



Guard the Gospel

how to present
the Gospel
message.

Colombo Christian Church

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Building Faith

Purpose of Life

To help people realize that seeking God & finding him can be the best purpose in life.

Acts 17:26, 27

Truth to focus:

God determined the times & the exact places where people should live perhaps they could seek him & find him.

Purposeful Questions:

- Why did God determine the times & the exact places where people should live?

Psalm 90:10-12

Truth to focus:

Life is short. The wisest thing that we can do with our life is to find God because without God we can't enter eternity

Purposeful Questions:

- How can we gain a heart of wisdom?
- What is the wisest thing that we can do with this short life?
-

Ecclesiastes 3:11

Truth to Focus:

In every human soul is a God-given awareness that there is "something more" than this transient world. The truth is 'there is life beyond this world'. That means we need to prepare ourselves for eternal life.

Purposeful Questions:

- What God has put in Man's heart?
- What does that mean to you?

Genesis 1:27, 28

Truth to focus:

We need God to live a fulfilling life.
God has created us in his own image.
What does that mean?
Because we are created in his image the meaning & the purpose of our life can be found only by knowing God.
Without knowing God we cannot live a fulfilling life.

Purposeful Questions:

- How God has created us??
- What does that mean "We are created in his image"?
- Do you want to know God?

Seeking God

Matthew 7:7, Matthew 7:13-14

Truth to focus:

One of the great promises of the bible: everyone who seeks finds! Plus, one of the great warnings in the bible: only a few will find. Because the way to find God is narrow & small.

Purposeful Questions:

- If only a few find God, then how many actually seek Him?

Luke 13:22-30

Truth to focus:

Yes, only a few will be saved; therefore, make every effort to seek. Those who simply 'try' will be caught off guard by their rejection from the kingdom of God.

Purposeful Questions:

- How can you make every effort to seek Him?
- Why is it so dangerous to simply 'try'?

Matthew 6:25-33

Truth to focus:

Jesus told them not to worry about the basic needs but rather seek God, his kingdom & his righteousness as God is the provider of all things.

Worrying can distract us from seeking God.

Purposeful Questions:

- What things can distract you from seeking God as your first priority?
- What changes must you make in order to make God's kingdom and righteousness your top priority?

Matthew 13:44-46

Truth to focus:

Finding God is like finding a great treasure or a valuable pearl.

Purposeful Questions:

- Is it a joy for you to sacrifice everything in exchange for God's grace?
- Do you really understand and believe the trade off?

Acts 8:26-40

Here's an example of a seeker who humbly puts God first, thus finding Him and finding great joy. Take note that the Ethiopian Eunuch was a busy man, a man who needed a disciple's help to seek God, a man who used the bible as his guide to finding God.

Charge: Read the Bible daily and study again with us.

God

Purpose:

The main aim of this study is to get an idea of God in the Bible - He is a living God and not an Idol.

Acts 17:24-30

Truth to focus:

God does not live in temples made by human hands. As we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. Now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

Purposeful Questions

- What God is not like according to this passage?
- What does God desire for us ?

Psalms 135:15-17

Truth to focus:

The idols are *lifeless*. They are made by *men*.

Idols have different parts of the *body*, but cannot use them. They can't respond to people's *prayer*. We humans are better off than idols, at least we can actually hear, see, understand and feel. Those who make idols & trust in idols will become like idols.

Purposeful Questions

- Can man make God?
- Are idols useful?
- What happens to those who make & trust in idols?

Jeremiah 10:5

Truth to focus:

Idols are like scarecrows in the field. The scarecrows can't do anything yet the crows are scared of them. Idols cannot do anything to you, yet people are scared to give it up because of the superstitions and stories associated with them. Idols are powerless! *DO not FEAR IDOLS.*

Purposeful Questions:

- To what idols are compared to?

- Why people are scared to give up on idols?
- What are some superstitious beliefs you have?

Deuteronomy 5:8-9

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Truth to focus:

God commands us not to make an idol in any form. And god commands we should not bow down to any idols.

Purposeful Questions:

- What is the command of God?

