of the gospel? Is repentance the same as belief? Or is it something different? Is it important that we emphasize repentance, or should we never mention it during this time of grace? What does repentance really mean, after all? These are some of the questions that the soul winner must address—and answer—regarding the issue of repentance. Undoubtedly, all men, from Adam to the present, have had to repent in order to have a good relationship with God. The importance of this is underlined when we realize that men of all biblical ages preached repentance.

John the Baptist preached it (Mark 1:15); the apostle John proclaimed their need (Revelation 2:5); Paul preached repentance wherever it went (Acts 17:30; Acts 20:21); and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself vehemently emphasized that men who refuse to repent will perish (Luke 13:3, 5). Therefore, repentance is necessary for salvation.

The Correct Meaning of “Repenting”

The word that in the New Testament is usually translated “repent” is the Greek word *metanoëo*, and the word translated “repentance” is the Greek word *metanoia*. These two Greek words have the same basic meaning: “change of mind or criterion; thinking differently; reconsider.”

Of course, if a person reconsiders or changes his mind—repents—about certain sins in his life, it may make him feel very distressed, and perhaps even abandon those external sins. But his affliction and abandonment of certain sins would be the result of repentance, not repentance itself.

When God tells a lost person to repent, He wants to tell that person to change his or her judgment regarding how to reach God, and to accept the way of salvation God offers him. That person must change his mind from whatever idea of religion he may have to save himself, and he must trust in the payment that Christ has made for all that He has done wrong.

Explanation of some passages about repentance

Luke 13:1-5, “At that same time there were some who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, he said to them, “Do you think that these Galileans, because they suffered such things, were more sinful than all the Galileans? I say: No; but if you do not repent (you change your mind), you will all perish equally (that is, as these Galileans perished). Or those eighteen upon whom the tower of Siloam fell, and killed them, do you think they were more guilty than all the men who dwell in Jerusalem? I say: No; but if you do not repent (you change your mind), you will all perish equally.”

Let’s try to visualize the picture. In this passage Christ was speaking to good people who believed in the old tradition that people suffered only because of their sins. Therefore, they came to the logical conclusion that those who had been killed by Pilate and those who had died under the Tower of Siloam, suffering such a horrible death, must have been great sinners.

Christ Jesus contradicts what they are thinking (“you think,” vv. 2 and 4), and tells these self-righteous people that they need to change their minds and see themselves as sinners. The Lord is not telling them to “stop sinning,” but to recognize that they are sinners, otherwise they

will perish in their own self-righteousness.

Christ Jesus contradicts what they are thinking ("you think," vv. 2 and 4), and tells these self-righteous people that they need to change their minds and see themselves as sinners. The Lord is not telling them to "stop sinning," but to recognize that they are sinners, otherwise they will perish in their own self-righteousness.

Acts 17:30, "But God, having overlooked (or tolerated) the times of this ignorance, now commands all men everywhere to repent." To understand what God means here by "repent," we need only read the last part of verse 29 of the same chapter: "We must not think that the Divinity is like gold, or silver, or stone, a sculpture of art and imagination of men." Instead, what should these Areopathite philosophers think? They needed to change their minds and see that God is completely different from the stone! He is the Divine Magistrate (v. 31), and he is alive (vv. 31, 32). Again, according to the context, the true meaning of "repenting" is clear.

Acts 20:20, 21, "And as nothing useful I have shied away from announcing and teaching you, publicly and by the houses, testifying to Jews and Gentiles about repentance unto God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ." Notice carefully, that in this case the Bible declares that we should proclaim repentance toward God. There is nothing here that infers to stop sinning. Paul is addressing his last words to these beloved Ephesian elders whom he had led to Christ Jesus. Previously, they had been pagan idol worshippers (Acts 19) and very immoral. However, Paul's preaching was that they needed to change their ways of thinking about God.

Think of the impact that the truth of Romans 5:8 would have had on these pagan sinners, "But God shows (unfolds) his love for us, in that, while we are still sinners, Christ died for us." Remember that the word "gospel" means "good news." Do you think it would have been good news for them if Paul had told them, "While we were trying not to sin anymore, God tried to love us a ... little," or if not, "being... even sinners, Christ died for our past sins, and if we stop sinning now, and never sin anymore in the future, then will God show His love for us?" No! These sinners needed to know that the God of the universe loved them even in the condition they were in. They needed the confidence to know that God was not requiring of them the impossible—that they stop sinning—but simply that they trust in Christ and the payment He made for their sins, and thus receive salvation.

The Scriptures then clearly state that God certainly worked in their lives to bring about changes, but this took place only after they had already been saved (Ephesians 2:10). Acts 2:38. "Peter said unto them, Repent, and let each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Here we will concentrate on the part of the verse that has to do with repentance. One of the first rules to follow in understanding any Biblical verse is to take context into account.

In the second chapter of Acts, we discover that these unbelieving Jews believed that the disciples were drunk (vv. 13, 15), and that Jesus was only a man whom they had crucified (vv. 23:36). Peter lets them know that the disciples were not drunk, but were under God's will (vv. 15-17), and that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah) sent by God, and that, although men crucified him, God had raised him from the dead (vv. 24, 32, 36). These Jewish men, having been rectified as to the true details of the events, "were heartbroken (in Greek, 'thoughts'), and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Male brothers, what shall we do?' (v. 37). Peter's immediate response was, "Repent... each of you... for the forgiveness of sins..."

In the madness and uproar of the day Jesus appeared before Pilate, the crowd had shouted, "Crucify him, crucify him." Then they had regarded Christ Jesus as an ordinary man and a troublemaker. But now Peter tells them that they must repent (think differently) about Jesus and

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

realize that He is “Lord and Christ” (v. 36), and that salvation comes only through Him (vv. 21, 38, 41). This, again, is biblical repentance.

The Lordship of Christ in Salvation

Jesus Christ is the only Savior of mankind that exists. “And in no other is there salvation; for there is no other name under heaven, given to men, in which we can be saved” (Acts 4:12). When Jesus was born, the angel said, “That a Savior has been born to you today, in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11). The prophet Isaiah repeats the words of God, who said, “I, I Jehovah (the Lord), and outside of me there is no one to save” (Isaiah 43:11).

Scripture emphasizes that God became flesh in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, and became the Savior of mankind (John 1:1-3, 14, 29). Man’s belief or unbelief regarding the quality of Savior that Jesus possesses does not in any way change the fact that Jesus Christ is truly the Savior. However, when a person recognizes that Jesus Christ is truly the Savior, and trusts Him to be their Savior, then—and only then—that person receives the benefits of Christ’s saving power. Jesus Christ died and rose again for all (Hebrews 2:9; I John 2:2), but He saves only those who trust in Him. That is, although He is “the Savior of the World.” He saves only the people of the world who individually and personally receive Him by faith. God invites “everyone” to trust in His Son, but an amazing truth of God’s Word is that men can forbid the Savior to save them. Such people die without a Savior, even though one was available to them all the time (see John 3:16-18; I John 5:10-12; Revelation 22:17).

Jesus Christ is the omniscient and omnipotent Creator and Controller of the Universe. Colossians 1:16 tells us, “... Everything was created through him and for him.” Verse 17 adds, “... and all things in him subsist” (they are held together). God led Paul to write that Christ Jesus is “the blessed and sovereign alone, King of kings, and Lord of lords” (1 Timothy 6:15). He who was crucified on Calvary was none other than the Lord of Glory (I Corinthians 2:8).

Some people will ask if Jesus was really the Lord when men. . . . they killed him, by the hands of the wicked, crucifying him...” (Acts 2:23). Naturally! For He Himself said, “... I put my life back in, to take it back. no one takes it from me, but I put it myself. I have power to put it on, and I have power to take it back...” (John 10:17, 18). The Bible says, “... that to this Jesus whom you crucified, God has made him Lord and Christ” (Messiah). The hour comes when all will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Philippians 2:10, 11).

Understanding Predestination

Biblical doctrine: “God is absolutely sovereign, and in His sovereignty, He gave man a free will to accept or reject the salvation He has provided. It is God’s desire that all be saved and that none should perish. God knows in advance, but He does not predetermine that no man be condemned.

God allows each person’s destiny to depend on their choice.” (Quoted from the Florida Bible College Doctrinal Statement, item 4.) 1 Timothy 2:4 tells us that God “wants all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.” God does not predetermine who will believe and who will not believe, but God has predetermined what would happen to believers and unbelievers.

The parent who asks the son to mow the lawn may have predetermined that if the son does, he will reward him, and if the son doesn’t, he will punish him. God explains salvation to us in the

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

same way: that the choice of our salvation depends on us, but that He has predetermined the results of our choices. Acts 10:34, Ephesians 6:9, Colossians 3:25, Romans 2:11, 2 Chronicles 19:17, all explicitly emphasize that God is no respecter of persons and does not choose one to be saved and another to be lost, but that He loves everyone equally. This is certainly clear in 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 eternal life." 2 Thessalonians 2:13 says, "But we must always thank God for you, brethren loved by the Lord, that God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation, through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth." We are made pure and holy through the sanctification of the Spirit.

If we look for "sanctification" in the Greek New Testament, we will find that it means to be made "holy, pure, and blameless." God chose that those who believe the truth be sanctified by the Spirit. But God did not choose those who would believe the truth! Ephesians 1:4 is addressed to those who have received Christ as personal Savior and says that God predetermined that all believers who stand before Him be holy and spotless. Fatalists believe this verse is teaching that God chooses some to be saved. But the epistle of Ephesians in its entirety is written for those who are already saved (Ephesians 1:1), and verse 4 specifically says that this is to those who are already "in him"—believers who are in Christ. Ephesians 1:13 tells us that we hear the Word of truth first, and that, believing later, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:29 reveals more about God's foreknowledge, "For he predestined those whom he knew before, he also predestined them to be made conforming to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." Some take this verse out of context and say that God chose some and caused them to be conformed to the image of His Son.

They do not realize that God knew in advance those who would believe, and Predestined believers to conform them to the image of HIS Son. God did not predetermine who would believe. But He predetermined what would happen to those who believed. 1 Peter 1:2 also tells us that we are chosen according to God's foreknowledge as to who they would believe.

God possesses a faculty that people lack. He can see the future. This is perhaps because God is "eternal" and therefore is actually living in the future as well as in the present. If we could see the future and know exactly what things will take place, etc., then we could tell people what would happen in times to come. This does not mean that we would make these things happen, but simply that we would know what is going to happen.

God does not "decide" who will be saved. God does not "make" anyone believe. (Although He wants everyone to be saved, and He wants everyone to believe.) But, since God can see the future, He knows who will believe and who will not believe. Long before we were born, God already knew that we would decide to trust Christ as our personal Savior. But this "foreknowledge" of his did not motivate us to trust in Christ as our Savior.

Faith Without Works

James 2:14-24 is a passage that is often questioned by the lost after they hear the gospel of salvation by grace, without works. Actually, it is not difficult to achieve a proper understanding of this passage if one takes into account certain basic principles that are very useful for discerning any Scripture, such as:

1. Who is the author writing to... to non-believers or believers?
2. What situation caused the writing of this passage?

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

3. Careful study of this passage, verse by verse, without adding or removing anything from God's Word.
4. The comparison of this passage with other biblical passages on the same subject.

If we analyze the passage from James 2:14-24 considering the views mentioned above, we will have the following:

1. The passage is addressed to the saved, to believers. In James 2:14 the author says, "My brethren."
2. The entire epistle was addressed to Christians to instruct them as to the conduct and service of believers.
3. A continuación se presenta una consideración del pasaje, verso por verso.

James 2:14, "My brethren, what do you profit from if you say that you have faith, and you have no works? Can faith save him?" James asks if there is any benefit, any value, any fruit, if a man claims to have faith in Christ, even though he does not live, nor worship God as a Christian should.

In Ephesians 2:10 Christians are told, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance for us to walk in." It is true that those who are saved are saved by faith and not by what they do. But after they are saved, God wants them to do good works.

Titus 3:8 highlights this clearly by saying, "This is the faithful word, and in these things I want you to insist firmly, that those who believe in God may seek to engage in good works. These things are good and useful to men." In order to be able to help people and to have a good ministry with them, the Christian must take care to live a good testimony.

Titus 3:14 tells us, "And let ours also learn to engage in good works for cases of need, that they may not be fruitless." If you want to bear fruit for the Lord, you must exercise yourself in doing good works. not to be saved, but to be fruitful. Therefore, to answer James' first question—there is no gain, nor is there fruit, if a person claims to have faith, but does not produce works of any kind. Such a person is saved, but he is an unsuccessful Christian. John 15:2 warns those who are saved—in Christ—but who bear no fruit, "Every branch that bears no fruit in me will take it away..." God brings out the Christian who is a stumbling block for others.

The next question from James 2:14 is, "Can faith save you?" Romans 4:5 answers it clearly, saying, "But he who does not work, but believes in him who justifies the wicked, his faith is told to him by righteousness." Yes, faith can save you. And in fact, nothing else could do it. But if someone tries to be saved by faith and works, that person fails to save himself (Romans 11:6; Galatians 5:2; 5:4).

James 2:15, 16 tells us, "And if a brother or sister is naked, and they need the maintenance of each day, and some of you say to them, Go in peace, warm up and be satisfied, but you do not give them the things that are necessary for the body, what do you take advantage of?" The answer is that this attitude is of no benefit of any kind to the person in need. You have not helped a person's material needs—you have not provided him with food or clothing—just by telling him to leave in peace.

James 2:17, "So also faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself." The word "dead" in this verse

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

is the Greek word *nekros*, and means “useless.” If you have faith in the Lord, but do nothing for others, your faith will be of no value to them. It will be useless to their fellowmen. You will not be demonstrating to others your faith in Christ by simply saying, “Go in peace, warm and satiate,” if you are not willing to do something to help them. The fact is that you will be a discredit to Christianity and of much damage to the gospel.

James 2:18, “But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by works.’” A Christian might say, “You have faith and I have works. You tell me that you have so much faith without showing me any kind of works; but I tell you that I have faith and you can see that I have faith, because my works show that I believe.”

The person who does not show his faith in works will be disciplined in this life and will have no reward in Christ’s millennial kingdom (Hebrews 12:6; I Corinthians 3:15). He will have neither joy, nor peace, nor love in his life, for these things are not the result of living for himself, but the result of living for the Lord, disciplining his life under the direction of the Holy Spirit and through His power (Galatians 5:22). Santiago 2:21 dice: James 2:21 says, “Was Abraham our father not justified by the works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?” The answer to James’ question is, “Yes!”

That’s right, Abraham was justified by works when he offered Isaac. But the question is, justified to whom? Before men... or before God? in those days, when men saw the great faith that Abraham had, that he had even offered his son to God at the request of the Lord, Abraham was justified before men. They knew, by works, that here was a man who truly had great faith in God. Abraham’s faith was demonstrated to men through works.

But when was Abraham justified before God? The Lord justified Abraham by his faith many years before he offered Isaac. The fact is that Abraham was justified even before Isaac was born. “And he believed the Lord, and it was told to him for righteousness” (Genesis 15:6). Galatians 3:6-11 is very clear on this point: “Thus Abraham believed God, and was told to him for righteousness.

James 2:24, “You see, then, that man is justified by works, and not by faith alone.” People, then, see by the works of a person that he has faith. People don’t have the ability that God has to see a person’s faith—to know a person’s thoughts. I Samuel 16:7 explains this clearly: “And the Lord answered Samuel, “Look not at his opinion, nor at the greatness of his stature, for I discard him; for the Lord does not look at what man looks; for man looks at what is before his eyes, but Jehovah looks at the heart.”

To briefly summarize this passage from James 2:14-24, we will say the following: This passage teaches us that if people are to notice that a person has faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, that person’s good works must be evident. Man observes our life and judges (whether right or wrong), whether we have faith or not. Therefore, believers should be very careful—as Titus 3:8 indicates—to keep a good testimony. This has nothing to do with the believer’s salvation, but it has a lot to do with other people as far as the Lord Jesus Christ is concerned.

Water Baptism

The Roman Catholic Church, the Church of Christ, some Lutheran churches, and even a few Baptist churches, teach that a person must be baptized by water—in addition to trusting in Christ—otherwise he cannot be saved.

To understand the Scriptural teachings regarding baptism, we must know what the word

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

itself means. The Greek words translated “baptize” and “baptism” are baptizo, baptisma, and baptismos. Although you are not a polyglot, you may notice from these terms that the word “baptize” is not really at all a translation of the Greek baptizo.

The translators simply replaced a couple of letters. This is called transliteration, that is, not a translation proper, since, in a faithful translation, the meaning of the word is carried from one language to another. This was not what was done with the word “baptize” or “baptism.”

The result of this is that every time someone hears or reads about baptism, they automatically think it must mean water baptism. Therefore, when a person reads in Acts 2:38, for example, “... Repent, and be baptized... for the forgiveness of sins...” it erroneously concludes that one must be submerged in water to be saved... for the verse says that one must be baptized to receive God’s forgiveness.

Lack of understanding as to the correct meaning of baptism has resulted in much confusion and harm. The word means “to overbid (submerge or cover), and to clean.” When Scripture refers to water baptism, the context always highlights it clearly. When water is not mentioned in connection with baptism, we must use extreme care when studying the passage so that we can recognize what kind of baptism—“cleansing” or “submerging”—it is referring to.

The Different Kinds of Baptism in the Scriptures

There are at least six different kinds of baptism in the Bible:

- 1) John’s baptism (Matthew 21:25)
- 2) The baptism of repentance (Mark 1:4)
- 3) Baptism or cleansing for death (Romans 6:4)
- 4) Water baptism (Matthew 3:11)
- 5) Baptism in the Spirit (Matthew 3:11; 1 Corinthians 12:13)
- 6) Baptism in Moses (I Corinthians 10:2)

The above is enough to make us think twice before assuming that baptism must always refer to water.

