



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

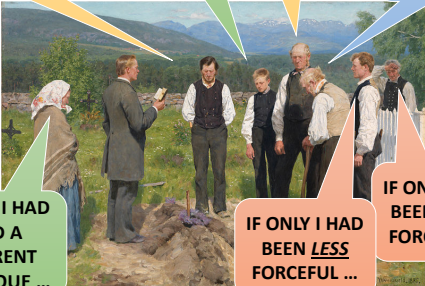
(#5)

The Good News and our responsibility



FREEDOM FROM FEAR THAT YOU ...

- ✓ Used the wrong "technique."
- ✓ Forgot some "step" in your pre-packaged "plan of salvation."
- ✓ Haven't learned the latest soul-winning fad.
- ✓ Stumbled over your memorized speech.
- ✓ Made an error in your "presentation."
- ✓ Must have done something wrong, but don't know what (if they don't get saved).



HE'S GOING TO HELL, BECAUSE I FORGOT "STEP 3" IN THE "PLAN OF SALVATION."

I WAS TOO CONFUSED BY ALL THE METHODS ...

I FORGOT THE BOOKLET I WAS GOING TO GIVE HIM.

IF ONLY I HAD SAID IT A DIFFERENT WAY ...

IF ONLY I HAD USED A DIFFERENT TECHNIQUE ...

IF ONLY I HAD BEEN LESS FORCEFUL ...

IF ONLY I HAD BEEN MORE FORCEFUL ...

FREEDOM TO REJOICE BECAUSE YOU CAN...

- ✓ Pray for people and (when able) point them to God's Word.
- ✓ Use the opportunities that come your way; and let God "worry" about those that don't.
- ✓ Do and say what you can, when you can, how you can.
- ✓ Trust GOD to do the actual saving.
- ✓ Know that God will successfully accomplish his will, in spite of your weakness.



**RESPONSIBILITY #1:
TO PROMOTE THE "FAITH" OF THE BIBLE.**

(This involves trusting the God of the Bible, *and none other.*)

<p>ALL man-made religions (including atheism) are "faith-based."</p> <p>>> A "faith" based on PRETENSION. <<</p>	<p>The "FAITH" of the Bible is "fact-based," and "life-controlling."</p> <p>>> A "faith" based on REALITY. <<</p>
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If your "FAITH":


1) isn't based on the **FACTS** of the Bible, and
2) doesn't control the way you LIVE ...

then it is **FAKE**.

✓ To survive the "Storm" of the final judgment, you need *both...*

THE LIFE CONTROLLED BY THE FACTS

THE FACT FOUNDATION



JESUS SAYS:


Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

Matthew 7:24-25 (NIV)

✓ There is only one way to find out what the **FACTS** and **OBLIGATIONS** are:
You need GOD'S WORD.

SO THAT'S WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS!

✱ READ IT AND LEARN IT.



✱ If you can't read, LISTEN TO IT AND LEARN IT.
(There are many ways to listen to it – such as an audio book or recording; or someone reading it to you...)

**RESPONSIBILITY #2:
TO USE THE ABILITIES GOD HAS GIVEN YOU.**

(God doesn't require you to do anything he hasn't enabled you to do.)

<p>God <u>doesn't</u> require everyone to be an <u>evangelist</u>.</p>	<p>God <u>does</u> require everyone to do <u>something</u>.</p>
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Not having "the gift of evangelism" is NOT a legitimate excuse!

BECAUSE:

If you are "following Jesus," there will be something different in your speech and life.

YES!!

You DO HAVE GIFTS AND ABILITIES.

✓ **STRIVE** to find out what they are.
Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.
1 Cor. 12:7 (NIV)

✓ **LEARN** to use them ... all of us (as a group).
We are all parts of [Christ's] one body, and each of us has different work to do. And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others.
God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well.
Romans 12:5b-6a (NLT)

NO FAKENESS!!

IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD TO PRETEND YOU HAVE NO GIFTS OR ABILITIES.

✓ **BE HONEST** about what they are.
Be honest in your estimate of yourselves, ...
Romans 12:3b (NLT)

✓ **DON'T** pretend they aren't there! At the judgment, God won't pretend!

Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property [money] to them. ... he gave [to] each according to his ability.
[One man] dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. His master replied, "You wicked, lazy servant!" ... And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
Matt. 25:14, 15b, 18b, 26a, 30 (NIV) – a parable to illustrate the coming judgment

I SHARED THE "GOOD NEWS" WITH HIM. HE REJECTED IT.

HE KNEW THAT I PUT GOD FIRST IN MY LIFE.

I PRAYED FOR HIM.

I AM NOT GIFTED WITH SPEAKING; BUT I DID EVERYTHING I COULD TO EXALT JESUS.

ONLY 2 OF THESE RESPONSES WERE SINFUL.

HE HEARD ME SINGING PRAISES TO GOD.