1 Corinthians 10:14

Truth to focus:

Flee (*run far away*) from idol worship.

Purposeful Questions:

- Why should we flee from idolatry?

Revelation 21:8

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Truth to focus:

Here the *idolaters* are clubbed together with *murderers* and *sexuallyimmoral*. We tend to consider *idolatry* as not the serious offense. But their fate is *hell*.

Purposeful Questions:

- What is the final destination of idolaters?

John 4:24

Truth to focus:

Here Jesus himself says that God is Spirit. It means God has no form. So we must not worship him in any form, because he has none. And we must worship him in spirit & in truth.

Purposeful Questions:

- What is the form of God?
- How should we worship God?

Psalms 103:8

Truth to focus:

God's Nature: He is *compassionate, gracious, slow to anger & abounding in Love*. Yes, he is God of *Justice* but also he is a God whose *love is perfect*. HE is **not an old man** sitting at heaven watching all of us & punishing those who are sinning. But he desires a deep fatherly relationship with us.

Purposeful Questions:

What is the image of God that you have in your mind

Conclusion:

- How do you feel about the study?
- Does this study help you to see the truth about God? Do you want to learn more?
- To please God you must completely give up idol worship. Are you willing to do that?

Jesus is God

Purpose:

This study is to help people to have faith in Jesus as God.

Colossians 2:9

Truth to focus:

Jesus is God in the flesh.

All that you see in God you see in Jesus.

That means Jesus is God.

That means Jesus should have all the qualities of God in Heaven.

We are going to see that in the following 3 passages.

Purposeful Questions:

- What is found in Jesus ?

Mark 4:35-41

Truth to focus:

Only God has the power.

We can see in this passage that Jesus has the power to control the wind and the waves.

That means Jesus is God.

He is All-powerful.

Purposeful Questions:

- Who has the power to control natural forces?

Mark 1:40-42

Truth to focus:

Jesus can HEAL any disease. He has power to heal any man. That means Jesus is God.

Purposeful Questions:

- Who has the power to heal any disease?

Luke 7:36-39, 48-50

Truth to focus:

This woman was a very sinful woman because the whole town seemed to know about her sin. Yet Jesus showed love and compassion to this woman. Jesus forgave this woman like God.

Purposeful Question:

- Who alone can forgive sin?

1 John 3:5

Truth to Focus:

Only sinless man can take away other people's sins.

Purposeful Questions:

- Did Jesus commit any sin in his life?
- Do you know anyone who has lived a sinless life?

Acts 4:12

Truth to Focus:

Jesus is the only name by which the whole world can be saved. There is no other name! Only through Jesus name you will be saved, you will go to Heaven.

Purposeful Questions:

- By whose name the whole mankind will be saved?

John 14:6

Truth to focus:

Jesus is saying He is the WAY, The ONLY WAY. Means there is no other way to Heaven. You can try but there is no other way. Jesus is the TRUTH, the complete TRUTH.

All religions have some truth, but the complete truth you find in Jesus. Jesus is the LIFE. Only through Jesus we have eternal life.

Purposeful Questions:

- Is there any other way besides Jesus by which someone can be saved?

Conclusion:

- Who is Jesus?
- What about other gods?
- Do you want to follow Jesus? If *YES*, then you have to follow him only. You can't worship him and other gods at the same time.
- What do people call those people who follow Jesus?
- *Christians.*
- What will people call you if you follow Jesus? - -
Christian.
- You have to get comfortable with that ?

Jesus' Teachings

The following are some of the claims that he made about Himself. Let's see some of those claims that explain why Jesus is God.

John 6:35

Truth to focus:

Jesus claimed that he is the bread of life. Our nourishment for life comes only through our relationship with Jesus.

Purposeful Questions:

- How important is food to our life?
- What did Jesus mean by saying that he is the bread of life?

John 8:12

—

Truth to focus:

No one likes to walk in darkness. It is dangerous. Spiritually it is dangerous to walk without Jesus.

Purposeful Questions:

- How important is light to our existence?
- What did Jesus mean by saying that he is the light of this world ?