The Baptism That Is Necessary for Salvation

Mark 16:16 says, “Whoever believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he who does not believe shall be condemned.” Logically, therefore, there is a kind of baptism that is necessary for salvation. John the Baptist, showing the difference between his baptism and the baptism of Christ, said, “I have baptized you with water to the truth; but he (Christ) will baptize you with a holy spirit” (Mark 1:8).

After the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ Jesus, Paul came to meet some of John’s disciples, who were not saved, even though they had been baptized into water by John. They had not yet received the baptism (cleansing) of the Holy Spirit. When they received it, they were saved (Acts 19:1-7; compare Romans 8:9). It is the baptism of the spirit that is essential to salvation. and not water baptism. The Lord Jesus Christ did not baptize anyone with water for as long as He was here on earth.

If water baptism were necessary for salvation, then Christ Jesus would have prevented salvation from all the people with whom He dealt directly. Ephesians 4:5 says that there is “a baptism” that God recognizes today. And the quote from 1 Corinthians 12:13 describes it clearly:

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

“For by one SPIRIT we were all (without excluding any believer) baptized into one body... and we were all given to drink of the same SPIRIT.” Note that “one Spirit” and “one baptism” from Ephesians 4:4, 5 are perfectly in agreement with “one Spirit” and “one body” from 1 Corinthians 12:13. THIS is baptism, or cleansing, that is necessary for salvation. This baptism is performed by God, and not by man.

How and when is the baptism of the spirit received?

To be a child of God one must have the Holy Spirit, for God tells us, “... And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of him” (Romans 8:9). John 1:12, 13 tells us that we become children of God, born of Him, when we receive Christ by faith. And when we receive Christ, we also receive the Spirit.

“In him also you (Gentiles), having heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and having believed in it, were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise” (Ephesians 1:13). John 7:39 says, “This said of the Spirit that those who believed in him (Christ) were to receive...” The Holy Spirit is bestowed upon believers at the time of being saved and He dwells in them forever.

“Or do you ignore that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you, which you have of God, and which is not yours?” (1 Corinthians 6:19). The letter of 1 Corinthians was written to all believers (see 1 Corinthians 1:2), therefore all believers are indwelt by the Spirit and have received His baptism or cleansing.

Scriptural passages that some people think teach water baptism for salvation:

Acts 2:38, “Peter said unto them, Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” We can discover what this verse means if we clearly consider the following points:

(1) To be “baptized” means to be “cleansed.”

(2) These unbelieving Jews were heartbroken when Peter reminded them that they had had a part in the crucifixion of Jesus. And he tells them to cleanse themselves of that sin “In the name of Jesus Christ”—the same person they helped crucify.

(3) Peter told them to be baptized “in the name of Jesus Christ.” Some suppose that Peter wanted to tell them to be baptized in water and that in doing so, Peter would tell them, “I baptize you in the name of Jesus Christ.” However, this is not what God has recorded in this passage, but what men have interpreted. God says these people were cleansed in the name of Christ. Let us remember that HIS name means, “the God who saves, protects, satisfies, etc.” There is power to cleanse in His Name!

(4) Notice that when these people were cleansed in Christ, they received the gift of the Holy Ghost. Therefore, this is another verse that shows that the baptism or cleansing that accompanies salvation is of the Spirit—not of water.

(5) Also, notice that it says the gift of the Holy Ghost. If one needed water baptism to be saved, or to receive the Holy Spirit, neither salvation nor the Holy Spirit would be a gift from God, but

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

from the works of man.

(6) When "Baptism" refers to water, it means to become completely wet; when it refers to salvation, it means being totally or completely cleansed by the Spirit. Acts 2:41 records that 3,000 people trusted Christ because of Peter's message.

If the baptism in this passage were referring to water baptism, where could they have been baptized by Peter? He and all the other people were in the Temple area, and there no water speaks, except in a lebrillo in which the priests washed their hands and feet before entering the Holy Place of the temple. But verse 41 tells us that 3,000 souls were added to the disciples "that day." In the whole passage the water is not mentioned even once.

Literally translated, Acts 2:38 could be read; "Then Peter said to them, 'Change your judgment, and cleanse each of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins; and they will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.'"

Mark 16:16, "Whoever believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he who does not believe shall be condemned." Please note four things with respect to this verse:

1) Only disbelief condemns. Being baptized by water, or not being baptized by water, has nothing to do with it.

2) Baptism here is the baptism of the Spirit, not baptism by water.

3) He who believes and is cleansed shall be saved. We are the ones who believe, and God is the one who cleanses us. "And that was a few: but you have already been washed, you have already been sanctified; ye have been justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:11).

4) As for the passage from Mark 16, "The two oldest manuscripts, the Sinaitico and the Vatican, do not have the vs. 9-20. Other manuscripts include this passage, but with partial omissions and variants. However, Irenaeus and Hippolytus quoted him, in the second or third century" (see Scofield note 2 for Mark 16:9). John 3:5, "Jesus answered, Verily, truly, I say to you, that he who is not born of water and the Spirit cannot enter the kingdom of God." Some people believe that this verse refers to water baptism because it says that one must be "born of water." But let me ask a question: Are birth and baptism one and the same? Of course not! If Christ meant, "You must be baptized in water," He would have said so. But He said, "Born of water" because Jesus knew the difference between the two.

Let's consider the context. The first time Jesus speaks to Nicodemus about the new birth, He says, "He who is not born again cannot see the kingdom of God" (v. 3). Nicodemus thought Christ's statement referred to another physical birth. And indeed, he asked, "How can a man be born old? Can he enter his mother's womb a second time, and be born?" (v. 4). We know that the birth of water in John 3:5 cannot mean baptism in water. There are at least two things this could mean within the context, and without contradicting the other parts of God's Word:

1) Some biblical scholars believe that being "born of water" refers to physical birth. Notice Jesus' answer to Nicodemus that a man has to be born (the subject from beginning to end is birth, not baptism) of the water of the Spirit. Christ was saying, "Nicodemus, you must be

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

born of water (physical birth) and of the Spirit (new birth).” Why is it said that being “born of water” refers to physical birth? By Christ’s explicit statement in the same verse that follows, “That which is born of the flesh, flesh is; and that which is born of the spirit is” (v. 6). Then Jesus went on to say, “Do not marvel (do not be surprised) that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”

2) Other biblical scholars believe that being “born of water” refers to the Holy Spirit. Throughout the Gospel of John, water is used as an illustration to point to Christ as the giver of “living water,” just as in John 4:6-14. Being together, at Jacob’s well Jesus asked the Samaritan woman to drink, and also told her that He could give her water too. But the water he gives is not the same. The water He gives is “a fountain of living water that jumps for eternal life” (v. 14). In John 7:39 Christ gave this explanation of the “living water”: “This said of the Spirit that those who believed in him were to receive...” The Greek word translated “and” in John 3:5 is “kai.” In Strong’s Concordance (No. 2532), we find that this word is a “primitive participle, which has copulative (union) importance, and sometimes cumulative.” Apart from translating “and” it is also translated as “certainly, also, in addition,” etc. Therefore, if we were to express the verse of John 3:5 in paraphrase, we could read it this way: “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever is not born of water (the living water that Christ gives), to the truth, by the Spirit, cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

3) And yet other Bible students believe that the birth of water in John 3:5 is talking about the “washing of water by the Word,” as mentioned in Ephesians 5:26 and Titus 3:5. What is important for us to know is that salvation is always and only by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and this passage from John 3:5 in no way suggests baptism by water for salvation. For anyone to conclude that John 3:5 is referring to water baptism, it would mean that such a person has completely overlooked the full context of the third chapter. 1 Peter 3:21, “The baptism that corresponds to this now saves us (not by removing the filth of the flesh, but as the aspiration of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” This verse is not even talking about the salvation of a person’s soul, but about being saved or delivered from a conscience guilty of not obeying God. (In this case, obeying God by being baptized by water after salvation.)

However, those who believe that water baptism is essential for salvation often use this verse, so we will give some details about its explanation. (But every time this verse was used, I never had a single person quote more than the first part of it: “The baptism that corresponds to this now saves us...”). It is as if Satan has put blinders on people, because they cannot see that the verse continues to state clearly that this salvation is not the salvation that in no way “takes away the sins of the flesh.” Notice how emphatic the Lord is:

“Not removing the filth from the flesh . . .” However, time and again, when I have indicated this to those who think that this verse teaches baptismal regeneration, they react as if they had never seen the last part of the verse. But the Lord placed it there to keep us from getting confused.

However, someone might say, “This verse certainly says ‘baptism... now he saves us...’ “Yes, it saves us, and God’s Word tells us what it saves us from. The verse itself, and the context itself, answers the question, “What does baptism save us from?” Verse 20 says that “eight, (Noah and his family) were saved by water.” The word “by” should literally read “by.”

You can check this yourself in any other translation — American Standard Version, Williams, Weymouth, New English Bible, etc.

It becomes perfectly clear when we read about the flood in Genesis 7, that people were not

saved by water. They were condemned and killed BY the water. But the eight believers who were in the boat (typologically 'to be in Christ'), were saved by the waters, by the ark. Literally, verse 20 can be read, "Eight, (people) were saved by water." When verse 21 says that, "the baptism that corresponds to this now saves us," we must understand that there are different kinds of 'salvation,' just as there are different kinds of 'baptisms.'"

Some examples of the different kinds of "salvation" in Scripture are: James 5:15, 'And the prayer of faith will save (protect, deliver) the sick, and the Lord will raise him up...' Here we are not talking about the salvation of the soul, but about freeing someone from a physical illness. Acts 27:31, "... If they do not remain in the ship, you cannot be saved." Save yourself from drowning. But, suppose I started a new cult. I could call it the cult of the "Navitas," and I could use this verse as my divinely bestowed authority, if people had to live in ships to be saved. But how many people do you think would be saved if you had to live in ships to achieve salvation?

Hebrews 5:7 mentions that the Father could deliver (protect, save) Jesus from physical death. But Jesus gave His life willingly (John 10:18), and even though He knew that He would suffer in the flesh, He endured the cross to have the joy of seeing souls saved by the payment He made on the cross for them.

The Greek word in I Peter 3:21—and elsewhere in the Bible—translated "to save" is "sozo," and means "to be saved, protected, delivered." You should always read the context to see what kind of protection, or deliverance, or salvation you are referring to. I Peter 3:21 is clear as to what kind of salvation and deliverance is mentioned here.

Carefully note the words: "The baptism that corresponds to this now saves us—protects, delivers—(not by removing the filth of the flesh, but as the aspiration of a good conscience toward God)..." As children of God by faith, we should follow Christ's command to be baptized by water after we are saved, and when we obey this commandment we have a good conscience toward God. We are freed from a conscience that condemns us. (See Matthew 28:19; Acts 8:36-38; Acts 10:47-48.)

In 1 Corinthians 1:17, Paul says, "For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel . . ." If water baptism were necessary for salvation, then Paul would indeed be saying, "For Christ did not send me to see that people are saved, but to preach the gospel..." Anyone can see how ridiculous this would be. Likewise, in 1 Corinthians 1:14, Paul would have said, "I thank God that none of you were saved except Crispus and Gaius." This would completely nullify the entire purpose of the apostle Paul's total ministry.

Water baptism never cleanses or washes away sin. Only the blood of Jesus Christ can do this (Ephesians 1:7). Salvation comes through our faith.

The ordinance of communion is a type of our salvation, by the death of Christ. The ordinance of baptism is a type of our service, by the power of the Holy Ghost.

Service comes through our obedience, and as believers, we should obey God's Word, following His commandments in the best way we can. In this obedience, water baptism should certainly be included. This is a testimony to others that one is now walking in a new life (Romans 6:4).

Evolution

To be able to deal in detail with the subject of Evolution and Creation would logically require much more information than we could include in this chapter, but we have written something that will help you to get an idea of how you could answer a lost person if he offered his belief

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

in Evolution as an excuse not to receive Christ as his personal Savior.

Winning an argument about Evolution might make you feel brilliant, but remember that if your presentation aggravates the unbeliever. You would run the great risk that he will not trust Christ because he has become obfuscated because he could not win the argument.

If you can easily and quickly answer the questions that person asks you about evolution, and immediately return to the plan of salvation, you will achieve much more than if you devote hours to a completely unnecessary argument. Your scientific knowledge is not God's power to salvation—even if you are testifying to a person who is interested in science. The gospel is still God's power unto salvation. Wisely keep this in mind.

Definitions

Materialistic Evolution: The existence and progression of life without God's help.

Theistic Evolution: The progression of life from some primitive form that God may have created, but which evolved without God's help from its first form of life onward.

Biblical Doctrine: God created all things. "All things were done by him, and without him nothing that has been made was made" (John 1:3). At the end of this chapter are given several verses of God's Word that expressly teach of Creation. What follows is the kind of information that if you become familiar with it, you will be able to use one or more parts of it, and perhaps you can turn the conversation back to the gospel quickly, without getting caught up in a big argument with the listener and making him feel "discredited." That is their goal.

Theory or Reality?

Evolution, the transmutation of species, has never been demonstrated. And the reason for that is very simple. It has never happened! Evolution is nothing more than the imaginations of men who deny the Word of God, and are therefore desperately striving to find some explanation for the origin of life. Life exists. Somehow it got here. God says He created her.

Those who do not accept God's Word should seek some other explanation. The evolutionist strives hard. However, it seems that it comes to nothing. Even Charles Darwin himself, recognizing that although there are variations within species, there are no transmutations—there are no changes from one species (or family) to another—wrote in his book, *My Life and My Letters*, Volume I, page 210, "No change from one species to another has been recorded." "We cannot prove that a single species has been changed (into another)."

The Missing Link

The intense search for the "missing link" indicates the error of the Theory of Evolution more emphatically than anything else we can imagine. For a moment, let's reflect on this. Here we are, fully developed human beings. Evolutionists teach that the closest animal on the descending scale from the man is probably the ape, gorilla, or some other similar animal, although it has not yet been identified.

The theories of evolutionists change from time to time. Whichever animal they think is the closest thing to humans—they are trying to find a "missing link" that establishes a "link" between that animal and man.

But if Evolution were true, there would be no need to look for a "missing link," because

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

there would be many more “intermediates” than terminal specimens since fully developed man would be the result of many years of small changes from (say, for the sake of this illustration) the ape to man.

Archaeologists would be constantly digging up millions and millions of skeletons, part man and part ape. There would have to be skeletons from ALL the different stages of development from ape to man. But where are these millions of skeletons? And, after all, why are you looking for the “missing link”? The chain of missing links, in its entirety, is lost!

The Origin of Matter

Probably the biggest problem—because it is certainly insurmountable—for the materialist evolutionist is: Who or what thing is responsible for the first fragment of matter?

Ignoring their theory as to how the world was formed, they cannot deny that it has been formed, and they cannot tell us where the first fragment of matter that was used to make the world came from.

In Jeremiah 10:12 God tells us what He used to create the earth. He used His power, (in Hebrew, His “energy”). It is interesting to note that, during our very existence, Albert Einstein formulated the Equation of Relativity represented by $E=mc^2$, which is exactly what God said in the Bible some 2600 years ago.

In simple terms, this formula states that matter and energy are equivalent. One can obtain energy (E) equal to the amount of matter (m) multiplied by the square of the speed of light (c), (300,000 kilometers per second). God told us, long before the scientific world recognized Him, that matter was created by energy.

Evolutionists would like to make Bible-believers feel ignorant for believing in what God’s Word tells us, in this age of so much knowledge, but anyone who thinks the Bible disagrees with science, doesn’t know the Bible well, or isn’t talking about true science.

With regard to the men of this age of scholarship, who reject the truths of the Bible, God says that they “are always learning, and can never come to the knowledge of the truth” (2 Timothy 3:7). Since such men do not want to accept God’s explanation of the origin of the earth, they must strive to find some other kind of reasonable explanation. Unfortunately, evolution is not the answer. Evolution is not reasonable, and it is not even possible.

The Ladder of Creation

Many evolutionists teach that, from the beginning, the following order of things evolved upwards: the atom, the molecule, 1 protein molecule, the virus, the bacteria, the algae, the protozoa, the metazoans, the man.

This cannot be true. The protein molecule could not develop only from atoms and molecules unless the protein was already present. Man has been trying to create protein from different chemicals and compound bodies and has not succeeded.

Only God can create protein. The virus could not exist before a type of life superior to the virus had been created, since the virus requires a “host cell” to live on it. A virus cannot live solely on atoms, molecules, and protein molecules.

It can be seen, therefore, that the “ladder of creation,” created by evolutionists to prove such a theory, itself, actually refutes the theory of evolution.

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

The Bible Says God Created Plants

Genesis 1:29, "And God said, Behold, I have given you every plant that gives seed, that is upon all the earth, and every tree in which there is fruit and which gives seed; they will be for you to eat." Isaiah 41:19, 20, "I will give in the wilderness cedars, acacias, myrtles, and olive trees; I will put in solitude cypresses, pines, and boxwoods together, that they may see and know, and warn and understand all, that the hand of Jehovah does this, and that the Holy One of Israel believed it."

God Created Animals

Genesis 1:24, 25, "Then God said, Let the earth produce living beings according to their kind, beasts and serpents and animals of the earth according to their species. And it was. And God made animals of the earth according to their gender, and cattle according to their gender, and every animal that crawls on the earth according to its species. And God saw that it was good." 1 Corinthians 15:38, 39, "But God gives him the body as he willed, and to each seed his own body. Not all flesh is the same flesh, but one flesh is that of men, another flesh that of beasts, another that of fish, and another that of birds." Psalm 32:9, "Do not be like the horse, or' like the mule, without understanding..." Animals do not have a spirit. They lack rational understanding. They could not decide as to improve themselves through "evolution." Psalm 36:6, "... O Jehovah, you preserve man and animal." Notice that it is not the "survival of the fittest," but that God is the one who preserves.

