

How to Preach the Gospel

by Pastor Clint Pickens

Billy Graham said “to preach the gospel with authority.”

Watch the video and also read the notes on next to the video on our website at the same time to help you to learn it better hearing & reading, then we will practice together then you will go live at Chapel.

Read- Evangelism: A Biblical Approach by G. Michael Cocoris

All scriptures are NLT unless otherwise stated

Red are introductions & transitional parts or words of Jesus also are in red

Green is a proof text

Blue is a quote

Orange is a term or theology to understand

I have been sharing Jesus since March 12, 1989 the day I got saved and have not stopped since. I preach the gospel for 8 years in California and was a Missionary in England and Wales for 20 years then moved back to America where I am a missionary to youth at risk. Before I left the UK I asked” God to give me more souls in my latter years than in all my previous” and He is doing just that. I put my finger on Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, and I asked God to fulfill this promise in my life. For the rest of my life I am in South Texas preaching the gospel and teaching youth at risk, mainly abused girls where we have seen over 70 per year on average put their faith in Jesus.

Many Christian don't share the gospel simply because they don't know how, so today I am going to teach you how. I started sharing the gospel the day I got saved in Spanish no less, of course it was not the gospel, but what I knew to be true 3 hours old in the Lord. “Jesus Christ in your heart is the life”, in Spanish no less. That is not the gospel, but it was all I knew.

Many don't share the gospel because they are afraid and some I fear because to them God is not all that great because they are not experiencing God in all fullness because

they are half hearted or not walking closely. Some may not share the gospel because they don't realize it is good news for those who receive it, and of course to others it is a stench the bible says, but we are just fishing so we find those to whom it is good news. We must also realize that sometimes we are just sowing seeds and they may sprout later. *"Once you lead someone to the Lord and see their lives changed I don't know how you couldn't be hooked on doing it again and again. My goal is to take as many to heaven with me possible but also show them how to have the abundant life now and to show them the love of Jesus anyway I can."*

Video- We want to be very accurate and in unity in sharing the gospel for it is the main thing we do. 1Corinthians 15:3 I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said.....That's why we allow for 15 minutes to share the gospel. Most people leave it to the last and run out of time and thus don't do as good of a job, we allow 15 minutes to do it and pass out follow up info because it is the main thing we do, the main reason we are there.

You see without Jesus, the forgiveness of sins and the hope of heaven and eternal life everything else we do is temporary and leaves them hell bound. Without God there is no hope, no change and no life, that only Jesus can bring, thus we preach the gospel.

1. All are Called
2. There is Power in the Gospel
3. Creator to Cross
4. Show Them Their Need
5. What is the Gospel
6. The Invitation
7. Follow Up
8. Other Things

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1. **All Are Called** - all are called to fulfill what is called the Great Commission.

Matthew 28:19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.**20** Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- The last words of Jesus before He ascended to heaven, do you think they are important?
- **Video-** Great Commission is Evangelism & discipleship or spiritual mentoring or teaching. (another video on *How to Teach the Bible and to The Do's & Don'ts of*

Discipleship and also bible curriculum and discipleship curriculum can be found on our website www.tobesetfree.org)

- **Evangelism** is proclaiming the good news
- This is a command not a suggestion, so let's get equipped!

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2. There is Power in the Gospel

NIV Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. **17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."**

- Gospel in other translations here called good news- remember it is good news, why?
- Power of God- what God did to make a way for us to be saved.
- **Video**-Here's how powerful it is I would teach the bible in Juvenile hall in Orange County and sometimes the kids were not listening well, cutting up some but when I would transition to the gospel you could hear a pin drop.
- However sometimes that is also when Satan attacks to cause distractions during the gospel presentation, so try to control the crowd it starts getting disrupted. "Ok everyone I need you to listen really good right now for this is important, or everyone give me a big shhhhh."
- It is also a time when it is preached Christian need to be praying. One time when I was the Sr. Pastor of Pillar church in Wales and we were doing an outreach Festival called Taste & See, after the singing and testimonies I got up to preach the gospel and all the new and young Christians in our Church started to get up and walk out to go get lunch causing a commotion and the unbelievers thinking it must be time to get up also it disturbed the message. I hadn't taught them about this and they did not know that this was the time to be still and start praying. I was quite upset as it was the goal of our outreach to preach the gospel and give and invitation. But as I always say if the pupil hasn't learned then the teacher hasn't taught.
- Tells us how to be right with God thru faith (in the package of faith there is also repentance which we will talk about later)
- We have life through it!!!
- **1John 5:12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life.**
- **John 14:6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me.**
- **John 10:10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to**

give them a rich and satisfying life. (abundant life in other translations)

- So the gospel brings life, so it is good news so learn how to share.

