

Modern vs. Biblical Gospel

Twin City Fellowship
November 15, 2009

Agenda

- Review of the Gospel Essentials
- Biblical Gospel vs Modern Gospel
- Example of a Biblical Gospel Tract
- Example of a Modern Gospel Tract
- How to Get Involved
- Questions

Gospel Outline

- ✓ Who Jesus Christ is and declared Himself to be
- ✓ What He did on the cross
- ✓ Why someone would ever need him
- ✓ What God expects of us

Who Jesus Really Is - God Incarnate

- ✓ We need to share about the character and nature of God to make the sinner aware of who He is.
- ✓ We should be sharing about how God created the world and the fact that He gives life and sustains all living things (Colossians 1:15-16).
- ✓ We should be sharing the fact that He was born totally sinless, that He is 100% God and 100% Man and that He existed as God and was with God from all eternity (John 1:1).

What He Did on the Cross

- ✓ The fact that Jesus Christ was tempted in every way that you and I are and yet was without sin (Hebrews 4:15).
- ✓ Share about how He died on the cross and made payment for sins (Romans 8:3-4).
- ✓ Talk about how he was resurrected from the grave on the third day and appeared to witnesses (1 Corinthians 15:1-8).

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Why We Need Him

- ✓ Because of our sin nature that we've inherited from Adam and the fact that we're lawbreakers and in need of an atoning sacrifice in order to avert God's wrath against our sin.
- ✓ We need to talk about Jesus Christ becoming a payment for sin because of the fact that there can be no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood (Hebrews 9:22b).

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What God Expects of us - Repentance and Faith

- ✓ Repentance towards God and faith the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Admonish the sinner to turn from unbelief and turn to the person and work of Jesus Christ by faith (Act 20:21; 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10).
- ✓ Talk about the coming judgement (Acts 17:30-31).

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Biblical Gospel

- ✓ One thing to keep in mind is that God is the one who does the saving (through the Gospel) and not by any action we perform.
- ✓ Romans 1:16 says, "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."
- ✓ 1 Cor. 1:21 says, "For since in the wisdom of God the world through it's wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who will believe."

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Biblical Gospel

- ✓ Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV) says, "Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."
- ✓ Romans 10:14 says, "How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?"
- ✓ Romans 10:17 says, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."

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Modern Gospel

- ✓ The modern gospel says, "Come to Jesus to have a better life."
- ✓ The modern gospel may have some positive elements and God can certainly use that which is less than perfect.
- ✓ The modern gospel generally obscures the Gospel, manipulates people and creates false converts.

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Modern Gospel

- ✓ Superficial, often incomplete message of salvation is offered.
- ✓ Usually lacking (at least in emphasis) in one of more of the Gospel essentials.
- ✓ Typically a formula is presented (3 or 4 step process) that ultimately calls for a decision for Christ to be made.
- ✓ After which, the individual is encouraged to be certain of their salvation based on that decision.

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The Order of Salvation

- 1) Election (God's choice of people to be saved)
- 2) The gospel call (proclaiming the message of the gospel)
- 3) Regeneration (being born again)
- 4) Conversion (faith and repentance)
- 5) Justification (right legal standing)

The Order of Salvation

- 6) Adoption (membership in God's family)
- 7) Sanctification (right conduct of life)
- 8) Perseverance (remaining a Christian)
- 9) Death (going to be with the Lord)
- 10) Glorification (receiving a resurrection body)

Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, (Zondervan, 1994), pg. 670

Biblical Gospel vs. Modern Gospel

Biblical Gospel

Election

↓
Gospel Call

↓
Regeneration

↓
Conversion

Modern Gospel

Gospel Call

↓
Man's Decision

↓
Regeneration

↓
Conversion

Biblical Gospel

- ✓ Gods grants both repentance and saving faith.
- ✓ Acts 11:18 says, "When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, 'Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.'"
- ✓ 2 Timothy 2:25 says, "with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth."

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Biblical Gospel

- ✓ Ephesians 2:8 says, "For by grace you have been saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;"
- ✓ John 1:12-13 (NKJV) says, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

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"WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?"

TRACT REVIEW

With that brief question Jesus Christ confronted His followers with the most important issue they would ever face. He had spent much time with them and made some bold claims about His identity and authority. Now the time had come for them either to believe or deny His teachings.