God created man

Genesis 2:7, "Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the earth, and breathed into his nose breath of life, and man was a living being." (Professor E. Slossen, an analytical chemist from Washington D.C., USA, showed that dust on earth contains 14 elements, and that the human body contains the same 14 elements.)

Job 20:4, "Do you not know this, which was always so, from the time man was placed on the earth . . .?" Man did not come through evolution. He was put on! Job 32:8, "There is certainly spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty causes him to understand."

Notice the contrast between man in this verse and animals in Psalm 32:9. God made the difference from the beginning. The man did not wander around and suddenly "appropriated a spirit." Job 33:4, "The spirit of God made me, and the breath of the Almighty gave me life." Psalm 100:3, "Recognize that Jehovah is GOD; He made us, and not us ourselves..."

Romans 9:20, "But before, O man, who are you, that you may alternate with God? Will the clay glass say to the one who formed it: Why have you made me like this?" Isaiah 43:7, "All the calls of my name; for my glory I have created them, formed them, and made them."

Isaiah 45:12, "I made the earth, and I created man upon it. I, my hands, stretched out the heavens, and I commanded his whole army." Psalm 95:6, "Come, worship, and prostrate ourselves; let us kneel before Jehovah our Maker."

God Created Heaven and Earth

Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Romans 1:20, "For the invisible things of him, his eternal power and deity, become clearly visible from the creation

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

of the world, being understood through the things made, so that they have no excuse.”

John 1:10, “In the world he was, and the world for him was made; but the world did not know him.” Isaiah 45:18, “For thus saith the Lord, who created the heavens; he is God, the one who formed the earth, the one who made it and composed it; he did not create it in vain, that it might be inhabited he created it: I am Jehovah, and there is no other.”

God Created all Things

Hebrews 3:4, “For every house is made by one; but the one who made all things is God.” Colossians 1:16, “For in him were created all things, those in heaven and those on earth, visible and invisible; be thrones, be dominions, be principalities, be powers; everything was created through him and for him.” Acts 17:24, “The God who made the world and all things in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made by human hands.”

Revelation 4:11, “Lord, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; for you created all things, and by your will they exist and were created.” Revelation 10:6, “And he swore by him who lives forever and ever, that I BELIEVE heaven and the things that are in it, and the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that time would be no more.” Acts 4:24, “And they, having heard him, unanimously raised their voices to God, and said, Sovereign Lord, you are the God who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them.”

In Conclusion:

Science cannot prove Evolution because it is not a fact. The Bible, as we have just read, teaches Creation. Please that when you testify to a lost person, if the topic of Evolution comes up, answer the questions quickly and return to the topic of the plan of salvation as soon as possible.

Lesson 5 - Quiz
Topics of Discussion

[Click here to take quiz: https://forms.office.com/r/1wx49DAA4K](https://forms.office.com/r/1wx49DAA4K)
If the link doesn't work copy and paste it into your browser

1. Explain the Importance of Repentance

2. Explain the meaning of "Repentance"

3. Explain the Lordship of Christ in our Salvation

4. Define predestination

5. Explain baptism in water

6. Explain Baptism in the Holy Spirit

7. Explain Evolution

8. Explain La Creation

Lesson 6 Reasons to Believe in God and in His Word

The Atheist and the Agnostic

Often a person is an atheist or skeptical because he has observed the existence of numerous irregularities in the different Christian denominations. Things like the Centuries of Obscurantism (or Black Age), the “holy” wars of the Crusades, the superstition and anti-intellectual environment that has permeated much of Christianity, the attitude of pseudo-pious people who consider themselves Christians. . . all of this has played an important role in fostering skepticism and disbelief.

Therefore, when you testify to a skeptical person, you will often discover that you may even agree on many of the Things with which e1 is dissatisfied with the organized religions you reject.

It is important that you be kind, courteous, and in every way maintain very high standards of human relations while dealing with skeptics, because, naturally, such people will be looking for any reason to base contempt for Christianity. Let them see that a person who has truly accepted Christ as a personal Savior is not a hypocrite, but a person who is sincerely trying to live an honest life before God and men... of course, not to save herself, but because she is already saved.

Regarding God

“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God’ (Psalm 14:1). There are more people who fit into the category of agnostics than into that of atheists. While the atheist has convinced himself that there is no God, the agnostic does not know if there is a God and does not know if anyone can really know that there is a God. Today, many college students are wondering about the existence and reality of a personal God.

These people need to see that we do not believe in God just because our parents believe, our churches also believe, or because it is “nice” to believe in God, but because we are convinced that God is real, is a living God, and is vitally interested in us.

The Reasons We Believe in God

1. Creation requires a Creator. The owner of a wristwatch knows that a watchmaker was the creator of his watch. It took intelligence, reasoning, and effort to make such a watch. The magnificence of our human bodies, the complexity of our planet, our immense and orderly universe, all give evidence of a Creator. It took intelligence, reasoning, and effort to make us and the physical world in which we find ourselves. There are laws that govern our universe—laws of gravity, motion, weather stations, tides, wind circuits, etc. Such laws presuppose a legislator. Our universe evidences a design and had to have a designer.

2. The Bible had to be written by God. Later in this chapter, we will mention the reasons why we know that the Bible is the Word of God. It is impossible that the Bible was written by man alone. The very fact that the Bible is written like this shows that there had to be a higher intelligence to guide the writers. Because we know there is a God, we can see the logic and rationality of God writing the Bible. But conversely, because we know the Bible, we can show that there is a

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

God who wrote it.

3. The person who does not believe in God will have to face the problem of trying to verify a refusal. This refusal would be impossible to prove. Here's why: How could a person prove that there is no God? Has this person been everywhere, in and out of the universe? If there is a Place where he has not been, there could be God. Does this person know everything? If there's something, you don't know that something could be God.

4. Thousands of Christians testify that they know God; that they speak to God and that God hears their prayers and demonstrates this by answering their prayers. Usually, the person who is an atheist or agnostic also tends to feel or believe themselves to be scientific. You will be able to indicate to that person that a true scientist will not be able to reject the testimony of thousands of individuals that a certain person exists, has the highest level of intelligence and personality, and loves all men dearly. Certainly, these wonderful assertions will force the honest skeptic to conduct a thorough investigation of the matter, and prevent him from rushing to the conclusion that there is no God.

It has been said that when it comes to God and the Bible, the skeptic who is honest will not continue to be skeptical for long, because after he thoroughly investigates the matter, he will cease to be skeptical forever. To those who do not believe in God, or who believe that God is dead, we say, "Our God is well alive! We are so sorry for yours!"

The Bible

If a person tells you that they do not believe the Bible, communicate the gospel to them before showing them that the Bible is the Word of God. Perhaps such a person does not believe because he does not understand the plan of salvation and thinks that he will go to hell because of his bad life.

Reasons to Believe the Bible is the Word of God

1. The men who wrote the Bible testify that God gave them the words to write it. "Word of the Lord who came to Jeremiah, saying, Thus spoke the LORD God of Israel, saying, write to you in a book all the words that I have spoken to you. . . . These, then, are the words that Jehovah spoke about Israel..." (Jeremiah 30:1, 2, 4). "The word of the Lord came to the priest Ezekiel. (Ezekiel 1:3). If the men who wrote the Bible had not been inspired by God, they would surely have recanted under the great persecution they suffered. Men are not willing to die for something they know is not true.

2. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist denomination, said this: The Bible was written either by—(a) good men, (b) bad men, or (c) by God. If the Bible was written by good men, who later claimed that it was written by Divine inspiration, they would be liars, and liars are not good men. They would be deceivers, and good men do not intentionally deceive people.

If the Bible was written by evil men, they would be condemning themselves, because the Bible condemns sin. Bad men tend to justify themselves, but the Bible never justifies sin. Bad men could not have written the Bible because the Bible is a good book. Since neither good men nor

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

bad men were the authors of the Bible, the only person left is God. God wrote the Bible. and she is a masterpiece of his hands!

3. The Bible contains true prophecy. History written before it happens! And in such abundance, that this is one of my great pieces of evidence that the Bible was written by God, who knows the future (and not by man, who does not know the future).

Verses that tell us how to distinguish between false and true prophecy

Deuteronomy 18:21, 22 "And if you say in your heart, How shall we know the word that the Lord has not spoken? If the prophet will speak in the name of Jehovah, and if what he said is fulfilled, nor does it happen, it is a word that Jehovah has not spoken; the prophet spoke it with presumption; do not be afraid of him."

Ezekiel 12:25. "For I the Lord shall speak, and the word that I speak shall be fulfilled." Jeremiah 23:25-32, "I have heard what those prophets said, prophesying lies in my name, saying, I dreamed, I sounded. How long will this be in the hearts of prophets who prophesy? lie, and that prophesy the deception of your heart? Don't you think about how you make my people forget my name with their dreams that each one tells their companion, in the way that their parents forgot my name because of Baal? The prophet who has a dream, count the dream; and to whom my word may be, tell my true word. What does straw have to do with wheat? says Jehovah. Isn't my word like fire, says Jehovah, and like a hammer that breaks the stone? Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, says Jehovah, who steal my words from each of their close ones. The Lord says, Behold, I am against the prophets who sweeten their tongues and say, He has said. Behold, saith the Lord, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, and tell them, and make my people err with their lies and their flattery, and I did not send them or send them; and they did no good to this people, saith the Lord."

Isaiah 46:9, 10, "Remember things past from ancient times; for I am God, and there is no other God, and there is nothing like me, that I announce what is to come from the beginning, and from ancient times what was not done to one; that I say: My counsel will remain, and I will do everything I want."

John 14:29, "And now I have told you before it happens, that when it happens, you may believe." Isaiah 48:3-5, "What happened, I said before, and out of my mouth came out; I published it, I did it soon, and it was reality. for I know that you are hard, and iron bar your cervix, and your bronze forehead, I told you has already given time; before it happened, I warned you, so that you would not say: My idol did it, my images of sculpture and casting sent these things."

Isaiah 41:21, 23 "Bring, announce to us what is to come; tell us what has happened from the beginning, and we will put our heart into it; let us also know HIS LAST, and make us understand what is to come. Give us new of what is to be next, so that we may know that you are gods; or at least do good, or bad, so that we have to count, and together we marvel." Everything the Bible said would happen up to this point in history, has happened! History itself has already shown that the Bible is the Word of God.

4. The Bible gives us a pre-written history of the Jewish Nation. "The Egyptian slavery of them,

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

the conquest of Canaan by the Jewish people, the result of all their wars, the division of the kingdom after the reign of Solomon, the Babylonian captivity, the partial restoration of Palestine with the reconstruction of the Temple, the destruction of Jerusalem, the worldwide dispersion, all are predicted. (See Genesis 15:13-16; Exodus, chapters I through 12; I Kings 11:30-33; Jeremiah 25:1-4; Daniel 9:24-27, etc.)”

5. What God has left out of the Bible—the false theories and superstitions of the time—is as powerful an indication of the inspiration of the Bible as what God has included in it. For example, Job 26:7 says, “He stretches north over emptiness, hangs the earth over nothing.” Today we know that “gravity,” a law of nature, keeps the earth suspended in space. But the people of the high 1500 B.C., when this statement was made, certainly did not understand anything regarding the law of gravity, although they had many theories of what suspended the earth in space. Poor Job . . . he must have experienced a conflict with himself, knowing that declaring that the earth “hangs over nothing” would surely make him become the ridicule of his friends! The Hindus said that the earth rested on the back of an elephant, that it in turn was standing on a turtle . . . and that the turtle was swimming in a “cosmic sea”! The Egyptians postulated that the earth was resting on five pillars. They also thought the earth was flat (even though the Bible says it is round, Isaiah 40:22). The Greeks said that a character named “Atlas” lifted the earth on his back. . . . no one’s help!

The Hindus said that the earth rested on the back of an elephant, that it in turn was standing on a turtle . . . and that the turtle was swimming in a “cosmic sea”! The Egyptians postulated that the earth was resting on five pillars. They also thought the earth was flat (even though the Bible says it is round, Isaiah 40:22). The Greeks said that a character named “Atlas” lifted the earth on his back. . . . no one’s help!

We pray that you will be faithful to the Lord, and have the courage to proclaim from the Bible the same clear message that God has placed in it. If you really want to be used in a great way by the Lord, you must be faithful in communicating the message of the gospel.

6. After studying (1) the plan of salvation, (2) the great need for it, (3) its results in our present life, (4) its results in our life in the hereafter, we certainly become convinced that this is more the way God would do things, and not the way man would do things. The integral concept of redemption is foreign to the thoughts of the natural man (I Corinthians 1:18). “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways,” said Jehovah. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts higher than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8, 9).

7. Consider together the fact that the Bible is a compilation of 66 separate books, written over a period of 16 centuries, with 40 different men in charge of their writing, many of whom—logically—were not contemporaries, and had no way of comparing what they were writing to the other writers. And yet, these writings, so uniquely calligraphed, fit together to form a Bible, which contains a central theme, and on which all statements agree perfectly, without any contradiction.

The foregoing is certainly evidence that one mind was the logos, the Conceiver, the Thinker, the Designer, and the Author of these Sacred Pages.

Suppose you were in a journalism class with 39 other students, and your instructor asked each to write an essay that included one or more of the following topics: discipline, poetry, law,

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

science, morality, history, man, romance, God, philosophy, death, theology, Heaven, angels, hell, prayer, and prophecy. Does it seem to you that if the finished articles were put together, we would have a single unified narrative without contradictions, with a central purpose developed through all of them? Not to mention that it is a literary masterpiece, and capable of satisfying the needs and longings of the human heart in all times, in all people and in all cultures.

8. The Bible tells us of the Holy Spirit of God, and how man can receive Him to dwell in him . . . the Holy Spirit empowers believers so that they can live the right kind of life. This is a miracle of God and it is a true reality. Christians certainly have the power of God in their lives. Millions of lives have been miraculously transformed, and people bear witness that it was through God's

Holy Spirit that change happened.

If the Bible were not the Word of God, then it would be of no use for it to affirm that there is a "Holy Spirit" and that He dwells inwardly in believers and empowers them, for it would not be the truth. Infidels do not claim that they have power to live the true kind of life, because they do not believe that the Bible is the Word of God. No other book, no other system of theology, or philosophy can give its adherents the power to change their lives!

9. The Bible is scientifically accurate. Even though the Bible is not a book devoted primarily to science, when it comes to science, it is completely accurate. Consider the following statements that are currently known, but certainly were not the opinion of scientists as they might have existed at the time they were written.

Job 26:7—Empty place in the north

Job 26:7—The earth hangs over nothing

Isaiah 40:22—The earth is round

Proverbs 8:27—The waters are round

Jeremiah 10:12—Einstein's Theory

2 Joel 2:5—Describe aircraft and retro thrusters

Ezekiel 38:9 and Jeremiah 4:13—More about aircraft

Zechariah 14:12—Effects of Atomic Radiation

Job 38:7—The stars "sing," have vocal quality

Isaiah 50:3—The heavens are black

Job 28:25—Air has weight

Job 25:5—The moon has no light of its own

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

Jeremiah 33:22—The stars cannot be counted

Ecclesiastes 1:6—The wind travels in

Jeremiah 5:22—The Oceans Are Not Overflowing

Job 28:5—The earth has fire within it

Jeremiah 6:22—The earth has shape and sides and is not flat

Job 38:31—The earth revolves around an axis star

Leviticus 17:11—The life of the flesh is in the blood

1 Corinthians 15:39—All meat is not the same meat (Parke Davis Pharmaceutical House discovered the “analysis of anti-human precipitin” which establishes the identity of different meat classes—whether human, canine, feline, poultry, etc.)

10. In the Old Testament the Bible gives us a detailed picture of the promised Messiah, with the record of numerous prophecies that were given hundreds of years before His birth. Thirty-three such prophecies were fulfilled in a single day (refer to the Dote Chapter; about “The Jews,” for a list of such prophecies). “Suppose,” says Dr. Olinthus Gregory, “that in the Old Testament there were only 50 prophecies (instead of 333) concerning the first coming of Christ, giving details of the coming Messiah and that they are all fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ... the possibility that they are fulfilled by chance as calculated by mathematicians, according to probability theory, would be less than one in 1,125,000,000,000,000 (one thousand one hundred and twenty-five billion). Now let’s add just two more elements to these 50 prophecies, and fix the time and place in which they must happen, and the immense improbability of them being fulfilled by chance exceeds soda power factor that numbers could express.. .” (Quoted from *The Messiah in Both Testaments*, by Fred J. Meldau, 8.)

11. The Dead Sea Scrolls—Some critics, who have desperately searched in vain trying to find some escape (because they know that the fulfilled prophecy is definitive proof that the Bible could not have been written by man, because he is unable to constantly predict the future with a consistent degree of accuracy), they used to say that books like Isaiah, Daniel, Micah, etc., were not really written before the New Testament, but merely recorded history. Well, at least these infidels credit Christ Jesus with having fulfilled the prophecies, anyway!

But the Dead Sea Scrolls, which are a collection of manuscripts found in the Dead Sea area, contain many of the writings of the ancient Essenes, and among these writings are all the books of the Old Testament except Esther, in whole or in part. And Biblical scholars agree that the books of the Old Testament were truly written long before the time of Christ.

— which is now accepted throughout the literary world - and therefore they reliably prove that the prophecies are 100% authentic. Praise be to the Lord!

12. The Bible has withstood the acid test of permanence. Through nineteen centuries infidels have had the opportunity to demonstrate any error in God’s Word. Bible believers have been constant victims of ridicule and persecution. However, the Bible remains faithful and true, and its message even today is saving souls and giving strength and power to its followers.

