

# Simple Evangelistic Aids

It is shocking to discover that many people in the church today are completely unprepared for witnessing. One of the reasons for this is the lack of personal tuition in the Gospel since the general abandonment of catechising. This has led to astonishing individual weaknesses in knowledge and discipleship amongst modern believers. But it is also due to the modern practice of using believers as stewards and not evangelists. Modern churches see evangelism as bringing the unregenerate into the church for a 'Gospel Meeting' and letting the preacher do all the work; all that is needed is a show of hands in response to a message. This isn't evangelism but wishful thinking (and unbiblical thinking at that). It doesn't work because it doesn't produce solid converts, though it may temporarily boost numbers.

The Biblical practice is to establish the saints in the body to be effective witnesses by knowing God and understanding his Gospel. They are then exhorted to witness to their neighbour, wherever he is. This is the example of the early church and all true revivals – and it works.

Part of discipleship is to learn how to witness effectively, and there are many useful resources on this subject. However, the key issue is simple – it is to get the seeker to personally interact with the word of God for himself. It is the application of God's word to the heart of the unbeliever which really prepares the ground for subsequent conversion.

This means that the disciple vitally needs to know how to apply key Scriptures to unbelievers in various sorts of need. I have written extensively on this elsewhere (unpublished work) but here I wish to itemise basics. It is best for disciples to figure things out for themselves and form their own way of doing things based upon knowledge of the key facts of the Gospel. Here we will go through these. However, a very simple method is to use a textual chain.

## The Roman Chain

The most basic of these is the Roman Chain, long used by many evangelistic groups. This teaches the disciple to begin with Romans 3:23 and then write the next verse in the margin of his Bible. So we begin with

Rm 3:23: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. [Marginal note: 6:23]

Rm 6:23: For the wages of sin /s death, but the gift of God /s eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. [Marginal note: 5:8]

Rm 5:8: But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. [Marginal note: 4:5]

Rm 4:5: But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness. [Marginal note: 10:9-13]

Rm 10:9-13: If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For 'whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.'

Thus through this short sequence we have explained, from God's word, that:

- All men are sinners.
- The guilt of this sin results in death and eternal punishment.
- There is hope only in the provision of a Saviour who is Jesus Christ.
- The death of Christ pays for sin.
- This must be accepted by faith.
- We must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and confess him before men.

There is no excuse why believers cannot use this very simple method, and this is far better than a mere personal witness. It must be stressed that we must get the sinner to personally interact with God's own words for there to be any hope of change.

Another simple method is to just use one Scripture passage and expound it. Examples would include: Eph 2:1-10; Jn 1:10-18; Isa 53 and so on.

However, it is far better to have a store of texts in mind to adapt to the questions of the seeker and to go through a process of key Gospel points.

## The Gospel

How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things! Rm 10:15

The Greek term which we translate as 'Gospel' is *euaggelion* [pronounced: *euangelion* or *'yoo-ang-ghelee-on'*], which came to mean 'good news' or 'glad tidings'. Our English word 'evangelise' is based upon the Greek word *euangelizo*, which means 'to announce glad tidings' or 'to proclaim good news'. It literally means 'to good news the glad tidings' since the word is in the middle voice, having the intention of including the thing proclaimed as well as the person who receives the message.

So evangelism is the proclamation of good tidings, or preaching a message from God of good news – that there is salvation from judgment for sin. Gospel witnessing is preaching a message; so exactly what does this message comprise of? If we do not understand the message, then we cannot preach the Gospel. This means that the chief theological points of the Gospel must be understood and then applied practically to unbelievers.

## Key Gospel points and relevant Scriptures

**The claims of God** – the Gospel is a message about God  
The glorious gospel of the blessed God. 1 Tim 1:11

The Gospel starts with God not man. It is the 'Gospel of God' (1 Thess 2:9). Man is not an independent creature, he was made by God and belongs to God. He was made for a purpose (to glorify God and express his character) and thus must obey the will or law of God. Failure to do this is sin or lawlessness and results in iniquity.

Man was made to express the majesty and glory of God; instead he is full of selfishness and pride and expresses the will of Satan who dominated him at the Fall. Since God is holy and righteous, the man created by God was meant to be righteous; instead he is full of sin and under God's curse.

The basic function of the Gospel is to make man right with God, to restore what the Fall broke. The Gospel is focused upon the rights of God and only secondarily on the needs of

man. Its intention is to restore fellowship between man and God by forgiving sin and removing the curse, resulting in a world in harmony with God. No proclamation of the Gospel must ignore the rights of God.

