



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#3)

Rely on the Bible's Good News, not modern-day substitutes!

MOST PEOPLE HAVE NEVER READ THE BOOK OF ACTS, TO LEARN THE APOSTLES' VIEW OF THE "GOOD NEWS."

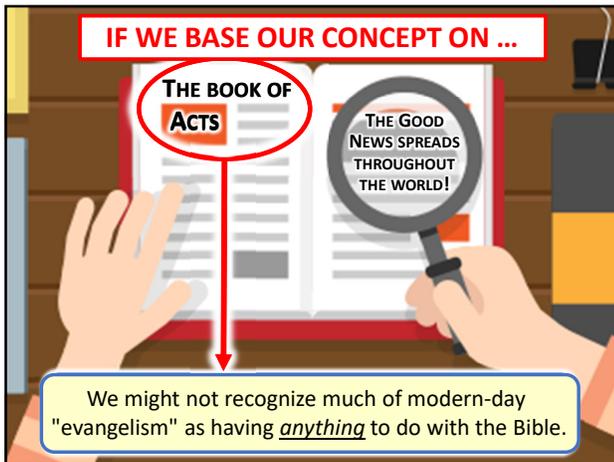
THEY BASE THEIR VIEWS ON:

- ✓ **What they SEE** in the media, and ...
- ✓ **What they READ** in booklets or tracts ...

This influences their whole concept of "evangelism."

IN CONTRAST ... →

IF WE BASE OUR CONCEPT ON ...



THE BOOK OF ACTS

THE GOOD NEWS SPREADS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD!

We might not recognize much of modern-day "evangelism" as having anything to do with the Bible.

In the book of Acts:

THE APOSTLES DID NOT entice, lure, bribe, trick, play on emotions, or in any other way manipulate the person or situation, in order to get people to make "decisions" for Christ.

They treated people with dignity and respect, and didn't try to cloud their thinking!

COME AND GET IT! DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE HOOK!



THE APOSTLES DID NOT invent catchy phrases, "steps" to salvation, rhyming words, "basic principles" or "laws," or pre-planned "canned speeches," designed to elicit specific responses, or to lead people to a "decision."

They simply presented the good news and relied on God to do the rest!

1 --- 2 --- 3 ---
Come to heaven with me!

Read this booklet, repeat this prayer ... and you're guaranteed salvation!

THE APOSTLES DID NOT lead people to an easy "decision," and then follow it with a list of duties – "Now that you're saved, here's what you need to do..."

They let the people know their obligations before they responded!

SALVATION RULES AND REGULATIONS

And now, here's the "fine print"!

(There are obligations, but not like this!)

THE APOSTLES DID NOT resort to "soul-winning" techniques that didn't really allow the unsaved person to think clearly.

They did not pressure the people into responding the "correct" way, but left room for the Holy Spirit to work!

... then ask them the "heaven" question. Most will say "Yes."

It's important to press the issue until they do say "Yes."

Then move them on to the next step, by saying...

THE APOSTLES DID NONE OF THESE THINGS!

PEOPLE TODAY DO MANY OF THESE THINGS!

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO ALL THIS?

FIRST: Don't encourage such practices.

Counterfeits and substitutes do not save.

Do what the apostles did!

Speak the New Testament truth the New Testament way!

IF: We want NEW TESTAMENT results.

THEN: We need to use NEW TESTAMENT methods!

The apostles didn't rely on all this trickery, manipulation and half-truth!

SECOND: Understand the danger!

Fake "salvation techniques" result in fake "salvations."

This is a serious matter!

It has eternal significance!

There will be many – very many – who are led astray by modern manipulative trickery and half-truth, who will never turn to the Bible itself, and will never have a genuine change.

Unless their "decision" becomes based on Scripture – which is used by the Holy Spirit to penetrate people's hearts – there will be no genuine "conversion." Their "salvation decision" will not last.

THIRD: Be aware of God's GRACE!

God can use imperfection in spite of its imperfection.

It's our only hope!

If someone used these techniques and tricks on you, you might still be saved!

BUT ONLY BECAUSE OF:

God's POWER: God can **SAVE** people in spite of the counterfeit techniques that others may use.

God's GRACE: God can **REDIRECT OUR FOCUS** to the Bible, so that we will find out what it says!

– Then we can be saved "for real"!

HERE ARE SOME VERSES THAT ILLUSTRATE WHAT THE APOSTLES DID NOT DO!

✓ Not relying on the best persuasive speaking techniques that "human wisdom" can invent.