Lesson 6
Reasons to Believe God and His Word

[Click here to take quiz: https://forms.office.com/r/wgZTt9Rfes](https://forms.office.com/r/wgZTt9Rfes)
If the link doesn't work copy and paste it into your browser

1. What is an Atheist and an Agnostic?

2. List four (4) Reasons to believe in God

3. List five (5) reasons to believe in the Bible

Lesson 7 Religions

Religions are the product of man. The word "religion" is composed of two Latin words: "re" and "ligio." The particle "re" means "to return," and "ligio" means "to bind." Therefore, the word religion infers the meaning of "to unite again." Therefore, religions are the efforts of men to unite themselves again to God.

As a soul winner, you should familiarize yourself with the history of different cults and religions, even though you should rarely use this information during your presentation of the gospel itself.

The Jews

General suggestions

If you are well acquainted with many Jewish people, you will have already realized how intelligent, kind, and considerate they are. If you have heard it said that Jews are people who take very good care of money, you will probably have learned that while they possess keen business acumen, they are also the most generous and compassionate people on earth when it comes to helping those in need.

The story of what the Jews had to go through in order to achieve recognition and existence as a State of Israel in May 1948 is enough to move anyone. But it was in fulfillment of God's Word that the Jews would be scattered, that they would not have an earthly homeland for long, would be persecuted, and that after a hard and prolonged struggle, they would gain possession of their land.

Because of the difficult and unusual historical circumstances that the Jewish nation has gone through, if you, as a soul winner, put into practice the suggestions we give below when you testify to them, perhaps you can establish a more harmonious relationship, and be more effective in presenting your Messiah to themselves.

1. At some point in your conversation, you might mention that if you were Jewish, you would be proud of it. A statement like this will help the listener realize that you are not "anti-Semitic." This might evoke a question on your part, such as, "Why would you be proud to be a Jew?" Jews have suffered so much persecution that it is not surprising that sometimes they feel some suspicion of someone who says they love Jews.

Therefore, you should be prepared to answer your question honestly and without hesitation. You might say that one of the reasons you would be proud to be a Jew is that the Messiah Himself was Jewish. Since God chose to come into the world in Jewish human form, when He was here on earth, you would consider it an honor to be a Jew as well. Another reason why you. He would be proud to be a Jew can be expressed this way: "Well, almost 'everything I know about God, I have learned from the Jews, therefore I owe a great deal to them.'

2. If you know that the listener is Jewish, let him know that you know. Don't be nervous. This could be perceived immediately. Calmly give the gospel message just as you would anyone else, perhaps using a few more Old Testament verses than usual.

3. It is usually beneficial to explain the difference between a Jew, a Gentile, and a Christian. Many people consider anyone who is Gentile to be a Christian. A Jew is a Jew by birth. It is his

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

lineage. A person who is Jewish can never stop being Jewish. If over the years such a person became Catholic, Baptist, or Methodist, etc., this might affect their theological outlook, but they would continue to be Jewish. His beliefs could not change his physical birth.

A Gentile was originally anyone who was not Jewish. Therefore, this applied to anyone of nationality other than Hebrew. Today, in a broader sense, this has come to refer to those who mention the "Christian religion" – as their own. However, we know from God's Word that not everyone who admires Christ Jesus has truly accepted Him as their personal Savior, and this may be the case for many Gentiles. A Christian is a Christian by birth. .. not of his birth into the human family... but of his "second" birth (John 3:3; I Peter 1:23) in the family of God (John 1:12, 13).

4. The good Christian loves the Jew. The true Christian knows that the Messiah was Jewish and wants the Jews to accept their own Messiah. This does not mean that every Jewish person you meet will be a "nice" person. Not all Gentiles are nice people either. No matter where you go, no matter what race of people cross your path, you will always find people you like and people you don't like. But the dedicated Christian looks beyond the personal characteristics of an individual, whether he has popularity and physical attractiveness, or that it is bad looking and at the same time an pariah of society. Instead, the believer sees in him a soul for whom Christ died on the Cross, and who needs to have his sins forgiven, and to receive Christ as his Savior.

5. A good question to ask a Jewish person, as soon as it seems convenient after starting the conversation, would be, "Do you believe in your Bible?" He will usually say yes, and you will be able to use this later in the conversation as the reason why they should really put their faith in the Messiah. .. for their Bible, the Old Testament, says everything about Him.

6. Be sure to mention that there is only one God, and that you believe in one God . . . the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. An interesting passage is Deuteronomy 6:4, "Hey, Israel: Jehovah our God, Jehovah one is." In the Hebrew language, and according to the book of Hebrew tradition, the Zoa, the words of this verse actually say that although God is one, God is also a trinity.

7. The Jewish person may fear that you are trying to "convert" them. Assure her that if she accepts Christ as her Messiah, as her Savior, she will continue to be Jewish, but a Jewish person who has her sins paid.

8. Everything we know about God and the Bible we owe to the Jews. Express your gratitude to them for the important part their nation has played in giving us the Bible.

9. Abraham was a Gentile.

10. Israel is the chosen race. God chose Israel as the nation through which the Messiah would come.

11. Clarify that the Jews were not the "murderers of Christ." The Lord Jesus Christ died willingly for all mankind. He gave His life for me. I am guilty in HIS death. Jesus said about his life, "No one takes it from me, but I put it on myself. I have power to put it on, and I have power to take

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

it back. I received this commandment from my Father.” (John 10:18).

12. Express your appreciation for the Old Testament prophets. Let them know that you hold them in high esteem.

13. You could mention that all the early Christians were Jews. These early believers were surprised that the Gentiles could be saved.

14. As far as percentages are concerned, there are more Jews who have accepted Christ as their personal Savior than Gentiles. Most Jews don't realize this, and it's good to highlight it.

15. David Ben Gurion, the great Jewish statesman, said, “Certainly, these are the days of the Messiah, and if one listens carefully, one can even hear his footsteps.”

16. Emphasize that the Scriptures speak of two comings of the Messiah. The first would be one of suffering and death. “The prophets who prophesied of the grace destined for you inquired and diligently inquired about this salvation, searching which person and what time the Spirit of Christ who was in them indicated, who announced in advance the sufferings of Christ, and the glories that would come after them” (I Peter 1:10, 11). Christ Jesus knew that he would be rejected, “For as the lightning that shines from one end of heaven to the other, so too will be the Son of Man in his day. But first it is necessary that he suffer much and be cast away by this generation” (Luke 17:24, 25).

Orthodox Judaism

In some parts of the country there are very few Orthodox Jews. In those same areas Orthodox youth are also extremely rare. Orthodox Judaism, although it has added a considerable amount of tradition to its beliefs, approaches the Bible more literally than other Jews. Their search for the Messiah is a long story, and as far as they are concerned, the Messiah has not yet come. Many centuries have passed, and they are still waiting for you.

It is natural that after so long they feel invaded by disappointment and doubts, and this often turns into discouragement. As a result, Conservative Judaism and Reform Judaism—with their spiritualization of Scripture—have appeared on the scene.

We feel really sorry for Orthodox Jews who do not accept Christ Jesus as their Messiah. They believe that the Old Testament is the Word of God and are trying to fulfill God's law in the best possible way—yet they do not find God's favor because they reject the Son of God.

The apostle Paul said, “Brethren, certainly the longing of my heart, and my prayer to God for Israel, is for salvation. Because I bear witness to them that they have zeal for God, but not according to science. For by ignoring the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they have not submitted to the righteousness of God; for the end of the law is Christ, for righteousness to all who believe” (Romans 10:1-4).

Orthodox Jews have been following their traditions for so long and have remained faithful to their heritage at such a high price that it is sometimes very difficult to lead them to the Lord even when they see—intellectually—the truths in the Bible. Emotions play a very important role in their ways of thinking about religion.

If you are careful, you can often use this love for your family members in ways that make them want to trust in Christ. For example, take the case of an Orthodox Jew who has already

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

suffered the loss of one of his parents. When you understand through the Bible that to get to heaven a person must believe in Jesus Christ, he may refuse to trust Christ as his personal Savior because he does not want to go to heaven if one of his loved ones is not going to be there.

Here we explain how you could grasp that objection and turn it into the very reason why he should trust in Christ Jesus as his Savior . . . You could present it this way: If that loved one is in heaven, surely that loved one will want him to go to heaven too. But if the person who has departed for eternity is in hell, he certainly will not want him to go to hell too. That loved one couldn't be so selfish!

This approach to the objection has been successful on numerous occasions. One thing that will help you as you testify to an Orthodox Jew is the fact that he will secure your faith in the Old Testament, and then you will be able to place a lot of emphasis on the Old Testament verses that deal with prophecy and salvation. Kindly but firmly, he must insist that, if he believes in his Bible, he must also believe what such verses say.

Conservative and Reform Judaism

Conservative Judaism is very similar to many Protestant churches today, in that they have departed from the Orthodox theological position, and yet still try to retain much of their traditions. While on the one hand they claim that they regard the Old Testament as their guide, they do not necessarily accept the teachings of the same corlo that come directly from God, and do not take the Scriptures literally. Therefore, you will find the same problems in testifying to them as you would in testifying to many Protestants, for they also do not really believe in what the Bible says.

You will probably need to explain to them why we know the Bible is the Word of God. Often people who attend a conservative Orthodox synagogue do so more to maintain family tradition than as the genuine expression of a deep religious feeling. They are usually very poorly informed regarding Judaism itself and reveal a gross ignorance of God's Word. The Reformed Jewish Synagogue is the most radical of the Jewish groups. Most Orthodox Jews would wish that Reform Jews did not even use the word "Jew," since they deny the very basic foundations of Judaic theology.

Roman Catholics

Common Grounds

As believers, there are some doctrines we have in common (at least in part) with Roman Catholics. However, Roman Catholic doctrines vary from decade to decade, and from country to country. Here are some doctrines you can use to establish a mutual understanding with the Roman Catholic listener:

The Bible is the Word of God (although they interpret it through the dictates of the Pope and their Tradition).

2. Jesus Christ is God (though they elevate the Pope and Mary to heights of glory that belong only christ Jesus).

3. Man needs a Savior (although they do not believe that Jesus can only save man through man's faith in the payment that Jesus Christ will make for his sins on the cross).

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

4. There is heaven and hell (although they also believe in Limbo and Purgatory, both of which are not taught in Scripture . . . and they don't teach that the difference between going to heaven or hell is faith.)

Grace and Works

The main topic of debate, we would say the subject of constant debate in witnessing to Roman Catholics is grace and works. Their Church has established myriads of rites, ceremonies, and regulations that their subjects (and we use this word deliberately) must follow, if they are to have any hope of reaching heaven one day—perhaps even centuries after they die. It is astonishing to see that when a religious group fails to understand grace and works, almost all the other doctrines on which they rely are affected by the same error. As God says in Galatians 5:9, "A little leaven leaves the whole dough."

There will be times as you testify to a Roman Catholic that you will think that you have finally succeeded in making that person understand the plan of salvation. But then that listener will ask you a question or make a comment that will immediately reveal to you that he does not really understand that salvation is by faith and not by works.

The reason why the listener does not understand the gospel is because since childhood, he has been instilled with teaching after teaching, that salvation is not by faith alone, and that many other things, apart from faith, are required of the person who wishes to go to heaven.

Catholics erroneously claim that the Church was built on the apostle Peter. the worship of the saints . . . the exaltation of Mary . . . if Christ had brothers . . . confession to the priest. . One might argue day and night with a Catholic about these things and never lead him to the knowledge of Christ as his personal savior!

If you are born again, you have the Holy Spirit dwelling within you and enlightening your mind with a clear understanding of Scripture about all these things. But the person who has been raised in the Catholic Church is probably not born again, and therefore does not have the benefit of the Holy Spirit by teaching him the important details in God's Word.

If you want to perform your task of witnessing in cooperation with what the Holy Ghost is trying to do in the lives of unbelievers . . . talk about the gospel . . . of how a person can be saved . . . that salvation is a gift from God that is received by faith . . . And leave the more questions to answer (as much as possible) after the person is saved!

Jesus Christ Payment for all Sins

In the doctrine taught by Roman Catholics, sin is departmentalized. There is venial sin that Baltimore Catechism No. 3 defines this way: "What is venial sin? Venial sin is an offense of lesser seriousness against the law of God, which does not deprive the soul of sanctifying grace, and which can be forgiven even without sacramental confession."

In Catholic doctrine there is also mortal sin. "What is mortal sin? Mortal sin is a grave offense against God's law. Why is this sin called mortal? This sin is called mortal because it deprives the sinner of sanctifying grace, the supernatural life of the soul. Besides depriving the sinner of sanctifying grace, what else does mortal sin do to the soul? In addition to depriving the sinner of sanctifying grace, mortal sin makes the soul an enemy of God, takes away its merit for all good deeds, deprives it of the right to eternal happiness in heaven, and makes it worthy of eternal punishment in hell."

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

The Catholic Church also recognizes Adam's sin. That is, the sin or sinful nature that man inherits from Adam. It is because of Adam's sin that Christ supposedly died. You. It must show the Catholic that Christ Jesus has fully paid the full price for all his sin.

First, show him in the scriptures that all sin is mortal, or lethal (James 2:10; Romans 6:23). Second, use Scripture to show that all sin—no matter how we classify it—has been paid for by Christ (Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18; 1 John 2:2). "Know, then, this, brethren men: that through him forgiveness of sins is announced to you, and that of all that by the law of Moses you could not be justified, in him everyone who believes is justified" (Acts 13:38, 39).

Even by keeping the commandments he could not "justify us from all things." First of all, no one has complied with them. Second, keeping the commandments could not make us perfect. Hebrews 7:19 says, "(for nothing perfected the law), and of the introduction of a better hope (Jesus Christ, v. 22), by which we draw near to God." Jesus is the only way to heaven. "Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Salvation is not in a church. He is not in the Mormon church. It is not in the Protestant church. It is not in the Roman Catholic church. Salvation is in one Person. Salvation is in Jesus. "For the law through Moses was given, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17).

How can we be cleansed from sin?

When a Roman Catholic commits sin, he is supposed to do several things:

1. Go to a priest and confess your sin.
2. Receive from the priest the penance he must do, and go home and do it (which often consists of reciting a certain number of "Rosaries," "Our Fathers," etc.)
3. Attend Mass.
4. Take care to arrange for a few people to pray for their soul after they die, so that their soul can be delivered from Purgatory in time.

To the person who has received the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, God says of his sins: "And to you, being dead in sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He gave you life together with him, forgiving you all sins, annulling the act of the decrees against us, which was contrary to us, removing it from the middle and nailing it to the cross" (Colossians 2:13, 14). The Christian does not need another offering (Mass) for his sins. "For with a single offering he made the sanctified perfect forever" (deeds pure and holy) (Hebrews 10:14). "For where there is remission of these, there is no more sin offering" (Hebrews 10:18).

Christ's one death on the cross paid for all sins, of all people, of all ages, and for all who want to receive such payment through faith. When the priest offers the sacrifice of the Mass "And certainly every priest is day after day ministering and offering many times the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins" (Hebrews 10:1 I).

It is God's will that Christ's sacrifice should pay for all sins and that all those who received such payment should be made pure and holy in God's sight forever. "In that will we are sanctified by the offering of the body of Jesus Christ made once for all" (Hebrews 10:10). The Catholic

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

Church teaches that the Mass is Christ's sacrifice again for sins. But Romans 6:9 says, "Knowing that Christ, having risen from the dead. He doesn't die anymore..."

The problem with the Catholic is that he doesn't really believe that Christ paid for all his sins. However, the Bible is very explicit, "Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity . . ." (Titus 2:14). This is why it is a problem of grace and works. God says that salvation is by grace. The Catholic does not deny this. But at the same time he believes that he must follow the rituals and regulations to make this grace of God effective on his behalf. And this is not Scriptural. What verse shows that if salvation is by grace, then can it not also be by works? We hope you said, "Romans 11:6."

Below, we enunciate some errors in Roman Catholic theology, and the correct teaching of Scripture:

1. The Roman Catholic worships Christ, but worships Him in vain. "For in vain they honor me, teaching as doctrines, commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9). See Galatians 5:1-4.

2. They teach that Peter was the first pope, and that popes should exercise authority over parishioners. However, this is contrary to what Peter himself expresses in Scripture. "I pray to the elders who are among you, I am also an elder with them (and not a Pope, but an old man among many), and witness to the sufferings of Christ, who am also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: feed the flock of God that is among you, taking care of it, not by force, but voluntarily; not for dishonest gain, but with prompt encouragement; not as having lordship over those in your care, but as examples of the flock" (1 Peter 5:1-3). The Bible nowhere teaches that the spiritual leader of the flock must be the "chief." The leader must demonstrate positive leadership, yes, but he must not try to play the role of "God" in people's lives. Scripture is replete with evidence that the true spiritual leader is a servant of the people, rather than a kind of "patron." "For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and us as your servants for Jesus' sake" (2 Corinthians 4:5).

3. If you study much of the history of the Roman Catholic Church and the Papacy, you will see the magnitude of their error in exercising "lordship" over the flock. Matthew 23:9 says, "And ye call no one on earth your father; for one is your Father, the one who is in heaven." Veneration of the Virgin Mary and the "Saints." Regarding Mary, the Scriptures tell us, "Hail, much favored! The Lord is with you; blessed are you among women" (Luke 1:28).

Mary was an admirable and pious woman. But Mary, like everyone else, was still a sinner (Romans 3:23). She herself recognized God as her savior, "Then Mary said, 'Magnify my soul to the Seffir; and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior'" (Luke 1:46, 47).

4. Scripture teaches that all believers are holy. The word has the meaning of "pure and holy." All who have received the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior are "pure and holy" through God's justification (1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21, etc.). The apostles referred to the entire group of Christians as "saints" (Ephesians 1:1, 1 Corinthians 1:1; Philippians 1:1, etc.), and not just those in a select group. It is God who makes a person holy, and not man. God highlights the person as holy, and not man. God sets the conditions for being a saint, and not man . . . and neither does the Roman Catholic Church.