Paul models this in Acts 17:17ff. preaching to Gentiles in Athens. It is summed up as 'the preaching of Jesus and the resurrection' (v18, not the law!).

- He emphasises that God as Creator has rights over all men (v24).
- He explains that God is to be worshipped and that he is sovereign over all things (v25-26).
- He proclaims that it is men's responsibility to seek God (v27).
- He condemns all forms of idolatry; there is no other God (v29).
- He then demands repentance, which is a précis of the need for conversion, which includes repentance and faith in Christ (v30).
- He then explains that failure to repent will result in judgment, affirming the divinity of Jesus as the one raised from the dead (v31).

This synopsis of Paul's preaching shows the need to begin with the claims of God as Creator and Sovereign Lord. Believing in Christ is obeying God's demand of all men.

*Useful Scriptures to emphasise this point*

O LORD God of Israel, *the One* who dwells *between* the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. 2 Kg 19:15

The earth *is* the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. For He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the waters. Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Ps 24:1-5

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted; His glory *is* above the earth and heaven. Ps 148:13

For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: 'I *am* the LORD, and *there is* no other.' Isa 45:18

I blessed the Most High and praised and honoured Him who lives forever: for His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom *is* from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and *among* the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, 'What have You done?' Dan 4:34-35

You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him. Deut 6:13

And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, *and* to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good? Deut 10:12-13

You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. Deut 13:4

**Man is lost in sin** - The Gospel is a message about sin

You ... were dead in trespasses and sins ... we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh ... and were by nature children of wrath. Eph 2:1-3

The fundamental need of man is that he is lost; he is dead in sins, under judgment and awaiting condemnation (Eph 2:1-2; Jn 3:36; Lk 9:25; Heb 9:27). The Bible speaks about man as sick with sin, lost in sin, crippled by sin, ruined by sin and dead in sins.

All men are ruined, in a state of total depravity. This does not mean that all men are as thoroughly evil as they could be, but that every compartment of their lives is damaged by sin. This means that no man is able to do good. No man can any spiritual good of any kind; all his work is tainted by selfishness and evil. This means that man cannot naturally either believe or repent; he is lost and doomed without outside help. All men have God's wrath hanging over them and are awaiting judgment.

*Useful Scriptures to emphasise this point*

As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no, not one. There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.' 'Their throat *is* an open tomb; With their tongues they have practised deceit'; 'The poison of asps *is* under their lips'; 'Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness.' 'Their feet *are* swift to shed blood; Destruction and misery *are* in their ways; And the way of peace they have not known.' 'There is no fear of God before their eyes.' Rm 3:10-18

The fool has said in his heart, '*There is* no God.' They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity; *there is* none who does good. God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are *any* who understand, who seek God. Every one of them has turned aside; they have together become corrupt; *there is* none who does good, No, not one. Ps 53:1-3

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man. Matt 7:21-23

No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. Matt 10:18

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 1 Cor 6:9-10

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 1 Jn 1:8

**Sin will be punished** – the Gospel is a message about hell

The soul who sins shall die. Ezek 18:20

Because God is just, all sin must be punished or there would be no justice. God is impartial and judges all men according to their sins. Since God is eternal and the offence to God's holiness is eternal, then the punishment of sin is also eternal. Also it is the soul that sins; all sin originates in the heart of man. Since the soul continues after death the punishment of sin continues after death.

The Bible explains that there are two deaths. The first is physical, the second is hell. All men die physically when their life ends; but all men are raised at the Last Day for judgment and those who are not saved are sentenced to eternal death, that is, eternal separation from God. This is known as hell and it is a place of torment and suffering for eternity.

*Useful Scriptures to emphasise this point*

It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. Heb 9:27

Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins. Jn 8:24

For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rm 6:23

Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. Rev 20:14

The cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. Rev 21:8

Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him! Lk 12:5

How can you escape the condemnation of hell? Matt 23:33

If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. Matt 5:29-30

If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched -- where 'Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.' And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched -- where 'Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.' And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire -- where 'Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.' Mk 9:43-48

[Jesus] in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. 2 Thess 1:8-9

### **Conviction of sin** – the Gospel is a message of convicting power

Therefore you are inexcusable, O man. Rm 2:1

Those whom God has chosen from eternity, the elect, are predestined for salvation. The observable beginning of this salvation occurs when the sinner receives conviction of sin in his heart. There can be no repentance unless there has first been a true conviction of sin. You cannot turn from sin if you do not feel your guilt.