John 8:46

Truth to focus:

Jesus was without any sin! He openly challenged people to prove him guilty.

Purposeful Questions:

- Do you know anyone who can make this claim?
- What would happen if you make this claim?
- What does this challenge say about Jesus ?

John 11:25

Truth to focus:

Jesus is the resurrection. He is promising eternal life.

Purposeful Questions:

- What does the word resurrection mean?
- What happens to those who believes in Jesus & die?
- How can we trust in this claim?

Heb 9:27

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Truth to focus:

It is not reincarnation that Jesus is promising. Because after death there is only waiting for Judgment and no rebirth

Purposeful Questions:

- What happens to us after we die?

John 20:29

—
Truth to focus:

None of us have seen Jesus. If we believe in Him we will be blessed. So put your trust in Jesus. Put your faith in Him!

Purposeful Questions:

Who is blessed according to this scripture?

Conclusion:

There is no one like Jesus. Jesus is THE ONLY WAY.

Q:

- *Do you believe that Jesus is the only way?*
- *Do you want to follow Jesus?*

Word of God

- What is the Bible and what do we do with it?

Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ (*Romans 10:17*).

Thus, the aim of studying the Word of God is to help a seeker build faith in Jesus.

One must accept the bible as the one true standard (*vs. feelings, experiences, peers' opinions, or family traditions*) by which to live life if one is to know true salvation from Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Truth to focus:

All scripture is God- breathed. Meaning inspired by God. Even though men wrote this. They wrote this being inspired by God.

Purposeful questions:

What is bible according to this scripture?

Hebrews 4:12-13

Truth to focus:

The word of God has life & has power to change us. Remember we all have to give an account to God who knows everything about us.

Purposeful questions:

Why should we read the bible?

1 Timothy 4:15-16

Truth to focus:

Life and doctrine are both important. Discuss principles of bible study that will produce correct doctrine. Suggest ways to put the bible's teaching into practice.

Purposeful questions:

What is the result of neglecting one or both? What is the result of persevering in both?

John 8:31-32

Truth to focus:

Belief in Jesus is not enough. That belief should be nurtured towards obedience for someone to be saved.

Purposeful questions:

How are these particular Jews described? Is belief sufficient if it is not accompanied by obedience? Who are really Jesus' disciples? How will you know the truth? How will you be set free?

John 12:47-48

Truth to focus:

Take note of Jesus' purpose for coming to you. The Word will judge us if we reject it. Rejecting the Word is equated with rejection of Jesus and his salvation.

Purposeful questions:

Who happens to those who rejects the words of Jesus?
Who is the Judge according to this passage?

Acts 17:10-11

Truth to focus:

A noble response to God's Word is an eager examination of it everyday! This is a great challenge to issue to any seeker! Suggest studying a gospel this week to know Jesus better.

Purposeful questions:

- Why bereans were of more noble character than Thessalonians?
- How can you be noble like bereans?

Change of heart & mind

Grace

Romans 3:21-27

1. All are in complete need of grace for all have sinned.
2. Christ is propitiation or atonement (*temple illustration*) for the wrath we've earned. He redeems (*slavery illustration*) us; he justifies (*legal illustration*) us. Discuss the illustrations.

Romans 4:22-25

We have Jesus' righteousness credited to us via faith. Jesus died for our sins and was raised for our justification. He takes our sins and gives His righteousness

Ephesians 2:8 to 10

We are saved by Grace not by our works. But we are saved to do good works. True understanding of Cross & grace leads us to acts of righteousness

Sin

To help people to get in touch with their sinful nature.

Isaiah 59:1-2

Truth to focus:

Sin has made a separation between us and God. This study is not just about a list of sins, but instead about the depth of your separation from your Father.

Purposeful Questions:

- What is the heart of God??
- What stops God from listening & answering our prayers?

1 John 1:5-10

Truth to focus:

When you confess your sins, God is faithful & just & he will purify you from all unrighteousness.

The Greek word for confess is "*homologeō*" which means "agree/acknowledge". And also it means publicly declare.