... not with clever speeches and high-sounding ideas, for fear that the cross of Christ would lose its power.

... I didn't use lofty words and brilliant ideas to tell you God's message.

And my message and my preaching were very plain. I did not use wise and persuasive speeches, but the Holy Spirit was powerful among you.

I did this so that you might trust the power of God rather than human wisdom.

1 Cor. 1:17b; 2:1b, 4-5 (NLT)

✓ **Not with self-serving motives.**

Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit.

★ On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

2 Cor. 2:17 (NIV)

✓ **Not relying on man-made teachings and techniques.**

Then we will no longer be little children, tossed and carried about by all kinds of teachings that change like the wind. We will no longer be influenced by people who use cunning and clever strategies to lead us astray.

★ Instead, as we lovingly speak the truth, we will grow up completely in our relationship to Christ, who is the head.

Ephes. 4:14-15 (GW)

✓ **Not with trickery or modifying of God's Word.**

We reject all shameful and underhanded methods. We do not try to trick anyone, and we do not distort the word of God.

★ We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know that.

2 Cor. 4:2 (NLT)

✓ **Not relying on the world's arguments and pretensions.**

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

★ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

2 Cor. 10:4-5 (NIV)

✓ **Not using cleverly invented stories that attract followers.**

We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

★

2 Peter 1:16 (NIV)

✓ **Not even relying on the testimony of spirit beings!**

... a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved."

★ ... Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

Acts 16:16b, 17, 18b (NIV)

**ARE SOME METHODS AND TECHNIQUES LEGITIMATE?
YES!**

- There are legitimate things that God may choose to use, when drawing people toward him.

HE CAN USE THEM, IF they are not done in a manipulative way that reduces an unsaved person's ability to respond with clear thinking.

✳ **BUT EVEN UNDER THE BEST OF CONDITIONS,
THESE THINGS ARE NOT WHAT SAVES PEOPLE!**

- ✓ God may use a variety of methods for drawing people toward him.

EXAMPLES: God may choose to use...

- Special programs
- Music
- "Altar calls"
- My testimony (about God working in my life)
- Stories and illustrations

- ✓ God may choose to use ways that seem very "non-normal."

EXAMPLE: In Islamic countries, God often uses dreams and visions to point people to Jesus.

- ✓ God may even choose to intervene when false motives or deceptive methods are used.

EXAMPLE: (In Paul's day: the evil motives of some.)

It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, ... But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Philip. 1:15a, 18a (NIV)



**BUT NONE OF THESE THINGS
– GOOD OR BAD –
ARE WHAT SAVES PEOPLE!**

At best, they are like "pointers" to the real source of salvation.

GOD USES HIS WORD, NOT THE "POINTERS," TO SAVE PEOPLE!

☀ It's God's WORD that is living, not those other things! ☀

For the word of God is living and active ...
Hebrews 4:12a (NASB)

The words I [Jesus] have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.
John 6:63b (NIV)

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

1 Peter 1:23 (NIV)

MORE VERSES ABOUT THE WORD! ➔

WILL NEVER PASS AWAY

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Matthew 24:35 (CSB)

IT'S WHAT THE APOSTLES PREACHED

"But the word of the Lord will last forever."

And that word is the Good News that was preached to you.

1 Peter 1:25 (NLT)

THE SOURCE OF GOD'S POWER

I'm not ashamed of the Good News. It is God's power to save everyone who believes, ...

Romans 1:16a (GW)

IT ACTUALLY IS FROM GOD

... when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

1 Thes. 2:13b (NIV)

THE SOURCE OF "NEW BIRTH"

He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, ...

James 1:18a (NIV)

SUMMARY

THOUGH: God may use a variety of means to point people in the right direction...



That "direction" must be toward the message of SCRIPTURE ...

- ↳ which the Holy Spirit uses
- ↳ to penetrate people's hearts
- ↳ resulting in genuine conversion.

Consequently faith comes ... through the preached word of Christ.

Romans 10:17 (NET)

☀ **AND DON'T FORGET PRAYER!** ☀
(THOUGH IT'S NOT OUR MAIN FOCUS HERE)

The Word of God ... plus PRAYER,
is what the Apostles relied on!

"[We] will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

Acts 6:4 (NIV)

Though our focus is mainly on the MESSAGE that God uses, we must not forget the strong connection that exists between what the Holy Spirit does (in saving people) and our PRAYER.

THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITY

[Same as last week!]

Do you know what the GOOD NEWS actually is?



Check the book of Acts, to see what the apostles said it was!



Then compare what they say to what you have heard.

Credits (1)

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