



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#9)

Talking about "love," but omitting the foundation that Scripture says people need to hear!

People say many things when telling others about the Good News.

- 1) Some things may be true statements... yet aren't the issue that needs dealt with.
- 2) Others aren't even compatible with the Good News!

>> ONLY BY EXAMINING THE BIBLE <<
can we know for sure.

UNTIL THE BIBLE CHANGES ONE'S THINKING, EVEN GOOD AND TRUE STATEMENTS MAY BE MISUNDERSTOOD.

THIS DESCRIBES ALL PEOPLE ...	Indeed, their minds and their consciences are corrupted. <small>Titus 1:15b (GW)</small>
... UNTIL THIS HAPPENS be transformed by the renewing of your mind. <small>Romans 12:2b (NIV)</small>
... AND RESULTS IN THIS.	... the mind controlled by the Spirit ... <small>Romans 8:6b (NIV)</small>

BIBLE-INDUCED CHANGES ARE NECESSARY FOR UNDERSTANDING THINGS CORRECTLY.

FOR INSTANCE, consider this statement:

GOD LOVES YOU!

- You know what it means to YOU.
- But what does it mean to THEM?

GOD LOVES YOU! ❖ They do not know the difference between the true God and the fakes.

[Typical examples]

✓ FALSE VIEWS ABOUT "GOD."	OR:	✓ CORRECTED VIEWS ABOUT "GOD."
THEN WHY DOES GOD LET BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO ME?		GOD ACCOMPLISHES <u>GOOD</u> EVEN WHEN <u>BAD</u> THINGS HAPPEN TO ME!
THEN LET HIM PROVE IT BY FULFILLING <u>MY</u> DEMANDS!		GOD EMPOWERS ME TO DO WHAT <u>HE</u> WILLS!

GOD LOVES YOU! ❖ They cannot comprehend what genuine love is, or its relationship to God's wrath.

[Typical examples]

✓ DISTORTED VIEWS ABOUT "LOVE."	OR:	✓ CORRECTED VIEWS ABOUT "LOVE."
I GUESS THAT MEANS I'M OK THE WAY I AM!		GOD'S LOVE MEANS I <u>CAN</u> TURN FROM MY SINS!
ALL THOSE WARNINGS ABOUT SIN AND HELL <u>CAN'T</u> BE RIGHT!		I <u>DESERVE</u> SIN AND HELL... BUT JESUS TOOK MY PUNISHMENT!

GOD LOVES YOU! ❖ They may even misunderstand your motives for saying this!

[Typical examples]

✓ **QUESTIONING OUR MOTIVES.** OR: ✓ **CORRECTED VIEWS ABOUT MOTIVES.**

WHAT'S THE CATCH?

ARE YOU TRYING TO LURE ME INTO "RELIGION"?

THAT'S FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED A PSYCHOLOGICAL "CRUTCH"!!

I'M FREE FROM SATAN'S SNARES!

JESUS IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN RELIGION IS!

JESUS IS REMOVING MY DISTORTED VIEWS OF REALITY!

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE BIBLE BEGINS WITH FACTS

- Who God is; your relationship to him.
- Who Jesus Christ is; what he has done.
- Your sin; its consequences; your only hope.

WITHOUT SUCH FACTS ... GOD LOVES YOU! ... can be very misleading.

IT BECOMES A HALF-TRUTH, AND CAN BE VERY DECEPTIVE.

It's like telling people that Jesus is "human," and omitting the fact that he is also "God."

(Eventually you have to get to the other half, if you don't want to be a deceiver!)

Besides... the issue ISN'T: → **GOD LOVES YOU!**

- ✓ This has not changed since the beginning of creation!

Rather... the issue IS:

- ✓ You have rejected God's love by rebelling against him.
- ✓ You need to change, in order to fully experience God's love.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT...

- 1) **GOD** has made this change possible!

But...

- 2) **YOU** must respond appropriately to what God has done.

Is saying ... **GOD LOVES YOU!** ... always wrong?

NO! THE PROBLEM IS THE OMISSION OF FACTS THAT ARE NECESSARY FOR SALVATION!

SAYING THIS: **GOD LOVES YOU!** (BASED ON JOHN 3:16)

IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM SAYING THIS: **GOD LOVES YOU, EVEN THOUGH YOUR SINS HAVE PUT A BARRIER BETWEEN YOU AND GOD!** (BASED ON THE CONTEXT OF JOHN 3:16)

- ✓ Do you tell people this: **GOD LOVES YOU!**

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:16 (NASB)

- ✓ And omit the part they need to know, to be saved?

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:18 (NIV)

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.

John 3:36 (NIV)

- ✓ **LOOK AT THE CONTEXT OF JOHN 3:16!** (Do you omit it?)

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

For 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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ...

(Refers to: Numbers 21:7-9)

"BELIEVE" = TRUSTING JESUS, BASED ON THE FACTS

THE GOOD NEWS (AN EXPRESSION OF GOD'S LOVE): WE HAVE NO NEED TO REMAIN CONDEMNED!