Purposeful Questions:

- What are the benefits of confessing our sins?
- What are the consequences of hiding or being unaware of our sins?

Mark 7:21-22

Truth to focus:

Take ownership for sin! We are responsible for our own sin. Despite genetics, parenting, peer pressures, and socio-

economic conditions, sin comes from within our own hearts and makes us unclean.

Purposeful Questions:

Do you know what it means to be unclean? What is the consequence of being unclean before God ?

There are fewer scriptures in this study in order that you can spend a great deal of time talking through their past and current sins.

Matthew 5:27-30

Truth to focus:

Be urgent to deal with sin.

Purposeful Questions:

If you had a disease on your hand that was spreading to your whole body,

- how quickly would you cut it off ?
- Would you do it quickly or slowly ?
- How would your daily life be different if you cut off your hand ?
- What do you have to cut off ?
- How quickly must you do this and other things that cause you to sin in your life ?

Challenge:

- Write a list of your sin.
- read *Mark chapters 14-15*.

Cross

Mark 14:26-15:41

Jesus chose to die for us. Who killed Jesus? I did. You did. Reflect on the reasons why Jesus endures these afflictions (*my sins require it, and His love offers it. Take the seeker through this passage & explain to them about the suffering that Jesus had to go through on the cross*)

1 Peter 2:21-25

- Why did Jesus die on the cross for us ?

So that we might die to sin and live for the new righteousness that the cross provides. This is our response to the cross.

2 Cor 5:14-15

Being Compelled by the Love of Christ we should no longer live for ourselves but for the one who died for us.

Repentance

How to have a Total Mind Change:

After believing grace, the biblical response is to repent and be baptized for forgiveness of sins (*Acts 2:36-38*). Repentance, however, is a powerful blessing from God that has been stripped of its potency. The Greek word for repentance "metanoia", means "after – mindset". Be careful not to present repentance as a work that leads to salvation; rather, it is our awakening to come to our senses and live the way God had always intended for us. It

is more than a decision; it is adopting Jesus' worldview, which always results in the fruit of a turned, changed life.

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Truth to focus:

Repentance is to stop viewing Jesus & other humans from a earthly point of view. The value system of the world is highly misplaced. Those of us who have truly understood Jesus will see people through the eyes of Jesus.

Purposeful Questions:

- What does the bible describe about the life when someone becomes a Christian?
- What motivates this change?
- What is the value system of the world? What does the people of this world value in others?
- How does it change when you become a Christian? Why it should change?

Luke 3:7-14

Truth to Focus:

The fruit of repentance is the evidence of a changed mindset. John the Baptist insisted on repentance before baptism. (*Notice that he directs no one to pray and weep before God, confessing how bad he or she feels about his or her sins – which many people today confuse for repentance.*)

Purposeful Questions:

- According to this passage what is repentance ?

- What is not repentance ?
- If you were to ask John, “*What should I do ?*”
- How would he respond to you?

Luke 13:1-5, 6-9

Truth to focus:

Jesus preaches that without repentance, we will all perish. He likewise expects to find fruit every time there is true repentance.

Purposeful Questions:

- What will happen if you don’t repent?
- What God desires in each one of us?

Acts 26:15-21

Truth to focus:

Jesus gives Paul the charge to “*open their eyes*” (It’s like “*wake-up call*”) so that “*they may turn*” and prove repentance by their deeds. Repentance involves a new perspective, a turning of allegiance, and fruit.

Purposeful Questions:

- What did Paul teach wherever he went?
- How can someone prove their repentance?

2 Corinthians 7:8-11

Truth to focus:

Beware of worldly sorrow. Worldly sorrow leads to guilt, shame & fear of condemnation. This will people to make it difficult to take responsibility for their sins. But godly sorrow leads to acknowledgement of sin & then to repentance and salvation.

Purposeful Questions:

- Why worldly sorrow doesn't lead people to repentance?
- What does Godly sorrow lead to?

Acts 3:19

Truth to focus:

Repentance results in both a turned life and a refreshed life. Refreshment is a great indicator for the joy that accompanies a changed life.