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- 3. Creator to Cross-** The purpose for this is for those with little knowledge of God and the bible, maybe claim to be Atheist or Agnostic and also because our society today has gone so far from the concept of God, we need to show them there is a God first.

Acts 17:22 So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: "Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way,²³ for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: 'To an Unknown God.' This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the One I'm telling you about. ²⁴ "He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since He is Lord of heaven and earth, He doesn't live in man-made temples, ²⁵ and human hands can't serve His needs—for He has no needs. He Himself gives life and breath to everything, and He satisfies every need. ²⁶ From one man He created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and He determined their boundaries. ²⁷ "His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him—though He is not far from any one of us.

- **Video-** Wow this is loaded with God as Creator, Lord, giver of life, self sufficient, in control, all powerful with a purpose for Creation to seek and know Him and that He is not far off but close and ready to receive people as His own.
- Other places in the New Testament you will see a message for the Jews who had an understanding of scriptures so they were presented differently, often it was their history to the Cross as Stephen did in Acts before when he was stoned. (Paul did this also) Often Jesus rebuked the religious people for having missed the point.
- Even in America there are people who have little exposure to God, Church or the bible, so this is where you would begin.
- Plus some people's starting point is they are an Atheist or Agnostic.
- Paul was in a pagan area that worshipped idols so he played off their culture even quoting from one of their poets then told the gospel including a warning of coming judgment.
- He went on to preach about repentance and turn to Him (faith) judgment and of the resurrection.
- So it would go something like this: "There is a God, He is real, He created you in His image and He loves you more than anyone else ever has can or will and He wants to make the supreme difference in your life but there is something in the way, it is our sin or the wrong things we do.

- Or, He created you to know Him but there is something that stands in the way of you and God and it is your sin” (defining sin (later) is important as culture slips away from God and the bible sin becomes a foreign word)
- “What we often don’t understand about God is that He is Holy and He hates sin and will judge sin”. This leads up to the gospel.
- Or you could start with creation and the fall also which leads up to the gospel also.

You can also go on to prove in a simple apologetic argument for the existence of (Ray Comfort):

- Creation means there is a Creator. You look around and see creation, then there must be a Creator.
- Design means there is a designer. If you see a painting you know there must be a painter.
- Laws means there is a lawgiver. (like gravity for instance)

Summary: Showing there is a Creator means there is someone who is over us. If they don’t at least consider there is a Creator, then what He has to say will be of no value to them.

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- 4. Show Them Their Need-** If they don’t see their need for a Savior then the presentation of the one who died for their sins won’t mean much to them. We need to awaken their conscience to the fact that they have sinned, they are not right with God and if they were to die today they would not go to heaven but to hell.

Some people refer to this as giving them the law or the bad news first before you give them the good news or else the good news won’t be so good or seen as of any value. Show them their sin or they won’t see their need for a Savior.

The **needle of the law** must precede the thread of the gospel. - **Spurgeon.**

Video Most people think they are a good person and that God will let them into heaven on their own merit, the bible says to the contrary.

Romans 3:19 Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. 20 For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

Romans 3:23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

- We need to define sin as people may think that is what others do, or bad people, or that it is stuff like murder or rape.
- **Sin is breaking God's law, or anything contrary to God's nature or missing the mark.**
- Depending on your crowd may depend on which sins you name to show people they have sinned. A popular one to use today is: *"All sex outside of marriage between a man and a woman is sin"*, many young people are shocked to find this out today!

Ray Comfort used the law this way:

Have you ever lied?

Have you ever stolen? What does that make you? A lying thief.....

Have you ever lusted? Jesus said "if you commit lust in your heart you have committed adultery in your heart". What does that make you- a lying, thieving adulterer at heart.

On judgment day do you think you would go to heaven or hell?

Jack Hyles puts it this way:

"If you were to die today do you think you would go to heaven? Why or why not?" (The problem is many people think they are going because they were baptized as a baby, are a good person or they go to Church, none of which saves you, but it is a good question to get dialog going and to get them thinking)

Another method by Evangelism Explosion by James Kennedy

Have you gotten to the place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you were to die today you would go to heaven?

Another question used in Evangelism is *"Suppose you were to die tonight and stand before God and He were to say to you, 'Why should I let you into my heaven?', what would you say?"* This gets to the heart of what they think about themselves and God and can be used to show them their need for Salvation. Most think they are a good person or their good out- weighs the bad. This better for one on one evangelism, but in group evangelism you can answer the question and explain also.

I usually just say "If you were to die today would you go to heaven?"