Who do you say Jesus is? Your response to Him will determine not only your values and lifestyle, but your eternal destiny as well.



Five Essentials in Sharing the Gospel

- 1) God's Holiness
- 2) Man's sin
- 3) Jesus Christ
- 4) Repentance & Faith
- 5) Judgment

1 Corinthians 15:1-5

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,

by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

and then He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

JESUS IS GOD

While Jesus was on earth there was much confusion about who He was. Some thought He was a wise man or a great prophet. Others thought He was madman. Still others couldn't decide or didn't care. But Jesus said, "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30). That means He claimed to be nothing less than God in human flesh.

Many people today don't understand that Jesus claimed to be God. They're content to think of Him as little more than a great moral teacher.

But even His enemies understood His claims to deity. That's why they tried to stone Him to death (John 8:16; 10:33) and eventually had Him crucified (John 19:7).

Fully God and fully man

Five Essentials in Sharing the Gospel

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- 5) Judgment



C.S. Lewis observed, "You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to" (*Mere Christianity* [Macmillan, 1952], pp. 40-41).

If the biblical claims of Jesus are true, He is God!

The Jews knew He was claiming to be God

JESUS IS HOLY

God is absolutely and perfectly holy (Isaiah 6:3), therefore He cannot commit or approve of evil (James 1:13).

As God, Jesus embodied every element of God's character. Colossians 2:9 says, "In Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form." He was perfectly holy (Hebrews 4:15). Even His enemies couldn't prove any accusation against Him (John 8:46)

God requires holiness of us as well. First Peter 1:16 says, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

This whole section talks of God's character and nature

Five Essentials in Sharing the Gospel

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JESUS IS THE SAVIOR

Our failure to obey God--to be holy--places us in danger of eternal punishment (2 Thessalonians 1:9). The truth is, we cannot obey Him because we have

neither the desire nor the ability to do so. We are by nature rebellious toward God (Ephesians 2:1-3). The Bible calls our rebellion "sin." According to Scripture, everyone is guilty of sin: "There is no man who does not sin" (1 Kings 8:46). "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). And we are incapable of changing our sinful condition. Jeremiah 13:23 says, "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil."

This whole section talks about inability

That doesn't mean we're incapable of performing acts of human kindness. We might even be involved in various religious or humanitarian activities. But we're utterly incapable of understanding, loving, or pleasing God on our own. The Bible says, "There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; all have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one" (Romans 3:10-12).

God's holiness and justice demand that all sin be punished by death: "The soul who sins will die" (Ezekiel 18:4). That's hard for us to understand because we tend to evaluate sin on a relative scale, assuming some sins are less serious than others. However, the Bible teaches that all acts of sin are the result of sinful thinking and evil desires. That's why simply changing our patterns of behavior can't solve our sin problem; eliminate its consequences. We need to be changed inwardly so our thinking and desires are holy.

ALL VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED

Setting the stage for why Jesus had to die on the cross

A supernatural work of grace has to occur in the heart of the sinner

Five Essentials in Sharing the Gospel

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- 2) Man's sin
- 3) Jesus Christ
- 4) Repent & Believe
- 5) Judgment

Jesus is the only one who can forgive and transform us, thereby delivering us from the power and penalty of sin: "There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Even though God's justice demands death for sin, His love has provided a Savior, who paid the penalty and died for sinners: "Christ... died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18). Christ's death satisfied the demands of God's justice, thereby enabling Him to forgive and save those who place their faith in Him (Romans 3:26). John 3:16 says, "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." He alone is "our great God and Savior" (Titus 2:13).

THIS WAY

OUT

This is God's plan of salvation

Five Essentials in Sharing the Gospel

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JESUS IS THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE OBJECT OF SAVING FAITH

Some people think it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you're sincere. But without a valid object your faith is useless.

If you take poison--thinking it's medicine--all the faith in the world won't restore your life. Similarly, if Jesus is the only source of salvation, and you're trusting in anyone or anything else for your salvation, your faith is useless.

Many people assume there are many paths to God and that each

ONE WAY

religion represents an aspect of truth. But Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me" (John 14:6). He didn't claim to be one of many equally legitimate paths to God, or a way to God for His day only. He claimed to be the only way to God--then and forever.