Purposeful Questions:

- What does your life look like if you have truly turned to God?
- Have you ever been refreshed? What does that feel like?

Discipleship

How does a Christian look like?

Acts 11:25-26

Truth to Focus:

The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. If we need to understand how a Christian should like we should understand from scriptures how a disciple must look like.

Purposeful Questions:

- How many times is the word Christian used in NT ? - (3)
- How many times is the word disciple used ?- (276)
- If you asked someone wearing a cross necklace, "*Are you a Christian ?*"
- what would be the typical answer?
- How about being a disciple? Why?
- How can we use the Bible to define "Christian?"

Luke 9:23-27

Truth to Focus:

Following Jesus involves even laying down one's life.

Purposeful Questions:

- What are the three demands of discipleship?
- What does it mean to "*deny yourself ?*"
- What does it mean to "*take up you cross daily ?*"
- How can we be "*ashamed of Jesus and His words ?*"
- What is the consequence of this shame?

Luke 9:57-62

Examine the issues involved with each person - thoughtless following, excuse making, and second thoughts. Note the parallel between "*follow me*" and "*preach everywhere the kingdom of God.*"

Mark 1:16-20

- What does it mean to follow Jesus?
- Which is easier to do, catch a fish or catch a man for God? Why?
- Following Jesus, being taught, disciplined, trained for his mission. are you involved in that process?
- If you are not fishing for men, are you following Jesus? Do you know any disciples?

Matt. 28:18-20

The Great Commission: God's plan to save the world.

- What does God want everyone to become ?
- Do we all need to make disciples ?
- What if only a few of us made disciples and the rest of the Church just stood at a distance and watched ?

The commission is accomplished through a multiplying chain of disciples.

Challenge:

- Do you want to be a disciple ?
- What changes do you need to make ?

Jesus is Lord

There are many in this world believe Jesus as their Personal Savior. For us to be saved we need to believe Jesus as not only our Savior & but also accept him as our Lord.

When we do that we will see repentance in the following areas.

Romans 10:9 to 13

Truth to focus:

According to this Scripture only those who confess Jesus as Lord will be saved. The Word Confess Means declaring publicly. For the Romans declaring Jesus as Lord Publicly might even cost their lives.

And also the word “Lord “Means Master. For someone to be saved they need to accept Jesus as Master which simply means he/she is a slave to Jesus. But not a forced slave but a slave on a free will.

Purposeful Questions:

- How can someone be saved?
- How this passage is misused in the religious world today?

Acts 2: 36

Truth to Focus:

Jesus is not only the Messiah (Savior) but also he is the Lord. Today the Religious world sees Jesus as a savior who is very comforting but they don't want the Lordship of Jesus that demands total commitment.

Purposeful Questions:

Who as Jesus referred to in this passage?

Mark 12:28-31

Lordship involves Loving the Lord with all our hearts, minds, soul & Strength. And also it involves loving our neighbors as ourselves

Luke 14:25-33

Lordship involves loving Jesus more than your own life & your family members.

1 John 2:3-6

Lordship involves not only Knowing Jesus. One who truly knows Jesus will obey his commands.

John 8:31, 32

Only through obedience do we truly become disciples.

John 13:34-35

Lordship involves loving each other. Loving the lost by seeking and saving them, learning to be a fisher of men, obeying the Great Commission.

[*Matt 28:18-20, Luke 19:10, Mark 1:16-20*]

- Loving the Poor.

[*Matt 25:32-46*]

- Loving our family.

[*1 Tim 5:8*]

- Loving the church.

[*1 Pet 1:22, Gal 6:10*]

- Even Loving our enemies.

[*Mat 5:44 Matthew 7:21-23*]

- Lordship involves not only saying the right things but doing the will of the father in heaven.

Uniting with Christ

Church

Purpose:

No one will not be left to fend for one's self after baptism. Instead, Jesus baptizes us into the body, the church (*1st Corinthians 12:12-13*) to be joined by a team of like-minded disciples in our devotion to Him.

These brothers and sisters are meant to be a continual source of encouragement in our walk with Christ.