Romans Road Method- (google it for further explanation if interested) Uses the book

of Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9, 10:17 to present the gospel.

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5. What is the Gospel? The **gospel** is good news, it shows what Jesus did to redeem us or to save us.

Redeem or redemption- to buy one back from the slavery of sin.

This best place in the bible that defines the gospel so clearly:

1Corinthians 15:1 Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it.² It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you— unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. ³ I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins (Cross), just as the Scriptures said. ⁴ He was buried (Death), and He was raised from the dead on the third day (Resurrection), just as the Scriptures said.

Video- So the elements of the gospel are 3 main components the cross, death and resurrection of Jesus, but these are to be explained, below are some of the things you could use to explain the significance of each.

a. Cross- (Substitutionary death) He went willingly to the cross to pay your penalty for your sin so you did not have to, He could of called down legions of angels but He didn't, because God loved you that much and made a way to make us right with Him.

Understand God is Holy and He has to punish sin, so in His love for us and to fulfill His Righteousness, Holiness and Justice He sent His only Son in our place.

2Corinthians 5:21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

“He took our place in the wrath of God upon our sin on the cross.”

b. Death (buried) – He died in our place.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life

through Christ Jesus our Lord.

- The penalty for sin is death, Jesus died in our place.

Clarity statement: Everybody has eternal life it just depends on where you spend it, heaven or hell,

Hell, eternal separation from the goodness of God.

There is a price to pay for our sin and it is death, or hell. We need to explain death though as to die and cease to exist is no big penalty. I like to explain it this way using this scripture as a guide:

2 Thessalonians 1:7b He will come with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from His glorious power.

- I explain it this way- "You will be separated from the goodness of God forever. The God who made blue sky's, green grass, rainbows, waterfalls, little puppy dog's and a little girls laughter you will be separated from His goodness forever in hell."
- Death is judgment for unbelievers and that judgment is hell.

c. Resurrection- Jesus rose from the dead. Giving us victory over sin and death.

NIV 1Peter 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

- Because Jesus rose we too will rise and in this we have (living) hope.

Witnesses of the resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:5 He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. 6 After that, He was seen by more than 500 of His followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. 7 Then He was seen by James and later by all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw Him.

- It only takes 2 or 3 witnesses to prove a matter. None recanted what they saw even at fear of death.

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6. The Invitation- We preach the gospel with the intent on leading them to a decision to accept or reject. The invitation has 2 main components: Repentance & Faith.

You will find the bible says to be saved by faith, by repentance and by faith and repentance which is it, it is both, they cannot be separated, but they should be explained separately.

Transition example- *“Now you have heard what Jesus did for you, now it is your choice if you want to be saved, you gotta do 2 things repent & believe to have your sins forgiven and to know the hope of heaven and eternal life, to be right with God etc....then I explain repentance & faith.”*

1. Repentance- changing your mind or attitude about your sin & God (also the bible talks of repenting from dead works & idols) and agreeing with God that it is wrong.

I have 5 bible dictionaries they all say repentance is changing your mind. Your mind controls your feet so to speak, so once you change your mind your life will begin to follow as the Holy Spirit comes in and does the work of sanctification in you.

- **Note:** changing your mind or attitude is the root, a changed life is the fruit. We preach the root and leave the fruit to the Holy Spirit. Not everyone looks the same after salvation, God is still working on all of us and none of us are perfect.
- Repentance looks at a change in mind or belief, the change in behavior comes as a work of the Holy Spirit after you get saved.

Greg Laurie- You don't change and come to God, you come to God and He changes you.

We want to make sure we don't mix up justification and sanctification in our gospel presentation.

- **Justification-** *“just as if you had never done it”*, or made right in God's eyes. A legal declaration of innocence.
- **Sanctification-** the ongoing process of change after we get saved.

How do we mix it up?

Front loading the gospel- saved by faith plus works. This is when you must do something beside put your faith in Jesus to save you. (Jesus +faith+ obedience to some rules = saved)

Back loading the gospel- makes works a condition of salvation. These are requirements you must do after you are saved. (Jesus + faith + works = saved)

- While works should come after salvation, they are not a part of the gospel

message, what it takes to be saved.

Sounds something like this: you need to stop drinking, turn away from all your known sins (who has ever done that?) (Holiness is something we are all working on) surrender your life to Jesus- preaches real well, but that is not salvation that is surrender, not a part of the gospel message,.... all that to be saved, no, repentance and faith in Jesus and the gospel saves.

Repentance is not being sorry for your sin either, being sorry for your sin may lead to repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10 Godly sorrow produces repentance), but it is not repentance.

Steve Lowe- Basically you are believing a promise not making one.

