

GOOD NEWS
for the unsaved
WORLD!

(#64)
The Good News begins with God!

The Good News

- ✓ We've looked at the issues.
So now...
- ✓ What specifically should we say?

We've looked at some of these things; but now it's time to put them all together.

➡ There are **FACTS** we must know.
They demand a response – a changed way of thinking.

➡ There are **COMMANDS** we must obey.
They demand a response – a changed way of living.

TO ACCEPT THE GOOD NEWS... **IT WILL TAKE THE BIBLE.**

- People have to become interested in the Word of God. Without it, they cannot be saved.
- Salvation is a work of God; but it involves a change in the way a person thinks and acts. These changes must be based on Scripture.
- It's the living Word of God that saves!

I'm not ashamed of the Good News. It is God's power to save everyone who believes, ...
Romans 1:16a (GW)

For you have been born again... by the living and everlasting word of God.
Now this word is the good news that was announced to you.
1 Peter 1:23, 25b (ISV)

WE NEED TO DO AS THE APOSTLES DID!

- Proclaim God's Word accurately.
... we clearly reveal the truth to everyone.
2 Cor. 4:2c (GW)
On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.
2 Cor. 2:17b (NIV)
- Proclaim it without distortion, and for the right reason.
We don't use tricks, and we don't distort God's word.
2 Cor. 4:2b (GW)
Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit.
2 Cor. 2:17a (NIV)

"BUT I'M NOT AS GIFTED AS THE APOSTLES!"

REMEMBER THIS: It's GOD, not US!

- It's not our ability to talk.
- It's not the excitement of our "story" or the successfulness of our "techniques."

➡ If people have no desire to submit to the Word of God...
They cannot be saved. All our best efforts won't save them.

➡ If people do desire to submit to the Word of God...
They will learn (and respond to) what the Word says. God will lead them into salvation, and will work around our weaknesses!

TO ACCEPT THE GOOD NEWS... **IT WILL TAKE TIME.**
(Depending on what they already know.)

- Anyone who really cares about his eternal destiny will be willing to take the time needed.

"A 3 minute talk, quote a prayer, and you're saved."
This idea is from modern advertising techniques (which downplay thinking), NOT from the Bible.

CHANGE TAKES TIME.

- People spend a lifetime learning the ways of the world – both thoughts and actions.
- They need to start replacing these ways with the ways of God.

★ Without these changes, a person's interest in eternity will be focused on self, rather than on God.

I'D LIKE A MANSION, A CROWN, LOTS OF RICHES...

REWARDS... LOTS OF REWARDS!!

The GOOD NEWS

It ISN'T about "claiming rewards"...

It's about dealing with our sin and rebellion against the King of Kings.

So... WHERE DO WE START?

- ✓ It's not a "check list" with a specific order.
- ✓ You can be flexible, depending on their knowledge and the circumstances.

- You will need to include the "foundational facts" (about God, people, sin, judgment), if they don't know them.
- You can use the *OLD Testament* (as the apostles did) and also the *NEW Testament* (which records the apostle's testimony and explains what it means.)

A BASIC PLAN:
Start with the **FACTS**... then move to the **OBLIGATIONS**.
(The two can overlap.)

"SUMMARY STATEMENTS" ABOUT THE GOOD NEWS.

- **FOR PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE:**
Summary statements can be useful.
- **FOR UNSAVED PEOPLE:**
If not explained, they can lead to misunderstanding.

EXAMPLES OF SUMMARY STATEMENTS

- ❖ Jesus is the **Son of God** – Acts 9:20.
- ❖ Jesus is the **Christ** [or Messiah] – Acts 5:42.
- ❖ **Faith** in Jesus – Acts 24:24.
- ❖ **Peace** through Jesus – Acts 10:36.

What does the *Bible* mean by the terms: Son of God, Christ (or Messiah), faith, and peace? The world often views them differently.

On the "ROAD TO SALVATION," you start with the **FACTS!**

And the #1 **FACT** is:
GOD!