The Greek word for church is "*ekklesia*" which is a compound word meaning a calling out, an assembly.

Colossians 1:18

- a) The church is the body of Christ.
- b) The body needs the head. Christ is the head of the church.
- c) The church is essential. One cannot say "yes" to Jesus and then say "no" to his church.

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

- a) All who have been saved are members of Christ's body
- b) We are baptized by one Spirit into his body.
- c) Every member of the body is important and needed.
- d) There should be no division in the body of Christ.
- e) We should have mutual concern for one another.

1 Timothy 3:15

- a) The church is God's household [*family*].
- b) Church is to be the pillar and foundation [*base*] of truth.

Ephesians 2:19-22

- a) God's church is built on Christ as the cornerstone.
- b) The Spirit of God holds its members together.
- c) Apostles and Prophets are the foundation.
- d) The Bible is the church's authority on matters of doctrine.

Ephesians 4:11-16

- a) God provides his church with various ministers to prepare his people for works of service.
- b) God's desire is for his church to become mature and unified in the faith.
- c) His church grows when "*each part does its work.*"
- d) How can God use you to build up his church?

Hebrews 13:17

- a) Church has appointed Leaders and one must submit to their authority.

Hebrews 3:12-13

- a) We are to see to it that our brothers are helped to stay spiritual.
- b) For that we are to encourage one another daily.

Hebrews 10:24-25

- a) We are to think about how to “spur” one another on in Christ.

[*Spur is also translated stimulate, provoke, stir up*]

- b) We are to be devoted to the habit of meeting together (*Acts 2:42*).

Colossians 3:12-17

- a) These qualities should characterize our relationships in God’s church: Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
- b) Bear with each other and forgive any grievances.
- c) Be thankful.
- d) Admonish and teach one another.

Matthew 18:15-17

- a) Jesus teaches how Christians are to resolve conflicts in the church.

I Corinthians 16:1- 4

Giving according to the income for the needs of the church. Old Testament principle is Tithes. New Testament Principle is “*According to your Income*” or “*in proportion to your income*”. Explaining the principles behind Old Testament giving will help the seeker build strong convictions about giving.

Conclusion:

- Why do you think you need a church?
- What is the role of the church?
- What is your role as a member of the church?

Baptism

Acts 2:36-41

- Peter has preached the message of the cross. What are the next steps?
- What happens as a result of repentance and baptism?

Acts 2:36-41

- When do we receive the forgiveness of sins ?
 - ➔ Baptism is for the forgiveness of sins, because it is our connection to Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Those who accepted this message were baptized, thus they were saved (*note the parallel in v 47*).

Romans 6:1-4

We are baptized into Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. (*Thus, Peter directed his hearers to be baptized in response to the cross – Act 2:38*). We, too, will be raised to a new life through baptism. Thus, we are born again.

Acts 22:7-16

After encountering Jesus, repenting, praying, fasting (see *Acts 9:9, 11*), being healed, and being called by God, Paul still

remains in sin until he is baptized. He calls on the name of the Lord at his baptism.

I Peter 3:20, 21

We are saved by Baptism because of the pledge that is being made with good conscience. Without the Pledge, our baptism will be in vain.

The Holy Spirit

The Old and New Testament Teachings on The Holy Spirit

The Spirit and Creation

The Holy Spirit took an active part in the creation and sustained that creation

Genesis 1:2

Psalms 104:10-14, 30

Job 33:4

Under the Old Covenant

The Spirit would be sent by God to come upon certain people to temporarily allow them to be led by God's Spirit, but only while the Spirit was upon them

Numbers 11:25-26

Judges 14:6;

Judges 14:9;

Judges 15:14

1 Samuel 10:10;

1 Samuel 11:6;

1 Samuel 16:13

The Promise of the Spirit in the New Covenant

God promised a new covenant in which he would send his Spirit to do something new

Under the new covenant the Holy Spirit would dwell within humans and enable them to keep covenant with God. This would be something quite different than the Spirit coming upon certain people at certain times for specific purposes

Ezekiel 36:26-28

Acts 2:36-38

We receive the Holy Spirit at the time of baptism. The Holy Spirit is a gift.