Why people front and back load the gospel? Their doctrine a lot of time it is because they believe you can lose your salvation or they believe in Lordship salvation, their lack of understanding of the gospel of grace by faith not of works and we all would tend to lean toward works naturally, the frustration of Pastors who have seen people fall away or not live up to their expectations so they add all this stuff to make sure we make “strong disciples” via our gospel message. Disciple making is separate from a gospel presentation! The gospel presentation is what it takes to be saved. Teaching them to obey is separate, that is teaching time.

Our goal is to present a simple and clear gospel without works.

NKJV Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- **Grace-** unmerited or unearned favor
- Not of works

Don't misunderstand me, I teach the way of the abundant life is obedience or surrender and is in our follow up packet on what to do next, but that is separate from salvation, separate from the proclamation of the gospel message. I believe Jesus saves and changes lives, but that looks different on everyone. Take addiction for instance, someone might get saved and still be struggling with an addiction, it may take time, and many rebounds before they are clear or they may struggle with it all their life.

2. Faith is believing, accepting or being persuaded and trusting in what Jesus accomplished for you via the gospel- the cross, death & resurrection. (the

finished work of the cross) That He did it for you.

- G. Michael Cocoris in Evangelism a Biblical Approach- “Thus faith is the recognition of truth, the reception of truth and the reliance upon truth”

Saying it something like this “Do you believe today that Jesus died for your sins, and paid your penalty?” Are you ready to receive Jesus as your Savior and trust Him to save you?

video

Romans 3:22 We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

- Jesus and the gospel or finished work of the cross are the object of our faith.

Invitation- Saying something like this: Ready to repent & believe? (Repeat what you are calling them to do again for clarity) Ready to repent- change your mind about your sin and agree with God that it is wrong and to put your faith in Jesus to save you by what he did on the cross for you?

Leading them in a prayer: Something like this “So let’s everyone bow our heads and close our eyes and think about what has been said. Is there anyone here today who would like to receive Jesus as your Savior, who would like to have their sin forgiven and to know the hope of heaven and eternal life *who has never done this before just raise up your handgive it some time.....anyone.....I see your hand.....anyone else.....etc..

*I try to include “who has never done this before” as I don’t want them to keep doing this over and over again and to not just count people who got saved who just lacked assurance and wanted to “get saved again”, but it may happen anyway, we are just called to preach and invite.

Lead them in a prayer to receive Jesus- do this your own way, keep it short and leave space for them to say it after you silently or aloud.

Something like this: Jesus thank you for dying in my place,..... taking the penalty for my sin,..... thank you for saving me today.....in Jesus name amen.

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7. **Follow Up-** At our events we always give out a “**salvation packets**” which tell them what to do next and what just happened.
 - We also write down on their packet (in case they forget it) and then their names and date they got saved and give it to Clint for the log.
 - **Video-** We write their name down and give to Clint to log in a ledger so we know

who is saved at bible studies, to pray for them, to encourage them in the day they got saved and have them write it in their bible when we see them at bible study.

- Whenever possible and however possible you will want to try to follow up on new believers. They will have questions, doubts, need encouragement, and may get attacked by the devil shortly after.
- I did outreaches in the UK for 20 years and one time we had a band do music for our outreach, they had travelled all over Europe doing this fulltime and they said “Clint you are the only one who has had any kind of follow up in all of Europe!” I learned it from working with Harvest Crusades.

8. Other things to learn- keep learning, keep growing “being able to give to ever man an answer for the hope that lies within you”. 1 Peter 3:15

Key word definitions

Read *Evangelism: A Biblical Approach* by Cocoris

Also look at my top 40 evangelistic scriptures to memorize.

Other things to learn about: Apologetic arguments such as: How we know the bible is true, Evidence for God, Truth vs relative truth

Learn to answer the question from the New Testament- Is being gay a sin? In short the practice of homosexuality is a sin, if you abstain it is not sin. Or you can put it this way, all sex outside of marriage between a man and a woman in marriage is sin. I use this scripture mainly as it does not single them out:

1Corinthians 6:9 Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, 10 or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. 11 Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

- So I will say to them you either have to abstain or ask God to change your desires.
- Most of the girls I work with say they are gay as a protection mechanism to not be hurt by a man again. 90%.

- 1. All are Called**
- 2. There is Power in the Gospel**
- 3. Creator to Cross- Begin with the premise there is a God**
- 4. Show Them Their Need for a Savior**

5. What is the Gospel- cross, death & resurrection of Jesus from the dead to save.
6. The Invitation- repentance & faith
7. Follow Up- Packets and get their names
8. Other Things- keep learning and growing.