5. The Pope, the priest, Mary, the saints . . . neither of them can mediate between God and

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

man. "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, Jesus Christ the Man" (I Timothy 2:5). The believer is invited to come directly to the Lord, through Jesus, in time of need. "Therefore, having a great high priest who pierced the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us retain our profession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who was tempted in everything according to our likeness, but without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace, that we may attain mercy and find grace for timely help" (Hebrews 4:14-16).

"So, brethren, having freedom to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus Christ, by the new and living way that he opened to us through the veil, that is, of his flesh" (Hebrews 10:19, 20). "Justified, then, by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom we also have entrance to this grace in which we are firm. ." (Romans 5:1, 2).

6. To whom should we confess our sins? The Catholic Church says we must confess them to a priest. The Bible says that only God can forgive sins, and that we should confess our sins to Jesus, because He is our advocate—He is our intercessor. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all evil . . . and if anyone has sinned, we have an advocate for the Father, Jesus Christ the just" (I John 1:9 and 2:1). Our lawyer is not Mary, or the priest of any church . . . Our lawyer is Jesus!

The Bible mentions absolutely nothing about Purgatory. There is no other "place of cleansing" apart from the blood of Jesus Christ. In I John 1:7 we read, ". . . the blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanses us from all sin."

7. One of the things that caused Martin Luther to speak out against the Roman Catholic Church and its practices regarding the sale of indulgences was observations such as, "The moment you hear that money falls into the box, your mother's soul will jump out of purgatory," by Tetzel, a Friar of the Dominican Order (quoted from *The Church in History*, by B. K. Kuiper, p. 160). (Indulgences were sold to people who went to the priest to fulfill penance, and who preferred to pay a sum of money to the church rather than do some other kind of penance or compensation for their sins. Over time, indulgences were also sold to those who were trying to help the soul of some deceased to go from purgatory to heaven. People found that it was easier to pay a sum of money for a loved one's soul than to spend the time that was otherwise required to pray for them. This system greatly pleased the church, as it provided them with an astonishingly lucrative source of income. St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome is said to have been built by selling these indulgences.

This concept in its entirety is in complete disagreement with Scripture! "Knowing that you were rescued from your vain way of life, which you received from your fathers, not with corruptible things, such as gold or silver, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without contamination" (I Peter 1:18, 19).

"Then Peter said to him, Your money should perish with you, for you have thought that the gift of God is obtained with money" (Acts 8:20). It is not within the capacity of human beings to help in any way in the redemption of any other person. (Man cannot even redeem his own soul, if we go to the case.) "None of them can in any way redeem the brother, nor give God his ransom" (Psalm 49:7).

8. Once a person has received Christ as personal Savior, he does not have to worry at all about being condemned for his sins . . . Perhaps punished on earth, and without much reward in heaven, yes . . . But condemned to purgatory for a while, or to hell for eternity . . . Never! "Truly, truly,

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

I say unto you, He who hears my word, and believes him who sent me, has eternal life; and he shall not come to condemnation, but he has passed from death to life" (John 5:24). If a place like purgatory actually exists, then Jesus Christ certainly omitted it in His statements, because He told the thief on the cross; "Truly, I say unto you, today you shall be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). And if the thief went to purgatory, then Jesus was a liar.

9. Catholics say that Mary remained a virgin all her life, and that Christ had no flesh-and-blood brothers and sisters. (In a sense, Jesus did have half-brothers and sisters, since Joseph was not the father of the Lord Jesus Christ.) "Is this not the carpenter, son of Mary, brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon? Aren't your sisters also here with us? (Mark 6:3).

10. "They will forbid marriage, and command abstention from food . . ." Is this doctrine of the Catholic Church taken from the Bible ... given by the Lord? "But the Spirit says clearly that in the last times some will apostatize from the faith, listening to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons; for the hypocrisy of liars who, having cauterized conscience, will forbid marriage, and they shall command to abstain from food which God created so that with thanksgiving believers and those who have known the truth may share in them" (I Timothy 4:1-4).

11. "Therefore let no one judge you in food or drink, or as to feast days, new moon, or Sabbaths" (Colossians 2:16). "Let no one deprive you of your prize, affecting humility and worship of angels, interspersed in what he has not seen, vainly swollen by his own carnal mind. . ." "For if you have died with Christ as to the rudiments of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, submit to precepts such as: Do not handle, nor like, nor even touch (in conformity with the commandments and doctrines of men), things which are all destroyed by use. Such things have to the truth a certain reputation for wisdom in voluntary worship, in humility, and in harsh treatment of the body; but they have no value against the appetites of the flesh" (Colossians 2:20-23).

12. Such things have to the truth a certain reputation for wisdom in voluntary worship, in humility, and in harsh treatment of the body; but they have no value against the appetites of the flesh" (Colossians 2:20-23). For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance" (to change their minds). It is Christ's sacrifice that God looks to for our salvation, and not some sacrifice we might make for Him. However, after we are saved, we are invited to serve the Lord—but this is our rational worship—or service—rather than a sacrifice. This is for our benefit—for now and also for later.

13. The Catholic Church teaches that the "true church" is built upon Peter, and they use Matthew 16:18 as the textual basis for this statement. In examining this passage from Matthew 16, however, we do not find this teaching at all. Verses 13 through 16 record Jesus asking his disciples, "Who do men say is the Son of Man?" And Simon Peter gives him the correct answer, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Peter knew that Christ was God . . . the Son of God. In verse 17 Jesus says to him, "Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah, for flesh and blood did not reveal it to you, but my Father who is in heaven." Jesus is saying that while He is the Son of God, Peter is the son of man.

In v.18 Jesus says: "And I also say to you, that you are Peter (petros), and on this rock (Petra) I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." Jesus is saying, "Peter, you are a pebble. And on this great Rock, this huge rock (Christ) I will build my church."

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

I Corinthians 3:11, “For no one can lay any other foundation than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ”—and not Peter. Jesus is the foundation on which the true Church is built. Ephesians 2:20, “Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, the chief cornerstone being Jesus Christ Himself.” Even Peter himself speaks of believers as “stones,” but of Christ as the “chief cornerstone” (I Peter 2:4-8). See also Acts 4:11.

13. The Catholic Church teaches that water baptism is necessary for salvation. Refer to Lesson 5 for more details of baptism.

The thirteen points explained rarely or almost never should be brought up during your presentation of the gospel to a Roman Catholic. If you think that for some reason it is imperative that you mention something about these points, please do so with genuine love and patience. Remember that the person to whom you are testifying did not invent these doctrines.

Usually, such a listener believes in them simply because that is what he has been taught, and he has not searched the Scriptures on his own, to “see if things are like this. “If you really want to win Catholics (or other people, as far as this is concerned) to the Lord . . . Persevere with the gospel and the simple verses that make the plan of salvation clear and understandable to the lost, such as John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8,9, Acts 16:31, etc.

Twentieth Century Protestantism

Through the study of church history, we discover that most of those Protestant churches that were formed during and because of the Sixteenth-Century Reformation originated in an effort to have and preserve in their cults the pure doctrine of the Word of God.

Men like Martin Luther were certainly great men of God, who stood firm by the Word of God, despite the terrible persecutions of which they were victims. Others, such as Ulrich Zwingli, John Calmo, John Wesley, were devoted servants of the Lord who helped guide the reform of the Christian Church back to the fundamental teachings of God’s Word. However, the doctrines that were taught when the different denominations were initially formed are not precisely the doctrines that these same denominations teach today. They have suffered many divisions and have been separated from the major denominations, and for this reason it is difficult to “label” a particular doctrine as that taught by any denomination in its entirety.

To those churches and those pastors who have remained faithful to the Word of God despite the tremendous pressures they have had to endure from Satan, men, and organizations, we say praise god for your faithfulness! Our sincere desire is that you, as a soul winner, will be able to recognize false doctrines every time you hear them, and know how to effectively refute what such doctrines seek to promulgate and know how to present the truth of such doctrines in an effective manner. Often the errors of the same will have a direct relationship with salvation, and therefore, it will be of vital importance to distinguish them.

Our purpose is not to try to discredit any local church or denomination. Perhaps other churches that bear the same name teach doctrine correctly. It is not beneficial for you to automatically relate a certain error of doctrine to a certain church, because that error may be by a single minister. In addition, the error may vary in form or degree from church to church.

As Christ’s ambassador, you should never assume that a person knows the Lord as a personal Savior. The fact that you are a member of your own church, or of a Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran church, does not guarantee that person will be saved.

In Paul’s farewell address to the elders of the church in Ephesus, he said, “For I have not

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

shied away from proclaiming to you the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27). Paul then mentions that their duty, as Christian leaders, was to feed the flock, and also to prevent the flock, "For I know that after my departure rapacious wolves will enter your midst, who will not forgive the flock" (v. 29).

If you are holding a position of leadership among Christians, it is not only his responsibility to edify believers through the Word, but it is also his divinely assigned task to warn those in his care of him of false doctrines.

The apostle Peter also spoke of the danger of false doctrines, taught by false teachers, "But there were also false prophets among the people, as there will be among you false teachers, who will covertly introduce destructive heresies, and even deny the Lord who rescued them, attracting upon themselves sudden destruction. And many will follow their dissolutions, for which the way of truth will be blasphemed, and out of greed they will make merchandise of you with feigned words" (2 Peter 2:1-3a).

You do not have to accept sponsorship from them; You and your message are sponsored by God. Nor should he accept their money; God will take care of your financial needs. Nor share the platform with them . . . for what fellowship do you have with Satan? And you should not sponsor your schools . . . because by doing this, you would be perpetuating your mistakes. Let alone send the people you have won for Christ to their churches . . . Children in Christ need the word!

We are sure that you know Christians, that every time they hear a new preacher, they say: "Snails . . . isn't it true that it was wonderful?" That preacher may have been deviant about salvation, and he made a mess with the invitation and twisted several Scriptural passages, but, despite that, if he was jocular, quoted from famous personalities, or spoke with words so far-fetched that you could not understand what he meant, many people will think that his message was admirable. People will have been so captivated by his "sincerity and spiritual tone," or his "vivid illustrations and sentimental stories," that they have not stopped to ponder whether the preacher's message was faithful to the Word of God!

The Scriptures exhort us, "That we may no longer be fluctuating children, carried by every wind of doctrine, by stratagem of men who cunningly employ the wiles of error to deceive" (Ephesians 4:14). What should the believer do when he hears that something is being taught that doesn't "sound very good" to his ears? How can we recognize what is Scriptural and what is not?

"Diligently seek to present yourself to God approved, as a worker who has nothing to be ashamed of, who uses the word of truth well" (2 Timothy 2:15). "All Scripture is inspired by God, and useful for teaching, for reproofing, for correcting, for instructing in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).

We recommend that you always compare scripture with scripture, and not preacher with preacher! "Understanding this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation" (2 Peter 1:20). Scofield's note reads: "His own interpretation; that is, not isolated from the other Scriptures." To understand the Bible correctly, you will need to compare all the verses given on the subject under consideration. This takes a lot of study. As a soul winner, you should know the Bible well enough to immediately recognize when you hear something that is contrary to God's plan for salvation.

Neo-Evangelicalism

From the 1910s to 1930s, the so-called "Fundamentalism" or "Orthodoxy" was strong in its

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

position and teaching. This school defended the Bible as the complete, inerrant, and inspired Word of God. Men like R.A. Torrey, J. Gresham Machen, Robert Dick Wilson, and Benjamin Warfield—great defenders of the faith—were the “fundamentalists” of their times.

With the passage of time men rose who wrote and spoke of their complete unbelief in the Bible as the Word of God, representing the liberal theology of the time. There was no spirit of cooperation between the “Fundamentalists” and the “Liberals,” because their positions were and still are completely opposed. The Bible tells us to have nothing to do with those who deny God’s Word.

At present, the problem seems to lie with ministers who take a somewhat intermediate position between the Orthodox and the Liberal. This school is called “Neo-evangelicalism.” Dr. Charles J. Woodbridge, church historian, and esteemed expositor of the Word, has done a study of Neo-evangelicalism, and has given us much of the information we present here. The following four points are taken from his 1963 speech to the students of Florida Bible College.

The reason we go into all these details in a book of personal evangelism is because many beloved believers today don’t even see the dangers of this “neo-evangelisticism”—they don’t see that the ideas supported by them are the cause of many people being blinded to the plan of salvation.

1. There is a new attitude among scholars today. Perhaps because they were influenced by liberalism (while receiving their education), they now emphasize love and not sound doctrine. This seems beautiful, of course, but Scripture says that believers should not make common cause with the enemy. Love is not a substitute for truth.

2. There is a new method. The ministers of that school have convinced themselves that “the end justifies the means.” They feel free to use any method, as long as the goal is the same. However, scripture instructs us to act “on principle” and leave the results in the Lord’s hands. We Should Never Do Evil to Achieve Good.

Moses disobeyed God by hitting the rock in a way that God had not commanded him. Did water come out of the rock? Of course! God prevailed over Moses’ disobedience, by His grace, to meet the needs of the people. Someone may ask—as Dr. Woodbridge has already been asked—“Don’t you want to see souls saved?” And our answer is the same. Of course, we want to see souls saved. But we should do God’s will the way God wants, if we are to receive God’s full approval for what we are doing. Noah preached for 120 years.

How many souls did he lead the Lord? Only seven souls? We know that Noah left the result in God’s hands, for Noah’s task was to preach what the Lord had told him to preach. Our responsibility is to make the gospel message clear and understandable to the lost. God wants us to be faithful with His message (I Corinthians 4:2). We can plant and water as much as we want, but God is the one who continues to give growth. The very title of “Soul Winner” is wrong. We do not win souls. God does. We only give the message.

3. There is a new theology. Those who adhere to this new neo-evangelical theology are those who often claim that “evolution and the Bible are compatible.” And among them are those who deny the inspiration of II Pedro, Esther, and parts of Genesis. They want to “re-define” the inspiration of God’s Word. Dr. Woodbridge asks, “How could one give a new definition to, ‘Holy men of God spoke being inspired by the Holy Spirit?’ We would then say:

A. saints means ‘wicked’-

B. men means ‘women’

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

- C. de Dios means 'of the devil'
- D. spoke means 'they sang'? etc."

The Bible is the Word of God, or the Bible is a monumental deception. There can be no end middle!

4. There is a new ethic. They allow people to almost choose their own moral system. And they tell you that, if that makes them happy, then it must be fine . . . However, the Bible says, "There is a way that seems right to man, but its end is the way of death" (Proverbs 16:25). There is no turning back on the matter, for "whatever man sows, he shall also reap" (Galatians 6:7).

This neo-evangelicalism is becoming increasingly popular in the Americas today. And fewer and fewer pastors seem to realize the great danger this poses. It is fast becoming the "fad" of twentieth-century Protestantism. Some independent fundamental churches are alert, and perhaps an increasing number of ministers within denominational structures will be able to wake up to reality. If you communicate the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ . . . If you study the Word so that you can always be prepared . . . "To present defense with meekness and reverence before anyone who demands reason for the hope that is in you," you will be doing much to stem the tide of modernism.

Ecumenical movement

Subtly woven into the fiber of present Protestantism is what has come to be known as the Ecumenical Movement, and as a soul-winner, you need to know how this movement is preventing the lost from trusting in Christ as their Savior. First, the ecumenical movement is dangerous because of its false doctrines. At the core of ecumenism is the belief in the "fellowship of man" and the "Fatherhood of God."

When a person believes that all people are brothers, and that God is already the Father of all, then he cannot see his need for a Savior. Because of this, for the ecumenist the gospel has become something "passé." It is now replaced by the "social gospel" which is aimed at improving society at large, rather than bringing salvation to souls.

Another danger of ecumenism is that it confuses people, even many of the saved people, into thinking that nothing that speaks so much of "love" and "brotherhood" can really be bad. But love that omits the truth is not love, but a counterfeit that lacks the power to save or satisfy. Any teaching that is devoted solely to man and his welfare here on earth—with little or no concern for man's future destiny—is not faithful to god's Word, and more importantly, is not fulfilling the last and most direct commandment of the Lord Jesus Christ, to "preach the gospel to every creature."

They are trying to do good through the exercise of brotherly love, while the truth of salvation by faith in Christ alone is something completely foreign to them, and the way they contemplate things, something that is beside the point.

The spirit and doctrine of ecumenism have blinded millions by making them think that "all is well." Remember, then, anything that is contrary to Scripture, finds no favor with God. Don't play "butter pancakes" with a movement that is against God's Word and His will. God does not need implements or non-scriptural movements in His plan of evangelism. What God is looking for is His children who are willing to do anything or go anywhere to reach the souls lost with the gospel. Let us propose, by His grace, that we will be that kind of person.

The great need of people today, even Protestants, is a clear understanding of the gospel.

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

The main topic of debate in witnessing to Protestants will be grace and works. For Protestants who are liberal in their theology, you should also establish the fact that the Bible is the Word of God. The message you communicate to most Protestants will essentially be the material that is included in the first two chapters of this book. Keep your message simple. Do not assume that, because the person attends a church, he understands ecclesiastical terminology or biblical doctrine.

Start from the beginning . . . We must be perfect to have eternal life . . . We cannot earn such perfection by what we do . . . God offers us His righteousness through the payment Christ made on the cross. One is saved only by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ . . . We can know that we have eternal life once we have accepted Christ as our Savior.

Resist the temptation to discuss or explain secondary issues and philosophical matters. What is God's power to save Protestants? The Gospel!

Jehovah's Witnesses

Historical Background

Charles Taze Russell, who was born on February 16, 1852, was the founder of the Jehovah's Witnesses group, although this group was not called that during the founder's lifetime. During his adolescence, Russell belonged to the Congregational Church. He believed and had real terror of hell, but when he was only seventeen years old, a skeptic convinced him that hell was not real. From then on, Russell fought with all his might to combat this doctrine.

