

EVANGELISM FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

What is the Gospel? (Part 2)

"I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings." (1 Cor 9:22-23)

I. Andrew and Evangelism

The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples,³⁶ and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus...⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ).⁴² He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter). (John 1:35-42)

- A. Andrew gets a reputation for bringing people to Jesus. (see John 1:41, 6:8-9, and 12:20-22)
- B. Andrew takes the Gospel first to those he loves the most. (v. 41)
- C. Andrew uses his own testimony to *complement*, not replace, the message of Christ. (v. 41)

II. Review: What is the Gospel?

- A. We should begin our message with God's truth about _____.

 - Why would God be concerned with *me*?
 - Why should I be concerned about *God*?

*For although they knew God, **they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him**, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (Rom 1:21)*

I. The "Oprah Objection" to God's Character and Design for Me

*"God is the one being in the universe for whom self-exaltation is the most loving act. In exalting himself – Grand Canyon-like – he gets the glory and we get the joy. **The greatest news in all the world is that there is no final conflict between my passion for joy and God's passion for his glory. The knot that ties these together is the truth that God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.**"*

- John Piper, article in DMN, October 14, 2000.

B. Our Greatest Problem: Sin and the Fall

"One of the early stages of becoming a Christian is, I think, realizing that our problems aren't fundamentally that we have messed up our own lives, or have simply failed to reach our full potential, but that we have sinned against God. And so it begins to dawn on us that we are rightly the objects of God's wrath and his judgment, and that we deserve death, separation from God, and spiritual alienation from him now and even forever."

- Mark Dever, *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism*, 35.

I. "Saved From What?"

This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering--⁶ since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.⁹ They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,¹⁰ when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints... (2 Thess 1:5-10)

C. God's Loving Provision: Jesus Christ

I. Fully God and Fully Man

"I and the Father are one." (John 10:30)

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)

2. How do we know Jesus' sacrifice was true?

*Paul...set apart for **the gospel of God,**² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh⁴ and **was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord...*** (Rom 1:1-4)

D. Are We Done?

"It is possible for a person to become so mechanical in his witness that he can go through all the motions of witnessing without actually looking and praying for the response to Christ in faith by the other person. If we could remember this, we would find witnessing exciting, and we would learn that winning the argument often becomes far less important than winning the person to the Lord." - James M. Boice

*I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house,²¹ testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of **repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.*** (Acts 20:20-21)

*Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;⁷ **let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*** (Isa 55:6-7)