One Way!

Five Essentials in Sharing the Gospel

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JESUS IS LORD

Contemporary thinking says man is the product of evolution. But the Bible says we were created by a personal God to love, serve, and enjoy endless fellowship with Him.

The New Testament reveals it was Jesus Himself who created everything (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16). Therefore He also owns and rules everything (Psalm 103:19). That means He has authority over our lives and we owe Him absolute allegiance, obedience, and worship.

Romans 10:9 says, "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved." Confessing Jesus as Lord means humbly submitting to His authority (Philippians 2:10-11). Believing that God has raised Him from the dead involves trusting in the historical fact of His resurrection--the pinnacle of Christian faith and the way the Father affirmed the deity and authority of the Son (Romans 1:4; Acts 17:30-31).

YIELD

The resurrection has to be mentioned

Five Essentials in Sharing the Gospel

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True faith is always accompanied by repentance from sin. Repentance is more than simply being sorry for sin. It is agreeing with God that you are sinful, confessing your sins to Him, and making a conscious choice to turn from sin and pursue holiness (Isaiah 55:7). Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (John 14:15); and "If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine" (John 8:31).

It isn't enough to believe certain facts about Christ. Even Satan and his demons believe in the true God (James 2:19), but they don't love and obey Him. Their faith is not genuine. True saving faith always responds in obedience (Ephesians 2:10).

Jesus is the sovereign Lord. When you obey Him you are acknowledging His lordship and submitting to His authority. That doesn't mean your obedience will always be perfect, but that is your goal. There is no area of your life that you withhold from Him.

Five Essentials in Sharing the Gospel

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Clarifies repentance and faith

Complete surrender is what the Lord requires

JESUS IS THE JUDGE

All who reject Jesus as their Lord and Savior will one day face Him as their Judge: "God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead" (Acts 17:30-31).

Second Thessalonians 1:7-9 says, "The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power."



Five Essentials in Sharing the Gospel

- 1) God's Holiness
- 2) Man's sin
- 3) Jesus Christ
- 4) Repent & Believe
- 5) Judgment**

This whole section talks about the coming judgment

HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

Who does the Bible say Jesus is? The living God, the Holy One, the Savior, the only valid object of saving faith, the sovereign Lord, and the righteous Judge.

Who do you say Jesus is? That is the inescapable question. **Only He** can redeem you—free you from the power and penalty of sin. He alone can transform you, restore you to fellowship with God, and give you life eternal purpose. Will you repent and believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT PARKING HERE

Five Essentials in Sharing the Gospel

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This is what we're calling people to: repentance and faith

Modern Gospel Examples in Today's Evangelism

Have You Heard of the **FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS?**

Just as there are physical laws that govern the physical universe, so are there spiritual laws that govern your relationship with God.

Example of the Modern Gospel

Law #1

God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life.

God's Love

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16, NIV).

God's Plan

[Christ speaking] "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly [that it might be full and meaningful]" (John 10:10).

Why is it that most people are not experiencing that abundant life?

Because...

Example of the Modern Gospel

Law #4

We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

We Must Receive Christ

"As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12).

We Receive Christ Through Faith

"By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as result of works that no one should boast" (Ephesians 2:8,9).

When We Receive Christ, We Experience a New Birth

(Read John 3:1-8)

We Receive Christ Through Personal Invitation

[Christ speaking] "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him" (Revelation 3:20).

Receiving Christ involves turning to God from self (repentance) and trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive our sins and to make us what He wants us to be. Just to agree **intellectually** that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for our sins is not enough. Nor is it enough to have an **emotional** experience. We receive Jesus Christ by **faith**, as an act of the **will**.

Example of the Modern Gospel

Law #4

The following explains how you can receive Christ:

**You Can Receive Christ Right Now by Faith Through Prayer
(Prayer is talking with God)**

God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. The following is a suggested prayer.

Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be.

Does this prayer express the desire of your heart? If it does, I invite you to pray this prayer right now, and Christ will come into your life, as He promised.

<http://www.campuscrusade.com/fourlawseng.htm>

Get Involved

- Prayer
- Contact R. Bachtell for weekly notice on time and meeting location
- Send your email address to bachteb@yahoo.com
- ShareYourFaith.org