At the age of eighteen he was leading a Bible class, and when he reached twenty, he was made "pastor" of the group. This was the beginning of this sect. Russell set the year 1874 as the date of the Lord's second coming and published his first piece of literature that same year, entitled, *The Purpose and Manner of the Lord's Return*.

Russell had some difficulties in the courts of law . . . He was sued for divorce in 1903... the sale of his "miracle wheat"—which was supposed to be especially blessed—was unmasked in the courts . . . He committed perjury on the witness stand, when he and a pastor, J. J. Ross, had been summoned to court because of a pamphlet Ross had written unmasking Russell. Russell died of cystitis in 1916.

"Judge" Rutherford—Joseph Franklin Rutherford, born in 1869, was a lawyer member of the cult, who defended Russell in his numerous legal cases. In January 1917, Rutherford was chosen to succeed Russell.

During the twenty years he led the cult, Rutherford wrote approximately 100 books and pamphlets, which were translated into nearly 80 languages, with a total distribution of more than three hundred million copies.

Rutherford let Russell's books sell out and not be reprinted, so some members of Jehovah's Witnesses today don't even know about Russell and the facts concerning the cult's founder.

After being called "Russellism," "The Millennial Dawn," and "The Bible Students," International," the cult adopted its permanent name, "Jehovah's Witnesses," in 1931. Rutherford asserted divine ratification for the cult name of the quote from Isaiah 43:10. Nathan H. Knorr was elected as the new leader of Jehovah's Witnesses upon Rutherford's death in 1942. Knorr was born in 1905 and became a Jehovah's Witness at the age of sixteen. Knorr has ensured that all literature produced by the Watchtower Society (which is the name of the cult's advertising headquarters) is completely anonymous.

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

Rutherford's name, too, has faded, so the devotion of the Jehovah's Witness movement today is to the "Divine Organization" rather than to a personality. To the date of this publication, Knorr continues to be a leader of the cult.

Discussion Points

The main point of debate in testifying to Jehovah's Witnesses will be "grace and works." They do not believe that Jesus Christ was God made flesh, nor do they believe that His death on the cross made payment for all the sins of those who accept such payment through faith. They don't believe that a person can know that he will go to heaven when he dies. They believe that life in the afterlife is determined by their actions on earth in the present.

Verses such as Ephesians 2:8, 9 and Romans 4:5 are completely foreign to their system of theology. Getting the plan of salvation understood by them is going to be a difficult task for you. . . . Not because you will not present it properly, but because they are often intentionally blind to the gospel of God's saving grace. You can show them a clear verse from Scripture, and if they don't want to believe what the verse is obviously saying, they somehow manage to ignore it and turn to some other verse they like better.

Jehovah's Witnesses have a reputation for possessing a great knowledge of the Bible. They certainly appear to have it, to the laity. They do know the Bible verses they have been taught, but very few Jehovah's Witnesses actually know the Bible well with certainty, from the point of view of the context or the literal interpretation of clear doctrine.

The litmus test of any group that claims to be "Christian" is to see how their doctrines resist when compared to the explicit teachings of Scripture. At some points Jehovah's Witnesses fail miserably.

Below, we give some of his teachings (taken from his own publications), and the Scriptural passages that show the difference between truth and error:

Salvation According to Jehovah's Witnesses

"Ransom does not guarantee eternal life to any man, but only a second chance" (The Truth Will Set You Free, pp. 176, 177).

"A life given in rescue could redeem only a life in love, but no more. Jesus Christ the man redeemed Adam" (Idem, p. 133).

"The second judgment will decide whether or not we will have eternal life" (The Atala.va, public. February 15, 1960, p. 103).

Salvation according to the Bible

"He who believes in him is not condemned; but he who does not believe has already been condemned, for he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18).

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who refuses to believe in the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God is upon him" (John 3:36).

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved” (Acts 16:31).

“Truly, truly, I say unto you, he who believes in me has eternal life” (John 6:47).
Christ’s own guarantee to believers.

“And in the manner which is established for men to die only once, and after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). There is no second chance after death.

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ, who gave himself as a ransom for all . . .” (1 Timothy 2:5, 6). Christ was not only the ransom for Adam, but the ransom for all!

The Christ of Jehovah’s Witnesses

“He is a ‘mighty God’ but not the ‘Almighty God who is Jehovah— (The Truth Will Deliver You, p.47).

“Before our Lord came into the world, he was a created angel and none other than the archangel Michael” (May God Be Truthful, 1952 Ed., p. 33).

“He was Jehovah God’s first direct creation. He was the beginning of God’s creative work” (The Kingdom Is Near, pp. 4649).

Jesus Christ is Jehovah God

1. Isaiah 43:10, 11—Jehovah, the Lord says, “... before me god was not formed, nor will he be after me.” Jehovah the Lord says, “. . . and apart from me there is no God” (Isaiah 44:6). “. . . There is no God but me” (Isaiah 44:8). Therefore, if in any way Christ is God; if in any way Christ is the Savior, according to the Lord God Jehovah, then Christ is God. Luke 2:11 says, “That a Savior was born to you today, in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord.” Since Christ is the Savior, then Christ is God.

2. Isaiah 42:8—“I the Lord (the Lord); this is my name; and to another I will not give my glory. . . .”

Only Jehovah God is the LORD of glory. And if Christ is the Lord of glory, then He must be Jehovah God. 1 Corinthians 2:8 says that the crucified Christ is the “Lord of glory.” And since Christ is the Lord of glory, then Christ is God.

3. Zechariah 12:1-10—the Lord, Jehovah says, “. and they shall look upon me, whom they pierced . . .” When was Jehovah the Lord pierced? “But when they came to Jesus, as they saw him already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers opened his side with a spear, and instantly blood and water came out. And he who saw him bears witness, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he speaks truth, so that you too may believe. Because these things happened so that the Scripture might be fulfilled: His bone will not be broken. And also another Scripture says, “They shall look upon the one whom they pierced” (John 19:33-37). Since Christ was pierced, and Jehovah God says that He would be pierced, then Christ is God.

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

4. Matthew 1:22:23 "All this happened so that what was said BY THE LORD through the prophet might be fulfilled, when He said, Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and you shall call his name Immanuel, which translated is: god with us." Therefore, God Himself says that the baby Jesus is God Himself dwelling with men. This is again clearly confirmed in John 1:1-14, ." and the Word was God . . . and that Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. . ."

5. Mark 2:5 records that Jesus forgave the sins of certain people. The scribes heard that Christ was doing this and said (v. 7), "Why does this one speak like this? Blasphemies says. Who can forgive sins, but only God?"

6. In John 14:7, Jesus Christ says, "If you knew me, you would also know my Father; and from now on you know him, and you have seen him. Philip said to him, Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us. Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long, and have you not known me, Philip?" He who has seen me has seen the father; How, then, do you say, 'Show us the Father?'"

7. John 10:30-33 tells us the same thing. In v. 30 Jesus says. "I and the Father are one." And "Then the Jews again took stones to stone him" (v. 31). In response to Christ's question of why they wanted to stone Him, the Jews said, ". . . by blasphemy: for you, being a man, become God" (v. 33). The Jews knew that Christ Jesus was declaring that He was God.

Jehovah's Witnesses Do Not Believe in the Doctrine of the Trinity

"There is no authority in the Word of God for the doctrine of the Trinity of Godhead" (Scripture Studies, Vol. 5, pp. 54-60). ". . . Satan is the originator of the 'doctrine of the trinity'" (May God Be Truthful, 1946 edition, pp. 54-60).

THE TRINITY IS TAUGHT IN THE SCRIPTURES

The Father is God: 2 Timothy 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1.

The Holy Spirit is God: Acts 5:1-4; Isaiah 48:16; Job 33:4; Isaiah 63:7-10.

The Son, Jesus Christ, is God: to see the dots under Jesus Christ is Jehovah God.

Matthew 28:19 says, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name (singular in the Greek) of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." If they were three gods or if one were God, and one was a created being, and the other only the "power" of God (as Jehovah's Witnesses say), then the verse would have to say that they should be baptized into the "names" of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

God is very accurate in what He says, and in this verse He lets us know that although there is only one God, He is a triune God. Even in Deuteronomy 6:4, where it says that "Jehovah our God, Jehovah (the LORD) one is," the trinity is demonstrated. In Hebrew there are at least two words translated "one." The word "one" in this verse is "echod" and means "one unity." (The Hebrew word yachid is the word meaning "an absolute one.") The word translated "God" in the Hebrew as "Elohim" and means "three or more." God says precisely what He means.

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

THE MAN ACCORDING TO JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

"Man is a soul, but he does not have a soul" (May God be Truthful, pp. 56,60).
. . . the serpent (the Devil) is the one who originated the doctrine of the inherent immortality of the soul" (Idem, p.66).

MAN ACCORDING TO GOD

"And may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely; and all your being, spirit, SOUL, and body, be kept blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Thessalonians 5:23).
"Beloved, I desire that you be prosperous in all things, and that you may have health, just as your soul prospers" (3 John, v. 2). Man was created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26), a tripartite being, with body, soul, and spirit. And the Bible says, "For the word of God is living and efficacious, and sharper than every two-edged sword; and penetrates into the beginning of the soul and the spirit, the joints and the marrows (of the body), and discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

DEATH AND HELL ACCORDING TO THE TEACHINGS OF THE WATCHTOWER SOCIETY

"The penalty of the second chance at life will be the second death, which is total annihilation" (Scripture Studies, Vol. 1, p. 151).

"God is too good to maintain an eternal hell" (Idem, p. 127).

"The grave and physical death are the only hell" (Reconciliation, p. 289).

"The doctrine of eternal torment is as false as its author, the devil" (Creation, p. 341).

"It is so clear that the hell of the Bible is the tomb, the tomb, that even an honest child can understand it, but not so religious theologians" (May God Be Truthful p. 72).

DEATH AND HELL ACCORDING TO BIBLICAL TEACHING

"And they will go to eternal punishment (and not total annihilation), and the righteous to eternal life" (Matthew 25:46).

"Like Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighboring cities, which in the same way as those, having fornicated and gone after vices against nature, they were put, for example, suffering the punishment of the eternal fuge" (Jude, v. 7). Logically, it is the people of these cities who will suffer the punishment. (Cities do not "commit fornication," but people in cities.).

"And the smoke of his torment rises forever and ever. And there are no rest day or night those who worship the beast and his image, nor anyone who receives the mark of his name" (Revelation 14:11).

Luke 16:24, ". . . for I am tormented in this flame."

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

Luke 16:26, “. . . a great chasm is placed between us and you, so that you would like to pass them from here to you, you cannot, nor from there, pass here.”

Luke 16:28, “. . . that they too may not come to this place of torment.”

Daniel 12:2, “And many who sleep in the dust of the earth will be awakened, some to eternal life, and others to perpetual shame and confusion.”

SUGGESTIONS FOR WITNESSING TO JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES

1. Be courteous and patient. One of the things Jehovah’s Witnesses seem to delight in is being persecuted. They believe this is kind of proof that they are the true servants of God. When one is clumsy and brusque with them, it reaffirms in their minds that they really must be the “true sheep” of the Lord. This makes it much more difficult for the next Christian to witness to them. Do not argue, but firmly highlight the truth of Scripture.
2. At some point early in the conversation, have the Jehovah’s Witness agree to speak only about what is important. . . . as salvation. You might say, “Since we are human, we are destined not to agree on some minor points. So, why don’t we limit our conversation to the really important topics, for example, how to be saved?” Most of them will consent to this. And this will help you a lot. Each time they try to talk about another matter, you will be able to remind them diplomatically of what was agreed, and turn the conversation back to the gospel. This way you will have a better chance of leading them to Christ.
3. Be an attentive listener. The best soul winners listen carefully to what the other person is saying, so they can grasp things that can be used in presenting them with the gospel.
4. Ask questions. It is important that you ask the Jehovah’s Witness what he means by certain phrases. For example, what do they mean by the “sacrifice of the ransom,” that Christ Jesus is “Son of God,” and “death,” etc., for it is often totally different from what you know they mean? Often their words sound biblical, but what they mean is anti-scriptural. In order to combat the error, you must know what the error is, and many times the error is not evident on the surface.
5. Perhaps you will need to use the Bible more than with other people to win them to the Lord. Jehovah’s Witnesses have the impression that they are the only ones who really know the Bible. The truth is that they usually don’t know the Bible very well... except for certain “test texts” that you can find right away. However, many Protestants (and many born-again believers) generally do not know as much of God’s Word as Jehovah’s Witnesses. Therefore, when they speak to someone, they always assume the attitude of a teacher, if the listener knows nothing of the Bible. They are always amazed to find someone who knows as much or more than they do. However, while this, and while it is extremely important for you to use God’s Word when testifying to them, be very careful not to try to show them how much you know by using too many verses. It will almost always be better to use as few verses as possible . . . clear and explicit verses . . . and stay in them.
6. Keep in mind that the ordinary Jehovah’s Witness is elusive like mercury. When you show them a verse that they don’t like, or for which they don’t have an answer, they immediately want

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

to jump into some other passage. Often such a passage will have nothing to do with the subject of salvation. Don't let them do this. Stick with the passage you are making them see until they admit what that verse is saying, or they admit that they do not believe the verse in question. Perhaps this will seem impossible to do, when the time comes, but strive to achieve it.

7. If after all their best efforts to get them to understand the plan of salvation, they still continue to refuse to accept Christ as their personal Savior, don't let them leave feeling comfortable. This advice goes to any lost person you get to talk to, but especially to the Jehovah's Witness, who is so sure there is no hell to worry about.

8. To end a conversation with an unbelieving Jehovah's Witness, you would say, "If what you believe is true, and I don't believe it, all I have to face is to be totally annihilated. But if what the Bible says about hell is true, and you do not believe it and do not accept Christ as your personal Savior, you must face an eternity in the lake of fire." Let them know that neither you nor God want them to go to hell. Speak the truth in love.

Seventh-day Adventism

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The forerunner of the Seventh-day Advent is William Miller, even though the person most identified with the movement is Ellen G. White.

In 1818, William Miller, who was a farmer from New England, predicted that Christ would come again on March 21, 1843. (This date was decided by interpreting the 2300 days of Daniel 8:14 prophecy as years, and adding 2300 years to the year 457 B.C.) Of course, Christ did not return that year.

The date was changed to October 24, 1844. Again, Christ did not appear. Miller felt bitterly disillusioned. Before his death in 1849, Miller still admitted, "We expected the personal coming of Christ on that date; and now to claim that we were not wrong would be dishonest. We should never be ashamed to confess our mistakes frankly. I have no confidence in any of the new theories that originated from the movement . . ." (Good News Broadcaster, June, 1964).

However, many of Miller's adherents started their own groups, and one of them became the foundation of modern Seventh-day Adventism. Ellen G. White was one of the leaders of this group. Instead of admitting the error in calculating the date, as Miller had done, this group insisted that Christ had entered the "Heavenly Sanctuary" to (supposedly) finish the atonement, and that when He had finished that atonement, He will come the rest of the way to earth. (Hebrews 10:12. The Atonement is finished!)

Ms. White was the author of several publications. His books include *The Desire of the Ages*, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *The Acts of the Apostles*, *Prophets and Kings*, and a very popular booklet called *The Way to Christ*. This booklet has been distributed by millions. The attitude of Mrs White's adherents is that her writings contain no errors. However, not all Adventists concede that she is a prophesy, in the same sense as Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc.

Some Christian leaders today are saying that modern Adventism has departed sufficiently from its original appearance and should no longer be regarded as "heresy." If their mistakes were only about minor points, we would be inclined to agree with them. However, since Adventism places works in salvation, we have no alternative but to declare that such teachings are definitely anti-scriptural

brief doctrinal overview of Adventism.

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

In *Questions of Doctrine*, 1975, they say that Ellen G. White's book, *The Great Conflict*, is "one of our current books." In this book are found many doctrines foreign to the Word of God.

SALVATION

Ms. White says, "As the books of memory open at judgment, the lives of all who have believed in Jesus pass before God to be examined by him . . . Every name is mentioned, every case carefully investigated; there will be names that will be accepted, and others rejected. In case someone has in the books of memory sins of which he has not repented and which have not been forgiven, his name will be erased from the book of life, and that of his good works will be erased from the book of life . . . To all who have truly repented of their sin, that they have accepted with faith the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice, forgiveness has been inscribed in front of their names in the books of heaven; as they have become partakers of Christ's righteousness, and it is recognized that their characters result in harmony with God's law, their sins will be blotted out of them, and they themselves will be judged WORTHY of eternal life" (*The Great Conflict*, pp. 472, 473).

According to this statement by Mrs. White, even if a person "believes in Jesus," he will still be lost if he dies with any recorded sin of which he has not repented. But if someone believes in Jesus and his character proves good, God will give him what he has gained through faith and acts of merit—eternal life.

Remember that Romans 1 1:6 tells us that if a person is saved by grace then he cannot also be saved by works. Grace means "mercy," and if one works for something and receives a salary for it, that wage is not given mercy but because it is owed . . . for then he deserves it for having earned it (Romans 4:4, 5). But no person deserves salvation. God owes absolutely nothing to anyone!

We deserve hell, but God of grace grants eternal life to those who trust in Christ and the work He did in payment for our sins. Eternal life does not come to us through faith "acts of merit." Salvation does not come to us through faith and then some. It comes to us through faith only in the work that Christ will accomplish for us. What passage from Galatians comes to mind when we hear that someone tries to be saved by grace and the works of the law? Galatians 5:1-4. "Just as the priest, in taking away the sins of the sanctuary, confessed them on the head of the goat emissary, so Christ will place all these sins upon Satan, author and instigator of sin . . . Satan, burdened with responsibility for all the sins he has caused to be committed. . He will finally suffer the full penalty of sin in the fire that will destroy all the wicked (*The Great Conflict*, pp. 474,475).