I KEPT SILENT. I DIDN'T WANT HIM TO DISLIKE ME.

I KNEW GOD WANTED ME TO SAY SOMETHING; BUT I DIDN'T.

✓ **Your obligation: To be involved in sharing the Good News.**

- There will be different types of involvement for different people...
- But all are to be involved.

✓ **WORKING** together as a group.

✓ **ENCOURAGING** each other.

✓ **COMMUNICATING** the Good News verbally.

✓ **PRAYING** for all those involved.

✓ **LIVING** as a follower of Jesus.

which brings us to the next point.

RESPONSIBILITY #3:
REMEMBER WHAT IT MEANS TO "FOLLOW JESUS."

(Jesus says it will affect all areas of life.)

It's easy to live like the world; we just have to do what comes natural!

If you're actually "following" Jesus, something will be different!

Jesus doesn't say "following" will be easy.

But he does give us the Spirit's power to do so. (Jesus is also present to help us!)

✓ **There is no salvation without "following."**

YOU MUST BE WILLING...

If people come to me and are not ready to abandon their fathers, mothers, wives, children, brothers, and sisters, as well as their own lives, they cannot be my disciples.

So those who do not carry their crosses and follow me cannot be my disciples.

... none of you can be my disciples unless you give up everything.

Luke 14:26-27, 33 (GW)

YOU WILL BE WILLING... [or else you aren't following]

My sheep recognize my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

John 10:27 (NLT)

✓ **"Following" will influence how you live.**

"How you live" includes "what you say." The two cannot be separated. You cannot give your "life" to God and keep your "voice" for self!

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV)

If you are following Jesus, it will be evident somehow.

★★ **DON'T HIDE THE EVIDENCE!** ★★

HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND TO THIS OPPORTUNITY?

I'VE NOTICED THAT YOU ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH ...

POTENTIAL RESPONSE #1:
 POINT TO YOURSELF; STEAL GOD'S GLORY.

THAT'S BECAUSE I'M JUST A TRUTHFUL KIND OF GUY!

POTENTIAL RESPONSE #2:
 POINT TO THE ONE YOU'RE FOLLOWING.

IT ISN'T ALWAYS EASY. BUT I'VE CHOSEN TO FOLLOW JESUS, AND HE SAYS I MUST BE TRUTHFUL.

If you are following Jesus, it will be evident *somehow*.

★★ DON'T HIDE THE EVIDENCE! ★★

HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND TO THIS OPPORTUNITY?

POTENTIAL RESPONSE #1:
GIVE-IN TO SIN AND KEEP YOUR JOB.

I NORMALLY DON'T DO THAT; BUT IF YOU REALLY NEED IT...

POTENTIAL RESPONSE #2:
CONTINUE TO FOLLOW JESUS, COME WHAT MAY.

I MAY BE ABLE TO RE-WORD THE REPORT IN SOME PLACES; BUT WHAT I SAY WILL STILL BE TRUTHFUL.

I NEED YOU TO LIE IN THE REPORT YOU'RE WRITING.

YOUR FUTURE CAREER DEPENDS ON IT.

RESPONSIBILITY #4:
REMEMBER WHO DOES THE "SAVING."

(We must point people to Jesus; but GOD changes their hearts.)

WE can get people to make "decisions," using all kinds of methods.
But what good is that?

GOD is the one who makes "conversions," changing a person's nature.
This results in *eternal* good!

God normally works through PEOPLE; so our involvement is valuable.

As we *point* to God and his Word, HE makes the changes.

✓ The apostles gave GOD credit for what he did. So should we.

THE ATTITUDE OF PAUL AND APOLLOS (2 EARLY CHURCH LEADERS) SHOWS THIS.

When some of you say, "I follow Paul" and others say, "I follow Apollos," aren't you acting like {sinful} humans?

Who is Apollos? Who is Paul? They are servants who helped you come to faith. Each did what the Lord gave him to do. I planted, and Apollos watered, but God made it grow.

So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is important because {only} God makes it grow.

The one who plants and the one who waters have the same goal, and each will receive a reward for his own work.

1 Cor. 3:4-8 (GW)

[They] reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.
Acts 14:27 (NIV)

As [Lydia] listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying.
Acts 16:14b (NLT)

And because of [God] you are in Christ Jesus, ...
1 Corinthians 1:30a (ESV)

... what Christ has done through me ...
Romans 15:18b (GW)

For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction.
1 Thes. 1:4-5a (NIV)

✓ The way we live (and think) is important, because God uses it to draw people to him! PEOPLE MAY BE SAVED!

Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.
1 Tim. 4:16 (NIV)

You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.
1 Thes. 1:5b-6 (NIV)

✓ And so, our efforts are not a waste (regardless of how God uses them)!

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.
1 Corinthians 15:58 (CSB)

Our OPPORTUNITY
[Same as in *previous* weeks!]

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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