Specifically, the *God of the Bible*. His Word, *the Bible*, is also implied. (Without it, we would have nothing reliable to say!)

"INTRODUCING GOD" – THE STARTING POINT FOR THE GOOD NEWS:

- **SOME PEOPLE MAY UNDERSTAND** that we are referring to the God of the Bible. They may even know something about this God.
- **OTHER PEOPLE HAVE LITTLE OR NO IDEA** who he is, or how he is different from the "gods" that people have invented.

People need to know...

- ❖ He is the creator, the one who made all things.
- ❖ He is the sovereign ruler over all creation.
- ❖ His judgments are righteous; he has no favoritism.

It's good for even saved people to be reminded of these things!

The GOD of the BIBLE

- ❖ He is the creator, the one who made all things.

We have come to bring you the Good News that you should turn from these worthless things [= idolatry] to the living God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them.
Acts 14:15b (NLT)

The God who made the universe and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth.
From one man he has made every nation of humanity to live all over the earth.
Acts 17:24a, 26a (GW)

[They prayed] to God and said, "Master, you are the one who made the heaven, the earth, and the sea, and everything in them."
Acts 4:24b (CSB)

The GOD of the BIBLE [God as creator, maker, etc.]

❖ This means: Man-made "gods" are nothing; and man-made buildings can't "contain" him.

[Paul] tells people that gods made by humans are not gods.
Acts 19:26b (GW)

Heaven is my throne,
What sort of house will you build for me?
says the Lord,
or what will be my resting place?
Did not my hand make all these things?
Acts 7:49-50 (CSB)

[God] doesn't live in shrines made by humans, ...
... we shouldn't think that the divine being is like an image made from gold, silver, or stone, an image that is the product of human imagination and skill.
Acts 17:24b, 29b (GW)

The GOD of the BIBLE [The word "sovereign" isn't used extensively in the New Testament; but the concept of God's rule over creation is quite common.]

❖ He is sovereign ruler over all creation.

HE HAS CHOSEN TO SAVE PEOPLE. ... and all who had been appointed to eternal life believed.
Acts 13:48b (CSB)

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.
Acts 2:47b (NIV)

"[Paul] is my chosen instrument to take my name to Gentiles, kings, and Israelites."
Acts 9:15 (CSB)

EVEN SIN CANNOT STOP HIS PURPOSES. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer.
Acts 3:15a, 18 (NIV)

The GOD of the BIBLE [God as sovereign ruler]

❖ This includes: Fulfilled prophecy.

The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath.
Acts 13:27 (NIV)

"I teach nothing except what the prophets and Moses said would happen— that the Messiah would suffer and be the first to rise from the dead as a light to Jews and Gentiles alike."
Acts 26:22b-23 (NLT)

Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.
Acts 4:27-28 (NIV)

The GOD of the BIBLE

❖ His judgments are righteous; he has no favoritism.

"[God] commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."
Acts 17:30b-31 (NIV)

God doesn't discriminate between Jewish and non-Jewish people. He has cleansed non-Jewish people through faith as he has cleansed us Jews.
Acts 15:9 (GW)

Then Peter replied, "I see very clearly that God doesn't show partiality. In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right."
Acts 10:34-35 (NLT)

Using these verses:

LIMITED EXAMPLES: These examples are limited to the book of Acts. You can learn much more about God in the rest of the Bible.

FOR ALL OF US: None of us knows everything. Both saved and unsaved can benefit from them.

THE BIG ISSUE: ATTITUDE: God's people are willing to learn. People concerned about eternity will be willing to learn.

WHEN PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS: What people know will influence what we need to tell them. But we don't need to limit ourselves to one topic at a time!

★ WHAT SHOULD WE CONCLUDE? ★

↓

ALL OF THIS GIVES US A WONDERFUL MISSION!

Since we serve such a wonderful God...

We should get to know him better!

Credits (1)

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