However, God's Word clearly states, "But the Lord bore in Him (Christ) the sin of us all" (Isaiah 53:6). Christ is the One who "made sin for us (God)" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Since all our sins were placed upon Christ, what need is there for another to bear the sins? This Adventist doctrine is blasphemy.

THE DREAM OF THE SOUL

Adventists teach that the lost will be annihilated, and not that they will spend eternity in the lake of fire, as the Scriptures say. Adventists also do not believe that a person has consciousness after death. This belief is called "the dream of the soul," and it contradicts many important scripture texts in favor of believers who have already departed to be with the Lord in the Heavenly Home. Refer to the following passages: 1 Thessalonians 4:17; 2 Corinthians 5:6-8;

Philippians 1:21-23; Revelation 6:9, 10 and Psalm 116:15.

Saturday

The point of contention that is unique in its kind among Adventists is the teaching that one must keep the Sabbath in order to be saved. Again, this is a question of: Are we saved by law or by grace? Any of the scriptural passages given below answer that question and you should learn to apply them in situations when discussing a topic like the one we mentioned, while you testify. "Know, therefore, this, men brethren: that through him forgiveness of sins is announced to you, and that of all that by the law of Moses you could not be justified, in him is justified everyone who believes" (Acts 13:38, 39). "For by the works of the law no human being shall be justified before him; for through the law is the knowledge of sin.

We conclude, then, that man is justified by faith without the works of the law" (Romans 3:20, 28). Then is the law contrary to God's promises? No way; for if the given law could vivify, justice would truly be by law. But the Scripture enclosed everything under sin, that the promise that is by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to believers" (Galatians 3:21, 22).

It is foolish to try to keep the law to be saved or to try to keep the law after being saved in order to stay safe. "So foolish are you? Having started with the Spirit, are you now going to end with the flesh?" (Galatians 3:3).

Regarding the Sabbath, God says, "One makes a difference between day and day; another judges the same every day. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind" (Romans 14:5). God does not give the authority to the local church to tell us that we should observe one particular day instead of another! "Therefore no one (including Adventists) shall judge you in food or drink, or in feast days, new moon, or Sabbaths. . ." -- the Sabbath—(Colossians 2:16).

Agree with them that the Sabbath is the Sabbath, the Seventh Day, because it is. The Sabbath has never been changed from seventh day. But the day one chooses to worship God is not the matter of importance. One should worship the Lord every day. The important thing is how do we manage to be saved? And by the way, the Sabbath was given as a day of rest, and not as a day of worship.

SUGGESTIONS FOR WITNESSING TO THEM

1. Be wary of the subtle way Adventists use to appeal to unaware audiences through their radio program, "The Voice of Prophecy" and their television programs, "Faith for Today." One can listen to or watch such programs without ever hearing any mention of the false doctrine taught by Seventh-day Adventists. The difference between their beliefs and God's Word becomes more apparent when one reads the literature published by Adventists.

2. During the Christmas season you can see some trucks full of young people and young ladies who are singing Christmas carols through the streets of the city. As they sing those songs, well-dressed young people go house to house asking for contributions to missionary works in hospitals that are taking place around the world. They are Seventh-day Adventists, but one could not have recognized them. They never say it. Nor could one discover who printed the beautiful literature they distribute. Nor does it indicate it. Sometimes, well at the bottom of a page, in very small letters, you can see the initials: SDA. Adventists do a lot of good work by maintaining hospitals, schools, and promoting high morality. This is one of the reasons why people cannot realize that it is a dangerous "religion." People see the good works of Adventists and assume

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

that it must be a good religion.

3. When you testify to an Adventist, remember that individually, some members of that denomination may not believe in everything the group teaches in general. Some, no doubt, know the Lord as personal Savior . . . for God honoring some portion of the Word that they may have believed. You will need to find out from each of them to determine what they are trusting to go to heaven. Invariably, you will find that you should emphasize simple verses about salvation, especially apart from any work or fulfillment of the law. (Read Romans 3:28; 4:5; I 1:6; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5, etc.).

5. The official teaching (and the general belief among members of the Adventist denomination) is that one cannot be sure of salvation now, and that even if one is saved now, one may lose salvation before one dies. In other words, they do not believe that God's gift is eternal life (Read Romans 6:23). You may have to insist again and again on this truth before the listener realizes it. No matter how insistently they try to shift the gospel conversation to the Sabbath or something else, you should concentrate the conversation on the gospel. The gospel is the good news, especially for those people who have been under the mental burden of thinking they have to abide by the law to be saved. "Walk wisely to those outside, redeeming time. Let your word always be graceful, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you must respond to each one" (Colossians 4:5, 6).

Christian Science and Unity

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Christian Science)

The founder of the group called Christian Science was Mrs. Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy, who was born in the community of Bow, New Hampshire (USA), on July 16, 1821, and was the youngest among six siblings. She was raised in a family environment of strict Calvinism, but never manifested belief in this doctrine. His health was very weak, and this is why his formal education was interrupted. Mary Baker was a semi-invalid for years.

Mr. George Glover, whom she married in 1843, was the first of her three husbands. Glover passed away before the first anniversary of their marriage. Later, and after the death of her mother and the remarriage of her father, Mary Baker Glover married Daniel Patterson. During the Civil War, Patterson was captured and taken prisoner. After returning home, Patterson ran away with a neighbor's wife. Eventually, he and Mary divorced. During all these years she constantly suffered from some ailments.

While married to Patterson, Mary Baker heard of Phineas Quimby, who supposedly cured people without using any medicine. She went to see Quimby when she was 41 years old, and for several weeks, which she spent in Quimby's office in Portland, Maine, she received great relief, which she attributed to God working through Quimby. However, Phineas Quimby denied that God had anything to do with improvement or that he possessed any special healing power.

Phineas Quimby died in 1866 when Mary Baker was 45 years old. From that time on, Mary Baker Patterson began posing as a "healer." Shortly after Quimby's death, she was injured by ice accumulated on the sidewalk, and suffered injuries, and claimed that the doctor who had examined her had declared the injuries to be fatal (although the testimony given by the doctor himself later denied this). Some friends came to visit her before her supposed imminent death.

She had all her friends come out of her room while reading Matthew chapter 9. And as she

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

read this portion of scripture, she received immediate and complete healing (she said). Mary Baker started a school to teach others how to heal, so she charged anywhere from \$100 to \$300 for a course that lasted three weeks. During this time as well, she began work on her book, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, which later became the cult textbook. When this book was ready to be published, its author had to come to the help of her followers, because no publisher in Boston wanted to publish it.

Mary Baker married Asa G. Eddy for the third time.

In 1878 he organized and pastored the First Church of Christ Scientist, which had 26 members. During this period, Asa G. Eddy died of a heart ailment. However, Mary Baker Eddy stated that he had died due to "mentally administered arsenic poison" by his enemies. The twilight of his life was plagued by disease and neurosis. Mary Baker Eddy died in 1910. Even though she declared that she did not believe in the reality of death, she had to stand before that inescapable quote that God says all men must fulfill (Hebrews 9:27).

CHRIST'S DEATH FOR SIN

"For with a single offering he made the sanctified perfect forever" (Hebrews 10:14).
"In whom we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:7). "All of us went astray like sheep, each one went away in his own way; but Jehovah bore in him the sin of us all. . . Jehovah wanted to break it. ." (Isaiah 53:6, 10).

REGARDING SIN

"Man is not capable of sinning, getting sick and dying" (*Science and Health*, p. 475).
"To invalidate the claim of sin, you have to discover it, tear off the mask, point out the illusion, and thus obtain victory over sin, proving its unreality" (*Science and Health*, p. 447). "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

"There is certainly no righteous man on earth who does good and never sins" (Ecclesiastes 7:20).

THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST

"Our Mother conceived this idea of God, and gave her ideal the name of Jesus—that is, Joshua, or Savior" (*Science and Health*, p. 29).

"Jesus proceeded from Mary's conscious communion with God" (*Science v Health*, pp. 29, 30).
The angel—not Mary—said, "That a savior is born unto you today, in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). "And Paul.. . he argued with them, declaring and expounding through the Scriptures, that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer, and rise from the dead; and that Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, he said, is the Christ" (Acts 17:2, 3). "... for what is begotten in her is of the Holy Spirit. All this happened so that what the Lord said through the prophet might be fulfilled, when he said, Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and you shall call his name Immanuel, which translated is: God with us (Matthew 1:20, 22, 23). "And now, ye shall conceive in your womb (and not in the mind of Mary), and bear a son, and call his name

Jesus" (Luke 1:31).

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT HOW YOU TESTIFY TO THEM

1. You must understand the main premise or formula of Christian Science in order to reach them intelligently for the Lord. The basic approach of this cult regarding God, salvation, etc., can be summarized this way: God is Love . . . God is Life . . . God is Good. . God is Spirit. . God is everything. (All of these things are true except the last one, which will be true later.) Since God is Love and God is everything, there can be no hatred. Since God is Life and God is everything, there can be no death. Since God is Good and God is everything, there can be no evil. Since God is Spirit and God is everything, there can be no matter. This is another form of "pantheism," the doctrine or belief that God is not a personality, but that all laws, forces, manifestations, etc., are God. Those in Christian Science strongly adhere to it. This formula governs in almost all his reflections. Therefore, you need to know how to answer using the scriptures.

2. SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES REFUTING THE IDEA THAT "GOD IS EVERYTHING."

Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Notice that here it does not say that God is the heavens and the earth—but that He created them. Isaiah 59:2, "But your iniquities have made division between you and your God, and your sins have made his face hidden from you . . ." Again, the truth that God is Different from His creation is highlighted. Numbers 23:19, "God is not man, that he may lie. . ." Man lies, but God does not lie. No rational person could really believe that God is EVERYTHING!

3. The most important thing to remember is that you must communicate the gospel to those in Christian Science. Very often, a person is drawn to this cult because he does not want to believe that he is responsible for the sins he has committed. Christian Science provides a convenient loophole for such a person and gives them a sense of security that is false. If they understood the gospel, that God loves sinners and has already made full payment for sin, perhaps they would respond, and accept Christ as Savior.

4. One of the reasons so many elderly people are members of Christian Science is because they are afraid of death and what awaits them in the afterlife, and they do not know God's love. The teachings of Christian Science, that sin and death do not really exist, calm their fears. You will discover that, as a group, Christian Science people are nice people, who are trying to live the best kind of life within their means. Even though the plan of salvation excludes the good works of men to achieve heaven, there is no reason why you could not congratulate a person who is obviously trying to live a good life. Since Christian Science people do not believe they are "sinners," an effective way to make them understand the truth is to ask them, "Are you perfect?" Most people admit right away that they are not perfect. When they see this and realize that they must be perfect to enter heaven, half of their "battle" will be won.

Be sure to emphasize Scriptural passages like John 3:16, which highlight the great love God has for us, as this will be especially appealing to those in Christian Science. The gospel—the good news that God has made the payment for sin—is the power God will use to save those in this cult. ". . . keep what has been entrusted to you, avoiding profane talks about vain things, and the arguments of the falsely called science, which professed some, deviated from the faith. . . ." I Timothy 6:20,21.

SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW TO TESTIFY TO THEM

1. The method of interpreting the Unitarian Bible is “spiritualization.” For example, according to the cult of Unity, “Jerusalem” is not even a city, but “the same it means the very center of the individual’s self-awareness.” Peter was a “fisherman” which is “symbolic of consciousness that is accessible and at the same time seeks new ideas.” Their total approach to the Bible is based on this kind of spiritualization.
2. Unitarians emphasize health and prosperity primarily. They completely ignore what personal salvation is. They deny that man needs to be saved. Their emphasis is on this present life on earth, which is also highlighted by many of today’s liberal Protestant churches. They offer no hope for existence after death.
3. Perhaps the greatest danger of the cult is the fact that many of its human feelings are beautiful and true—as to what they mean. Therefore, when one hears the message of Unity, he is often deceived into thinking that it is but a more “practical” way of approaching “Christianity.”
4. You should emphasize that salvation is by grace, and not by works. This is essential, precisely because of their insistence that man is part of God—just as a drop of water is part of a great ocean. Therefore, according to Unity, man must only recognize what in himself he is—part of God—and recognize that he possesses goodness and deserves God’s favor.
5. Like those in Christian Science, the disciples of Unity are not happy to think about sin and its punishment. They need to understand the gospel.
6. Those who believe in the doctrine of Oneness are usually so determined to seek the good in man that they refuse to admit the presence of any evil in man. Sometimes you will have to wake them up to face reality by asking, “Do you think the brutal slaughter of six million Jews under Hitler’s direction was a good thing?” Or if not, “Do you think a man is showing that he possesses Divine qualities when he steals, lies, or commits crimes?”
7. We should be more than glad that the Lord has given us the Bible, which is a sharp two-edged sword, which can penetrate the heart of man and introduce into him the light of the gospel. Without the gospel power of God’s Word, no one could be saved, even those who are under the doctrine of Unity.

The Mormons

HISTORY OF MORMONISM

Mormonism—also known as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—was organized in 1830, in Fayette, New York. It is said that an angel named Moroni appeared to Joseph Smith, (son), and revealed to him the place where gold plates containing the history of America in ancient times were buried.

Also, according to Mormon belief, Smith received a pair of special glasses (called “Urim and Thummim”), which converted the “Egyptian—Reformed characters” written on these plates to

the English language. Smith had a friend of his copy the writings on the plates while he (Smith) dictated the translation. These writings later became the Book of Mormon, and Mormons claim that it is an additional “revelation” for these latter days. They say it is as authentic and inspired as the Bible.

At the beginning of its history, members of the group were forced to emigrate from one part of the country to another.

With their pagan teachings of polygamy and frequent accusations of a criminal nature against their leaders, adherents to this group were carried back and forth. Joseph Smith and his brother, Hyrum Smith, were eventually killed by an angry mob while in jail waiting to be tried.

Mormons today are divided into two groups: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, those who followed Brigham Young, who succeeded Joseph Smith; and the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, composed of those who supported Joseph Smith’s son, rather than Brigham Young. The group that followed Brigham Young is the larger of the two.

MORMON DOCTRINE vs. THE BIBLE

1. They have added to god’s Word. They claim that other equally inspired books are The Book of Mormon, The Doctrine and covenants, and The Pearl of Great Price. Scripture warns against adding to what God has said, “Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you, and you may be found a liar” (Proverbs 30:6). “I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone (even Joseph Smith) adds to these things, God will bring upon him the plagues that are written in this book” (Revelation 22:18).

2. They teach salvation by works. In the Articles of Faith of the Mormon Church, they state, “The sectarian dogma of justification by faith alone has exerted an influence on evil since the earliest days of Christianity” (Ed. 1925, p. 479). For Mormons, “salvation” is received by following a system of rules. According to this system, the requirements for attaining salvation are as follows: belief in Christ, public confession, water baptism, laying on of hands, and obedience to church ordinances.

How different this human system is from the way God saves man through the Lord Jesus Christ! John 1:12 says, “But to all who received him, to those who believe in his name, he gave them power (the right) to be made children of God.” They believe that Christ was created . . . in the same way that we were created. They teach that men existed in eternity past, in the form of spiritual beings. That they were later given physical bodies. Christ was simply another spiritual being before He came to earth.

If Christ Jesus is only one of us, what are we then? The book of Mormons, a Compendium of the Doctrines of the Gospel, gives us the answer. “God Himself was once as we are now, and He is an exalted Man, and He sits enthroned in the heavens beyond” (p. 190). This teaching is total blasphemy against the clear teaching of God’s Word. A religion like this could never be considered “Christian” by the Lord Jesus Christ!

SUGGESTIONS FOR WITNESSING TO MORMONS

1. When you are talking to them, always make them consent to using only the Bible in conversation. You could do this using a statement like, “Since you believe that the Bible is the Word of God, and so do I; And since I do not believe that the Book of Mormon is the Word of God, let

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

us restrict our conversation to what the Bible says. After all, if both books are from God, logically they will not be able to contradict each other." Mormons will usually consent to this. Once they do, you will be able to continue your testimony more calmly, because they are not familiar with the plan of salvation, and it will be good news for them.

2. Do not allow the Mormon to leave the passage until he fully realizes what it means. This is especially important if he tries to quote from the Book of Mormon to demonstrate some point that is contradictory to the scriptures.

3. Remember that the matter is still "grace and works." Don't let the conversation deviate from the main topic, whenever possible. The more you talk about other things, the longer it will take you to lead him to the Lord, and the harder it will be for you to do so then.

4. If the Mormon tells you of any strange doctrine that might pique your curiosity, let it pass. Or you will find that they will be monopolizing the conversation and you will not have the opportunity to explain the plan of salvation to them.

5. It is always important that you pray mentally, as you testify, that God will give you wisdom, and direct the thoughts of the unsaved person to the gospel. "And if any of you have a lack of wisdom, ask God for it, who gives to all abundantly and without reproach, and it shall be given to him" (James 1:5). "But thank God, who leads us always in triumph in Christ Jesus, and through us manifests in every place the smell of his knowledge" (2 Corinthians 2:14).

**Lesson 7
Religions**

**[Click here to take quiz: https://forms.office.com/r/pn36buDh07](https://forms.office.com/r/pn36buDh07)
If the link doesn't work copy and paste it into your browser**

1. What is Religion?

2. Explain Jewish beliefs

3. Explain Roman-Catholic beliefs

4. Explain Twentieth Protestants beliefs

5. Explain Neo-Evangelical beliefs

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

6. Explain Jehovah's Witnesses beliefs

7. Explain Seventh Day Adventists beliefs

8. Explain Christian Science and Unity

9. Explain Mormons beliefs

Lesson 8 Ideas to Witness

1. Through Brochures

This is perhaps the most usual and easy way to approach a person, the brochure is delivered after the presentation and greeting, in a friendly way and thus a broad and enjoyable conversation is established. This work is done individually or as part of a program. Each Christian carries pamphlets or Bibles to work on Evangelism on their own.