IF WE REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE GOOD NEWS, WE CONTINUE TO BE CONDEMNED!

- ✓ **LOOK AT THE CONTEXT OF JOHN 3:16 !** (Do you omit it?) (PART 2)

... This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

THE VERDICT AGAINST US

Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

OUR NATURAL RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH: HATRED

But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.

"LIVING BY THE TRUTH" – THE "ACTION" PART OF TRUSTING JESUS, BASED ON THE FACTS,

John 3:14-21 (NIV)

MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF JOHN 3:16.

(PARENTHESIS)

Another concept that Scripture applies to the unsaved:

GOD IS KIND TO THEM!

But the emphasis is on the fact that they don't deserve his kindness, and that they must repent of their sin!

- ✓ God is **KIND** to the ungrateful and the wicked – Luke 6:35; additional examples of kindness, Matthew 5:44-45.
- ✓ You need to turn to God, who's **KINDNESS** is seen in what he does for you – Acts 14:15-17.
- ✓ The purpose of God's **KINDNESS**: to lead you to repentance – Romans 2:4.

START
with the
FACTS

1) **GOD has made this change possible!**

The **FACT** focus.

2) **YOU must respond appropriately to what God has done.**

The **ACTIONS** focus.

Before the ACTIONS can occur, the FACTS need understood.

- ✓ There is **no detailed list or procedure** that we must follow. (Different people have different needs.)
- ✓ It will **take time** – more or less, depending on the situation. (Those who truly care about their eternal destiny will be willing to take the time.)

Things to remember, when telling others the FACTS.

- ✓ **Normally, what you say will be unrehearsed.** You will need to trust God for what to say. (Just like the apostles had to.)
- ✓ **Afterwards, you will probably think of "better" ways you could have said things.** Trust God to use what you did say. (Most people can think of "better" ways after the fact!)
- ✓ **You will a need to trust God to accomplish what he desires.** The results will not always be those we would like. (This trust is an expression of LOVE for God!)
- ✓ **Prayer is one of the most necessary parts of telling others the Good News.** Perhaps the most necessary. (It's also an admission that we are imperfect and we need God's help!)
- ✓ **Remember: Many won't turn to Jesus.** Even if you do things "perfectly." (The apostles never had 100% success, either.)

So where do we
START?

At the point
where their
understanding

STOPS

START WHERE THEIR UNDERSTANDING STOPS!

- ✓ For people who were familiar with the Bible. (Jews; God-fearing Gentiles*)

- The Good News focused on **JESUS**, often with a reference to the Old Testament.
- The hearers already understood who God was, something about sin, etc.

- ✓ For people who were NOT familiar with the Bible. (all the other Gentiles*)

- The Good News began with a focus on **GOD**, and then continued from there.
- The hearers **DID NOT understand** who God was, the seriousness of sin and idolatry, etc.

* ("Gentile" = non-Jew.)

EXAMPLES TO ILLUSTRATE THIS (1)

(Other passages give only brief summaries of what happened.)

CHAPTER IN ACTS	WHO WAS THE AUDIENCE	FOCUS OF THE GOOD NEWS
2	Jews, God-fearing Gentiles	JESUS, Old Testament promises
3	Jews	JESUS, Old Testament promises
7	Jewish leaders	JESUS, Old Testament history
8b	Ethiopian (reading the Bible)	JESUS, Old Testament prophecy
10, 11	God-fearing Gentile	JESUS, Old Testament prophecy

EXAMPLES TO ILLUSTRATE THIS (2)

CHAPTER IN ACTS	WHO WAS THE AUDIENCE	FOCUS OF THE GOOD NEWS
13b	Jews, Gentiles at the synagogue	JESUS, Old Testament prophecy
14	Gentiles (no knowledge of the Bible)	GOD (some basic foundational issues)
17a	People at the synagogue	JESUS, Old Testament
17b	Gentiles (no knowledge of the Bible); possibly others	GOD (foundational issues); JESUS
18b	Jews	JESUS, Old Testament
22	Jews, religious leaders	(Describes Paul's conversion; did not have opportunity to tell about Jesus)

EXAMPLES TO ILLUSTRATE THIS (3)

CHAPTER IN ACTS	WHO WAS THE AUDIENCE	FOCUS OF THE GOOD NEWS
26	King Agrippa (who was familiar with the Old Testament)	JESUS, Old Testament
28	Jews (and others at a later time)	JESUS, Old Testament

(AT THIS POINT IN TIME, THE **NEW** TESTAMENT HAD NOT YET BEEN WRITTEN. Today, we can include the New Testament as we tell others the Good News.)



We plan to look at some of these passages in greater detail.

In the meantime ...

YOU HAVE AN:

OPPORTUNITY

to get a "SNEAK PEAK" of what we will discover

READ the book of Acts, and find out for yourself!

Credits

SCRIPTURE

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