John 16:7-8

Jesus promised to send the Counselor [*the Holy Spirit - John 14:26*].

[Greek 'Paracletos' translated as – Counselor, Helper, Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor or Encourager]

The Spirit is sent to convict or convince the world [*includes us*] with regard to sin, righteousness, and judgment.

Ephesians 1:13-14

When we become a Christian we are marked with a seal of Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit is a deposit guaranteeing our salvation.

Ephesians 3:16

We are strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:9, 15-16

If you do not have the Holy Spirit you do not belong to Christ. [v 9] We have received a Spirit of sonship. [v 15-16] The Spirit testifies that we are God's children.

Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit helps us in our weakness. [*Helper*] The Spirit himself intercedes for us. [*Intercessor*]

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Your body is a temple [sanctuary] of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is in you. So we are to honor God with our body.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

The Spirit helps us to be transformed into the likeness of Jesus. [*an ongoing "life-long" "process"*]. In other words, as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more.

Galatians 5:16-18, 22-23

We are to live [walk] by the Spirit [v 16] We are to be led [guided, directed] by the Spirit [v 18] If we are led by the Spirit and not by our sinful nature then we can bear the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. [v 22-23] Your new life in the Spirit should bear it.

Conclusion:

We need to rely on the Holy Spirit that is deposited in us by God at baptism and seek his fruit.

Great Commission

Purpose:

To teach Christians the importance of making Jesus' mission to seek and save the lost as their mission. To heed to the call to go and make disciples of all nations.

Matthew 5:14-16

Jesus taught his disciples that they are to be the light of the world. He challenged them to never extinguish or hide that light, but rather reveal that light to all men. Bringing Christ to the world by your changed life will bring praise to God.

Luke 19:10

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Jesus' purpose was to bring salvation to the lost (*world*)

1 Timothy 1:15-16

Jesus came to this world to save sinners.

Remember: *you are the example to the world that God can save anyone. If God can save you, he can save anyone!*

1 Timothy 2:3-4

God wants all men to be saved and come to knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:8-9

God wants all men to come to repentance. God's patience gives men the opportunity to repent. God delays judgment so men can repent

Mark 1:14-18

From the start of Jesus ministry he calls his followers to fish for men. "*Come follow me...I will make you fishers of men*". Jesus took his purpose and gave it to them.

Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus commanded his followers to be active by making disciples of all nations. "*Obey everything*" implies teaching followers to even obey this Great commission. Jesus had a plan to multiply. It starts with you!

Romans 10:12-15

It says that all who calls on the name of Jesus will be saved.

- But how can people be saved without believing?
- How can they believe without hearing?
- How can people hear without someone preaching?
- How can someone preach without being sent to preach?
- Are you willing to be sent to preach?
- Are you willing to be the one having the beautiful feet who takes the good news to people?

Acts 8:4

Persecuted Christians preached the word wherever they went, voluntarily. They were probably ordinary Christians and not prominent leaders of the church. What would you want to do?

Acts 11:19-21

Men who were scattered through persecution traveled very far to other cities to tell people the good news about Jesus. The Lord's hand was with them and many people believed.

Conclusion:

As a Christian we need to have Jesus' Great commission on our heart. You were reached out to by someone and now you need to do likewise out of gratitude. We need to share our faith with as many people as possible – with our friends, our relatives, with our colleagues at work and school, with anyone we can find. Evangelism is the fruit of your salvation. When you are saved you want everyone else to be saved like you. We need to learn to share our faith with our family, friends or even strangers.

Counting the Cost

The cost of following Him and being a member of His body, the Church.

Luke 14:25-33

What does Jesus mean to hate everyone in your family, including yourself? Why is this necessary to be a disciple? What will be difficult for you to surrender to Jesus?

1Corinthians 12:12-27

The Spirit baptizes us into the body of Jesus, his church. The church consists of distinct yet unified parts, just like a human body. God, Himself, has arranged it this way. We are the church; each of us must actively look for the distinct yet unified ways we are to support this body. How will you help build up the body of Christ?