Do not hand out leaflets to the four winds, it would be as much as throwing away the seed without any interest in harvesting. Do not just say: it is an evangelical pamphlet, as if that were your work without being interested in its content, say something else that gives occasion perhaps to some conversation.

In many of these cases, the person will ask, what is this, what it is, this will give occasion to be an answer of testimony. Example: it is a booklet that deals with the future life of man, it is a booklet that talks about how to obtain true happiness, it is a booklet that describes the sublime and true love of God (this according to the central theme of the booklet that is delivered).

2. While doing a Favor

The good witness of the Christian in his ward is a good opportunity to evangelize our neighbors (relating through our good works mostly if we are careful we will find the opportunity to testify of Christ) for example: when a person, near our home is sick, you can visit him helping him in some housework and thus present the message of the gospel, surely she will be willing to reciprocate this favor received and continue to listen to the word of God. and maybe he will attend the temple.

3. Visiting the Hospital

How many times when visiting the clinic, either for consultation or visiting a sick person, you have contact with people, this can be an opportunity for your noble task. Here you can start a question after a brief introduction about the service or comfort of the clinic. He will say: Do you have any sick people here or do you come to the consultation? Depending on the answer, it may continue, usually, illness or moral suffering makes the person more sensitive.

Do not worry ma'am, although medical science is very advanced, the life of every human being is in the hands of God, says the Bible: "I make die and I make live, I hurt and I heal." So God has the balm, that is, the medicine for all disease, only we must have faith, said Christ, to whom he believes everything is possible. In addition, the word of God says that the day will come when all sickness and anguish will end. Lord has ever heard the gospel, would like to hear it, (depending on the response received) will continue to deliver the message or make a commitment for a visit to your home or extend an invitation to the church. Here it should be noted that, when an invitation is made to the church it is advisable that one put oneself at the order to go and look for these people, at least for the first days.

4. Visiting Homes

Visits to family and friends who are sympathetic to the gospel are very helpful, as the environ-

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

ment is not hostile to the evangelistic message. On these visits, the discouraged should be prayed for and encouraged. Look at how the church can help them not only in the spiritual area, but also in other areas. Try to establish discipleships, to follow up and to develop in faith.

PRESENTING THE GOSPEL

One of the problems evangelizers face is how to start an "evangelistic conversation." He knows of the prevailing need of the sinner and has the elements to help him, only that they must be put in order to expose them, in such a way that they offer the best prospects of progress and effectiveness thus fulfilling what the Apostle Paul indicates to Timothy (2 Tim. 2:15) "that traces well the word of truth", this is with regard to the system of explanation.

On the other hand, we have the time and place to start, this varies according to the circumstances: it can be an occasional center, when traveling, on the street, in the hospital, etc. Or in the development of the work of the evangelism plan, organized by the church (Visitation house by house).

At this point in this booklet, we suggest some steps that although they are not the only ones because the circumstances vary, but they can give you the idea for the development of your work.

1. Seizing opportunities

In this step we see how many of the circumstances are proper to establish an evangelistic conversation; it is a matter of being prepared and taking advantage of occasions or topics that invite us to speak of Christ.

An example of this is: The Divine Master in his conversation with the Samaritan woman. Jesus begins with a petition, "Woman, give me a drink." Jesus continues with an offering: "You would ask of Him and He would give you living water." In these words he whets the appetite and discovers the spiritual need of that woman. "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but the water that I will give him will be in him a fountain that leaps forth to eternal life." The woman answered: "give me this water", Jesus as he is aware of the life of the human being and to satisfy the request and desire of the woman, touched the wound of her sin when she lifts the veil of her life "go and call your husband". Jesus could have delivered the message to her alone without her husband, but in it touches the sin in which she lived. "I don't have a husband." Jesus said to her: "Well you have said, I have no husband, for five husbands you have laid out and the one you have now is not your husband, this you have said with truth"; we can see the Master's ability to know how to take advantage of opportunities and circumstances to proclaim the truths of the Kingdom of God.

2. Fostering opportunities.

In this aspect, the purpose is more definite, the Christian has in his mind, to sow the seed. The Divine Master, again on stage gives us the guideline to follow; the blind man who was healed, by washing the mud that Christ smeared in his eyes, once it is despised and discarded by his interrogators, Christ finds him and begins with a question in which he immediately qualifies his spiritual need.

Later his proclamation makes it more objective to the ears of those who listened, he says to the man who had been blind: "Do you believe in the son of God? He answered and said, Who

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

is Lord to believe in him? And Jesus said unto him, And you have seen him, and he who speaks to you He is. And he says to him, I believe Lord, and he worshipped him. Then Jesus makes his proclamation regarding his ministry on behalf of the spiritually blind.

3. The Plan Of Evangelism

The work acquires a certain uniformity because the group that is going to develop this work, carries in its mind a format previously prepared from the introduction to the conversation.

The development of the message as the insinuation for a second visit to the home you are visiting. The team of evangelizers should hold study and prayer meetings so that everyone reaches the same level of enlightenment and knows the same exhibition format; this team will practice until everyone masters it and offers some security on the field.

Let's look at an introductory example, which is defined in five steps. The evangelizers properly arranged, honestly, not ostentatious arrangement, but modest and tasteful, these will go to the door and one of them decisively, touches firmly, not with haste, nor with fear but with all naturalness reflecting on his face a smile remembering that he goes in the name of Jesus Christ.

4. How to Introduce Yourself

A. Personal identification: Good afternoon, sir(a) my name is X and my partner X (Here the partner must pronounce his name).

B. Identification of the Church: One of the evangelizers will make the presentation of the Church, we are from the Evangelical Christian Church... and we want to make you a short visit.

C. Purpose of visitation: The purpose of our visit is to share with you a portion of God's word.

D. Question that qualifies the willingness to hear: Can we have a few minutes of your valuable time? Wait for the answer, so you can move on.

E. Promise of brevity of the visit: We will try to be brief.

NOTE: The possible answers in the visitation: It is good that the evangelizer is prepared for any answer, because he must know that in this work there is a diversity of experiences.

1. When the answer is no: Excuse me Lord for the inconvenience we have caused you, anyway, we want God to Bless you.

2. If the answer is under excuse: Lord, I don't have time and I'm busy, I'm going out, etc. The evangelizer will not be discouraged, but will continue: Well, Sir, it will be another occasion when you tell us, for now, let us give you this booklet that contains a portion of the word of God, speaks of Jesus Christ and his promises of eternal life.

When you have the opportunity you will be able to read it, sir, we do not take away your time, we want God to bless you and enjoy reading. Remember that if you have a spiritual need we are at the order, our church is located in.... And our meetings are the days.... For more information we ask you to consult the brochure that we give you.

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

3. When the answer is affirmative, here we proceed to create a climate of trust, thank you very much, sir, for your good will, for sacrificing part of your time and we assure you that God will take it into account. Lord, we are making these visits to homes in fulfillment of the commandment of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he said: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" and look, by God's blessing we are here with you bringing you the gospel of Jesus Christ.

4. When the evangelizer is a member of another religious organization and begins to contend, it is best to retire kindly to take advantage of the time with someone who wishes to hear the message of salvation.

Remember that all this without the lord's direction will not be successful, therefore, we must invoke his guidance and direction always, in this way his pleasant and perfect will always be done. Amen.

USEFUL SUGGESTIONS

1. Memorize verses from the scriptures

We recommend that you use 3x5 file cards and write the verse on one side and the quote on the other. This way you can go over the quotes to see if you remember the corresponding verse, and you can also go over the verses to see if you remember the quotes from each one. As you learn your verses, try to repeat them as often as possible, so you will implant them more firmly in your memory. It is a well-known fact that when one combines reading, hearing, and expression with the teaching process, automatically the retention ability is progressively increased.

2. Practice your knowledge

Listening or reading alone will not be able to provide you with the skill and effectiveness in using your knowledge. you must practice. It has been said that "practice makes perfect." It's a good idea to periodically review memorized verses, even those that you feel you have. knows very well. If you have the 3x5 cards at your fingertips, you can make good use of time that would otherwise be wasted... sitting in the hairdresser, etc.

3. Exercise yourself to know the verses so well that you can quote them immediately upon hearing the corresponding quotation, a portion of it, or some reference topic that the verse might answer or deal with. Achieve the ability to cite them almost effortlessly. This way you can quote a verse to the hearing person as your mind is free to think about what to say immediately afterwards or try to perceive the listener's reaction to what you are saying. The ability to do this is invaluable.

4. Do not argue with the listener

Winning an argument could make you feel great—until you realize that doing so could result in a person's ego feeling so hurt that a person's discernment is undermined, and they don't want to trust Christ as their Savior. One of the reasons why so few people have a fruitful ministry in winning souls is that most are plainly inconsiderate of the feelings of the person to whom they are testifying. It is true that the lost person must repent. He must change his way of thinking

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

and come to see that nothing he has trusted (apart from Christ alone, for his salvation) can save him. Christ is “The Way, The Truth, and The Life.” And as you present the plan of salvation, the hearing person will discover that he has been wrong about his preconceptions.

4. Be Kind

You know very well how bad you are. It feels when you are wrong about something, so remember that the lost person also has feelings, and be very careful how you show him the truth of the gospel and the error of anything else. Of course, this should never result in you compromise on doctrine. What we recommend is nothing more than the use of common sense. Ephesians 4:15 says to speak “the truth in love.” The one does not exclude the other. They should always go hand in hand.

If you have ever been in the position of being able to speak to many people and to come to know about their problems, then you will have discovered how desperately alone and hungry for affection and understanding almost all people really are.

5. Use the illustrations

As you read through the Gospels, you can’t help but notice the many illustrations our Lord used frequently. Illustrations are very valuable in making their details clear and understandable (while being more interesting) to the listener.

Regarding the illustrative details:

A. They should be about topics familiar to the listener.

B. As much as possible, they should be concrete, rather than abstract, so that they form a picture in the person’s mind.

C. They should be concise and laconic (to the point), and not take long. Don’t let your illustrations demand so much detail from you that they usurp the proper place of scripture in your presentation. Always keep in mind that your illustrations are the means to achieve a goal—to shed additional light on Scripture—and not the goal itself.

D. Never use illustrations of suspicious or double entendre tones. This would certainly thwart their purpose in getting the person to focus their thoughts more on Scripture and on the Lord Jesus Christ. This would, instead, cause the person to think less and less about his message.

E. When you use an illustration from a book or a person’s life, don’t tell it as if it happened in your own life. Although the examples you draw from your own experience add interest, it is not necessary for you to appropriate others. Be careful not to lie about your illustrations.

6. Maintain a good presence

Wouldn’t you expect a life insurance company representative to look groomed, clean, and pleasantly dressed? How long do you think you would pay attention to your sales talk if he was

EVANGELISMO PERSONAL

poorly dressed, dirty, and needed to shave? Would a U.S. ambassador of America adequately represent his country, meeting to discuss important matters with the ambassador of a communist country, if he were wearing a wrinkled suit, with grease stains on his tie, needed a haircut, and didn't wear deodorant? Would the receptionist of a large and important company last long in her position if she came to work and interviewed clients with their hair all disheveled, the enamel of their nails peeling, part of the last meal on their teeth and the wrinkled dress? Of course not!

As Christians, as Ambassadors of the King of Kings, eager to influence people to receive the gift of eternal life, we should certainly present ourselves as clean, groomed, and attractive as possible.

When activities follow a carefully laid out plan, there is no reason why a person cannot have a proper wardrobe even if he is not a millionaire. This does not mean that you should have all the latest fashion "news," but that you should make every effort to be reasonably dressed in the ordinary style according to whom you intend to testify.

It is inexcusable to irritate people with "body aroma" or bad breath. The articles that are currently available to combat them are too accessible for you to be offensive in these aspects. There is no substitute for hygiene.

7. Use heartfelt compliments

Often just a word of praise will soften a person in such a way that after the same he will feel less subject and open to the gospel without offering more opposition. When you testify to a brilliant person, let them know that you know they are intelligent. Congratulate, for example, a lawyer for his abilities, or a great doctor for his accomplishments. And remember that you don't have to know the right to testify to a lawyer, or medicine to testify to a doctor. The gospel is the power you must use.

8. Express your consent

When a person is right, agree with him. Express your consent vehemently whenever possible. But when you must express that you disagree, do so in the most affable way you can. . . . Since it has already been stated that many Christians are "dispensational correct, but dispositional wrong." The Bible says, "Before be kind to one another."

9. Use manual gestures

This method of securing the listener's attention and then explaining the gospel to him is fully illustrated and developed in Chapter Twenty-One. This is one of the most effective things we have ever discovered in making the gospel clear and understandable to the lost. Use!

10. Don't use too many verses

Because we love God's Word and because we have found in it many verses precious to us, sometimes when we are testifying, we use so many verses that the listener is confused. When a verse clarifies a point, leave it at that. If you need another verse, all right, find another one and use it.

EVANGELISMO PERSONAL

11. Utilize questions wisely

Aristotle was famous for his way of teaching by asking questions of his students. In this way, the student could reflect better on what the teacher was trying to explain than if he listened to only one speech. This is also true when we testify. If a verse says, "Everyone in it. believe, do not perish, but have eternal life." you might ask: "Does this verse say, 'Whosoever works, becomes a member of a church, and pays tithing, shall have eternal life?'" and "Does this verse say that those who believe will have eternal life until you begin to sin again?" The questions will help the hearing person think with you about the scriptures.

12. Tell the truth

If you are asked a question that you cannot answer at the time, do not bugle a bluster... Simply admit that you don't know and promise to look for the answer and communicate it to the interested party later. In your own notebook you will want to keep a list of questions that you find difficult to answer, with their corresponding written answers, along with explanations of scriptural passages that are difficult to explain. With the passage of time and after some experience, you will achieve greater tranquility and mastery in answering even these questions

13. Learn from others

If you hear that your preacher gives a good illustration . . . If you see another soul winner make use of a particular method while testifying. . . . If you see someone using a particular phrase that increases their effectiveness in making the gospel clearer. . . . Don't be afraid to do the same. When another faithful Christian uses a special way to lead people to the Lord, try to imitate Him. In 1 Corinthians 4:16, the apostle Paul urged His children in the faith to follow his Christian example. The important thing is not who originated this or that... The important thing is to do everything we can to make the message of salvation understandable to the lost. All glory belongs to the Lord.

When you get a person to accept the Lord

- When we beat someone, many times we believe that we have already done everything. Put the same interest and effort you made to win him into bringing him to church.
- Collect your personal data: name, address, telephone, age, date, and write down some special detail, which allows you to remember later who you spoke to specifically (Axis: if you are an atheist, Mormon, etc.)
- Be enthusiastic and tell him that you have made the most important decision in the world and congratulate him. Introduce it to other brethren in the church.
- Invite him to come as soon as possible. Any cult is good. Don't expect special dates or special preachers.
- Explain briefly what God's desire is for you to attend a church.
- Be enthusiastic and tell him that coming to church is not as traditionally thought: boring, messy, and weird people.
- If all permits, go through him or her, being faithful to your commitment and remembering the rules of dealing with the opposite sex. Use promotions to encourage people to come: Help with tickets, provide transportation, lunch, etc. Without falling into bribery with them.
- Remember to pray for your guest. The devil will try to prevent him from coming at all costs.
- Remember that you are a spiritual baby and will need a lot of help and patience. It is not a

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

lack of sincerity in his decision.

- Do not put requirements to come to church:
 “You can’t go with those clothes...” “You have to stop that vice...” “You have to take off that hair, that beard, etc.” “You have to be baptized...”
- If the person fails you once do not get discouraged, visit him again and try again, if you see interest in coming again, do not faint, do not get tired. Fulfill your mission.

“So, brethren, when I came to you to announce to you the witness of God, I did not go with excellence of words or wisdom. For I set out not to know among you anything but Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was among you with weakness, and much fear and trembling; and neither my word nor my preaching was with persuasive words of human wisdom, but with demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith may not be founded on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.” 1 Colossians 2:1-5

**Prueba de la Lección 8
Ideas Para Evangelizar**

[Click here to take quiz: https://forms.office.com/r/fJpkpwRT7q](https://forms.office.com/r/fJpkpwRT7q)
If the link doesn't work copy and paste it into your browser

1. Liste y explique la cuatro (4) maneras de evangelizar

2. Explique el significado de Aprovechando y Propiciando Oportunidades, en el Evangelismo Personal

3. Dramatice, con otro estudiante, una presentación de evangelismo personal

4. Liste sus cinco (5) favoritas 'Sugerencias Útiles'

Referencias

Abels, G. (n.d.). *Como hacer evangelismo personal*. Ministerio Pastoral, pp. 35-38.
<https://1library.co/document/yn9pk01q-ministerio-pastoral.html>

Bogard, B. (traducido al castellano by Carlos Beutelspacher). (1969). *Mormonismo*. Cuarta Edición.

Evans, W. (1964). *Personal Soul-Winning*. Chicago: Moody Press. Print.

Hamilton, W. (1908). *The helping hand*. Griffith & Rowland Press.

Personal Soul-winning por William Evans; *The Helping Hand* por Wistar Hamilton; y *Personal Evangelism* por Ernest O. Sellers.

Sellers, E. O. (Ernest Orlando). (1923). *Personal Evangelism: Studies in Individual Efforts to Lead Souls into Right Relations to Christ*. Nashville: Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Print.

Stanford, A. Ray. et. al. (1970). *Handbook of Personal Evangelism*. Place of publication not identified: [publisher not identified]. Print.