Conviction of sin is a revelation from God that we have broken his law, are guilty before him and are deserving of hell. This then leads to a desire to get right with God. Someone in this situation can be swiftly led to see the grace that is available in Christ.

#### *Useful Scriptures to emphasise this point*

He [The Holy Spirit] will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me. Jn 16:8-9

Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?' Then Peter said to them, 'Repent'. Acts 2:37-38

[The Philippian jailer] fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' Acts 16:29-30

But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed. 1 Cor 14:24-25

**Christ** – the Gospel is primarily a message about Christ

I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ. Eph 3:8

Christ is the centre of the Gospel message. The essence of witnessing is preaching Christ: 'we preach Christ crucified', (1 Cor 1:23). In evangelism the believer must focus upon the life, death, resurrection and glorification of Jesus Christ.

The theological implications of atonement, justification, reconciliation, redemption, sanctification adoption and so on may not be fully understood, but the essential truths of these must be explained. Christ paid for all our sins by his death on the cross but also merited eternal life and righteousness for us through his perfect obedience to God's law. He takes our sins upon himself and dies in our place as our substitute, thus paying the penalty for sin, but he also accounts to us his own righteousness to make us stand pardoned and holy before God.

The hope of salvation is the vicarious death and resurrection of Christ. Christ's death has made satisfaction for sins (atonement) and has removed the penalty and judgment for sin (justification). Through the cross he made reconciliation for sin, bringing us into fellowship and peace with God. It is the work of Christ and Christ alone that ensures our salvation. The sinner contributes nothing.

The foundation of all Gospel witnessing is explaining what the cross means and that Christ is the only hope for mankind.

*Useful Scriptures to emphasise this point*

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Jn 3:16-18

Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.' Jn 14:6

These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. Jn 20:31

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

Through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified. Acts 13:38-39

Through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved. Acts 15:11

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rm 5:8

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. Rm 5:10

But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Cor 6:11

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Gal 3:26

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace. Eph 1:7

This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Tim 1:15

*There is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus. 1 Tim 2:5

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. 1 Jn 4:10

**Grace** – the Gospel is a message of sovereign grace  
Testify to the gospel of the grace of God. Acts 20:24

The Gospel does not include meritorious works! This means that man does not contribute to his salvation but those chosen by God are drawn by him and given the ability to believe and repent.

Grace implies a gift; it is something freely given by God in Christ to the elect. Salvation is a free gift, not something worked for. The beginning of salvation is regeneration whereby God sovereignly changes a man's will by giving him a new heart. This occurs when the Holy Spirit effectually calls a person through the preaching of the Gospel. In the Gospel some are drawn by the Spirit others are left in their sins.

The way one witnesses to men is different after they have been regenerated. In addressing sinners generally one must convince them of their sin seeking to see conviction of sin. When they are regenerated they know their sin and seek salvation. At this point one preaches the grace of Christ; one explains that salvation is a free gift appropriated by faith. Now the change from unbelief to belief may be very quick; regeneration is often swiftly followed by conversion – but not always. Without regeneration there is no gift of faith. We do not command people to be born again because it is entirely passive and the work of the Spirit (Jn 3:7 is indicative not imperative); but when grace has been noticeably received (shown in conviction of sin) we must command belief.

*Useful Scriptures to emphasise this point*

All things have been delivered to me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and *the one* to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*. Matt 11:27

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." Jn 3:3-8

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. Jn 6:44

No one can come to me unless it has been granted to him by my Father. Jn 6:65

You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as you have given Him. Jn 17:2

The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. Acts 16:14

Those who had believed through grace. Acts 18:27

The goodness of God leads you to repentance. Rm 2:4

Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Rm 3:24

*It is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. Rm 9:16

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Eph 2:4-9

According to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5

**Conversion** – the Gospel is a message that man must believe and repent  
[God] now commands all men everywhere to repent. Acts 17:30

Repent, and believe in the gospel. Mk 1:15

Before regeneration is observed as an awakened state or conviction, it is advisable to counsel men to seek salvation, to cry out for mercy, to pray for forgiveness, to read the Bible and to reach out for God. After regeneration is thought likely, then we urge men to believe in Christ for salvation and to repent – which is the response to regeneration. Only by faith and repentance can the new birth be seen; only through regeneration can faith and repentance be achieved. There is nothing wrong with commanding these things at any time since it is the responsibility of all men to repent, but the better counsel is to understand the position that your seeker is in and tailor your counsel accordingly. If preaching to a general crowd then one should issue warnings about sin and its effects and command faith in Christ since it is God's imperative.