Ephesians 4:1-16

Making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the church requires humility, patience, gentleness, and selflessness. We maintain unity on the essentials of doctrine – one Lord, one faith, one baptism. God provides specific offices within the church in order to prepare us for works of service which build up the body.

Hebrews 10:22-25

After being washed in baptism, we need the continual exhortations of brothers and sisters to stay the course. Prepare in advance how you will spur on fellow Christians in the fellowship. Also prepare to receive biblical input that will result in greater love and good deeds. Why is missing meetings of the body described as a bad habit? Why and when do we meet?

Hebrews 3:12-14

We each have the charge and the responsibility to see to it that no one has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from God. Daily encouragement helps everyone stand firm until the end.

2 Corinthians 8:7

God loves a cheerful giver. Our giving supports the body as we reach out to a world in need of Jesus.

Challenge: Do you want to become a disciple? (*Set-up baptism if they want to be baptized.*)

Additional studies

False Doctrines

Systematic Teaching Through Common False Doctrines on Salvation

Infant Baptism

This wasn't fully accepted in practice until the 5th and 6th centuries. It was not accepted officially as doctrine in the Roman Catholic church until the 14th century. It came about as the response to worried parents who desired emergency baptisms for terminally ill children just to make sure that they were saved. It began with young teens and preteens and continually moved to younger and younger children.

Hebrews 11:6; Colossians 2:11-12

- Can a baby have their own faith ?

Acts 2:38

- Can a baby repent ?

Galatians 2:20

- Can a baby die to themselves ?

Jeremiah 31:31-34

During the time of the Old Covenant when babies were circumcised into God's people, God pointed to a new covenant when that would no longer happen and everyone would know God because they had made their own choice to join his people

Original Sin

This doctrine was first brought into the church in the late 4th century through the teaching of Augustine. It was invented as a justification of the increasingly popular practice of infant baptism. It taught that everyone is born with the guilt of Adam and Eve's sin.

Ezekiel 18:19-20

Each human being is responsible for their own sin and will be judged that way

Praying Jesus into Your Heart

This became popular in the early 20th century through the Christian revival movement. It taught that you only needed to accept Jesus as your personal savior and invite him into your heart.

Revelation 3:20

This passage is often cited to bolster this doctrine but it is a passage, rich in imagery, written to an existing church calling for them to repent and promising that Jesus would return to them if they did

Romans 10:9

This is another passage used to claim that words alone can save us, but this divorces the verse from the context of the book of Romans where Paul had already thoroughly described the necessity of being baptized into Christ. This passage refers to the confession of “*Jesus is Lord*” that was made

before calling on the name (*or life*) of Jesus at baptism (see *Romans 10:13 and Acts 22:16*)

Additional studies

Faith Alone

This doctrine came about in the time of Martin Luther as a reaction to the works doctrine that had been accepted by the Roman Catholic Church. To bolster his teachings, Luther claimed that the book of James should not be included in the Bible. In the *20th century* this teaching began to be applied to baptism into Christ and claims that this is a work of man in opposition to God’s grace.

Titus 3:4-7

This passage teaches clearly that baptism is not a work of our own power but is an act of God’s grace and mercy

Colossians 2:12

Baptism in Christ and faith in his life are inseparable. Separating them as different things is not biblical

James 2:19-26

Faith is necessary but so is active Lordship, repentance, obedience, action, and baptism. Faith without actions is dead. Faith does save. But faith alone, separated from the truth of baptism into Christ is incorrect. Faith is believing that entering into the life of Christ will be the death and new life of Christ. That first became available at Pentecost (*Acts 2*)

It is sometimes claimed that Paul didn't think that baptism was important. But when read in context we see that Paul was criticizing factions that were being built based on who baptized them.

In (*1Corinthians 1:13*) Paul confirms that in order to be saved, someone had to die for you and you had to be baptized into them. Paul and the other apostles did not qualify, so they should not be creating factions based on following them. Only Christ died for them and they were all baptized into him. That is what was important. Who actually baptized them was of little importance compared to that.