Having observed conviction of sin and a warming to the Gospel in an individual, it is important to directly command faith and repentance. Hold up the glories of the Lord Jesus Christ to the seeker and explain the need for complete submission to him as Lord and Saviour.

It is important to explain what repentance is. It is a complete change of mind and heart which results in a transformed life. It is not just sorrow or remorse for sin, but a determination to follow Christ; remorse was shown by Judas but repentance by Peter. If there is no real determination to follow Christ, there is no salvation. This repentance will manifest itself in public confession of becoming a disciple. Repentance follows God's word which calls a man to deny himself and follow Christ.

It is also important to explain what faith is. It is not mere assent of truth, even demons believe this way (Jm 2:19). Biblical faith is not giving credence to truth but is a complete trust, a complete leaning upon Christ. It is the difference between believing that parachutes work, and actually jumping out of an aeroplane with one. Faith is an expression of commitment to Christ.

Faith rests on knowledge, which is why the word of God is vital in providing instruction for the soul and a base for belief. Faith without repentance is dead; repentance is the work that follows faith and proves it to be real.

*Useful Scriptures to emphasise this point*

Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations. Lk 24:47



But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name. Jn 1:12

He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him. Jn 3:36

Jesus answered and said to them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.' Jn 6:29

And this is the will of Him who sent me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day. Jn 6:40

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in me has everlasting life. Jn 6:47

Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?' Jn 11:25-26

Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?' Then Peter said to them, 'Repent'. Acts 2:37-38

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out. Acts 3:19

Whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins. Acts 10:43

A great number believed and turned [i.e. repented] to the Lord. Acts 11:21

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved. Acts 16:31

Testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 20:21

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, 'Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.' Rm 10:9-11

The commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith. Rm 16:26

Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Gal 3:22

**The Gospel of the kingdom** – the Gospel is a message resulting in fellowship with God and submission to Christ as King

Preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Matt 10:7

Becoming a Christian is not a solitary experience but becoming a part of a community. This community is the kingdom where Jesus is acknowledged as the King and all of one's life is submitted to the sovereignty of God. The Gospel leads to citizenship of a heavenly kingdom and this means that believers are subjects of a king. The Gospel has truly taken hold of a person when his life is absolutely submitted to the claims of Christ as Lord.

The cross of Christ and his crown belong together. Belief in Christ results in submission to Christ as Lord.

*Useful Scriptures to emphasise this point*

Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.' Matt 28:18

You go and preach the kingdom of God. Lk 9:60

God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. Acts 2:36

Preaching peace through Jesus Christ -- He is Lord of all - Acts 10:36

[Paul was] preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 28:31

For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Rm 14:9

He has put all things under His feet. 1 Cor 15:27

[God] put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things*. Eph 1:22

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Phil 2:9-11

Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him. 1 Pt 3:22

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!' Rev 11:15

He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are* with Him *are* called, chosen, and faithful. Rev 17:14

He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Rev 19:16

### **Baptism in water** – the Gospel results in baptism

He who believes and is baptised will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. Mk 16:16

Baptism is the necessary corollary of repentance. Jesus commanded this and the apostles preached it when they evangelised. It was not something that was left for months or years, but people were baptised on the day of their conversion.

Baptism is not something that needs to be done in a meeting, it must simply be done in obedience to Christ. A genuine disciple must be the baptiser, but it needn't necessarily be a leader. Ananias was the 'disciple' who baptised Paul (Acts 9:10ff.) but he is never called an elder, he is just called 'a devout man' (Acts 22:12).

### *Useful Scriptures to emphasise this point*

Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.' Acts 2:38

Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, 'See, *here is* water. What hinders me from being baptised?' Then Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptised him. Acts 8:36-38

'Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptised who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *have*?' And he commanded them to be baptised in the name of the Lord. Acts 10:47-48

The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household were baptised. Acts 16:14-15

Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptised. Acts 18:8

This concludes the concise explanation of the basic facts of the Gospel with associated texts. Notice we have seen no evidence of, *'Give God your heart'*, or *'Accept Christ into your life'*, or *'Invite Christ into your life'*; these are unbiblical phrases. Neither have we seen any mention of God loving everyone or Christ dying for everyone. These ideas are unbiblical. God loves the elect and Christ died for those that God gave him (Eph 1:4; Jn 17:2, 9).

What follows is a simple aide-memoire for witnessing. I will not enter into the matter of how to witness: how to persuade, reason, confute and present the Gospel, but simply to give the reader key verses to help his own form of Gospel preaching. These lists are given to give the reader a wide choice but one must not use dozens of these in his presentation. Far better to choose a few and stick to simple points. Get the person to read them for himself and then explain the verse, always centring on the claims of Jesus as God.

## Basic Gospel Texts

### **Man's need of salvation**

*What is sin – rebellion against God*

Mk 12:29-31; 1 Jn 3:4; Jm 4:17

*The extent of sin – all men are sinners*

Isa 53:6, 64:6; Jer 17:9; Rm 1:18, 25, 3:10-11, 23; Eph 4:13-19; 1 Jn 1:8

*The consequences of sin*

Isa 59:21; Mk 7:23; Rm 6:23

*Judgment*

Ezek 18:20; Matt 7:21; Acts 17:31; Rm 1:18-23, 3:19-20; Heb 9:27

### **Jesus Christ is the only Saviour**

Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim 2:5

*Jesus is God*

Jn 5:21-23, 10:30, 14:7-9

*Jesus is a man*

Phil 2:7b-8a; Heb 2:14-17

*Jesus' purpose*

Mk 2:17, 10:45; Lk 19:10

*The cross*

Isa 53:5-6; 2 Cor 5:21; 1 Pt 3:18; 1 Jn 2:21

*The resurrection*

Mk 16:6; Jn 20; Rm 8:11; 1 Cor 15:3-4

*Jesus' exaltation*

Mk 16:19; Jn 5:22; Rm 8:34; Eph 1:20-22; Heb 1:3

*Jesus' second coming*

Matt 26:64; Mk 8:38; Acts 1:11; 1 Thess 4:16-17

**What is salvation?**

*Justification* (pardon, legal righteousness being right with God)

Isa 1:18, 38:17, 43:25; Ps 103:10-12; Rm 5:1, 18, 8:1; 1 Jn 1:7b, 9

*Adoption into God's family*

Rm 8:29, 9:8; 2 Cor 6:18; Gal 3:26, 29; Eph 1:5

*Reconciliation*

Rm 5:10; 2 Cor 5:19a; Eph 2:13; Col 1:21-22; Heb 10:19-22

*Regeneration*

Ezek 36:26-27; Jn 3:3-6; 2 Cor 5:17

*Identification* (sharing in Christ's death to deal with sinful nature)

Jn 8:34-36; Rm 6:2-7; Gal 2:20

*Redemption*

Isa 62:12; 1 Cor 7:23; Gal 3:13; 1 Tim 2:6; 1 Pt 1:18-19

*Sanctification*

1 Cor 1:30; Eph 5:26; 1 Thess 5:23; Heb 2:11, 13:12

*Perseverance of the saints*

Job 17:9; Jn 10:28, 17:11; 1 Pt 1:5

**How do I get saved?**

*See Jesus as your substitute* (Jesus died in your place)

Jn 3:16; 2 Cor 5:21

*Obey God and receive the Gospel*

Acts 17:30; Rm 1:5

*See God's free gift* (salvation is all of grace)

Matt 11:27; Jn 3:16; Rm 3:24, 6:23; Eph 2:8-9

*Reject human effort to gain salvation*

Rm 3:19-20; Eph 2:8-9

*Repentance & Faith*

Mk 1:5; Jn 1:12, 5:24; Acts 2:38, 16:30-31; Rm 1:16-17; Heb 11:6

*Confession of Christ*

Mk 10:32; Rm 10:9-10

*Baptism*

Matt 28:19; Acts 2:38, 16:30-34

*Follow Christ in obedience*

Matt 4:18-22; Lk 14:27; Rm 1:5

**The marks of true faith***Obedience*

Matt 7:20-21; 1 Jn 2:3, 15,

*Love of the church*

1 Jn 3:14

*Having the Spirit*

1 Jn 4:13

*Sonship*

Gal 4:6

*Assurance*

Matt 28:20; Jn 5:24, 6:29-37, 10:28; Heb 13:5

*Conformity to Christ*

Rm 8:29; Gal 5:22-23; 1 Pt 1:15

*A love for God's word*

Ps 119: 11, 130; Matt 4:4; Mk 12:14; Rm 15:4; 2 Tim 3:15

*Good works following conversion*

Matt 7:24-27; 1 Cor 10:31; Phil 2:12-13; Eph 2:10; Titus 2:14

**Conclusion**

Remember that the key matter is to get the seeker to interact with Scripture for himself. Even if you can only remember a few of these verses that is enough to enable a person understand God's message. Choose a selection of the most important in your view and keep them available in your Bible. Even using three texts is far better than just offering general counsel without Scripture. Let God speak for himself by using his word applied wisely.

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