

A close-up photograph of golden wheat stalks against a bright blue sky. The wheat is in sharp focus, showing the texture of the grains. The word "EVANGELISM" is overlaid in large, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

EVANGELISM



EVANGELISM

“The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”

Intro to Evangelism

Intro to Evangelism



Intro to Evangelism

What is Evangelism?
What is the Gospel?

Intro to Evangelism

Evangelism is the announcement, proclamation, and/or preaching of the gospel, the good news of and about Jesus Christ.

Intro to Evangelism

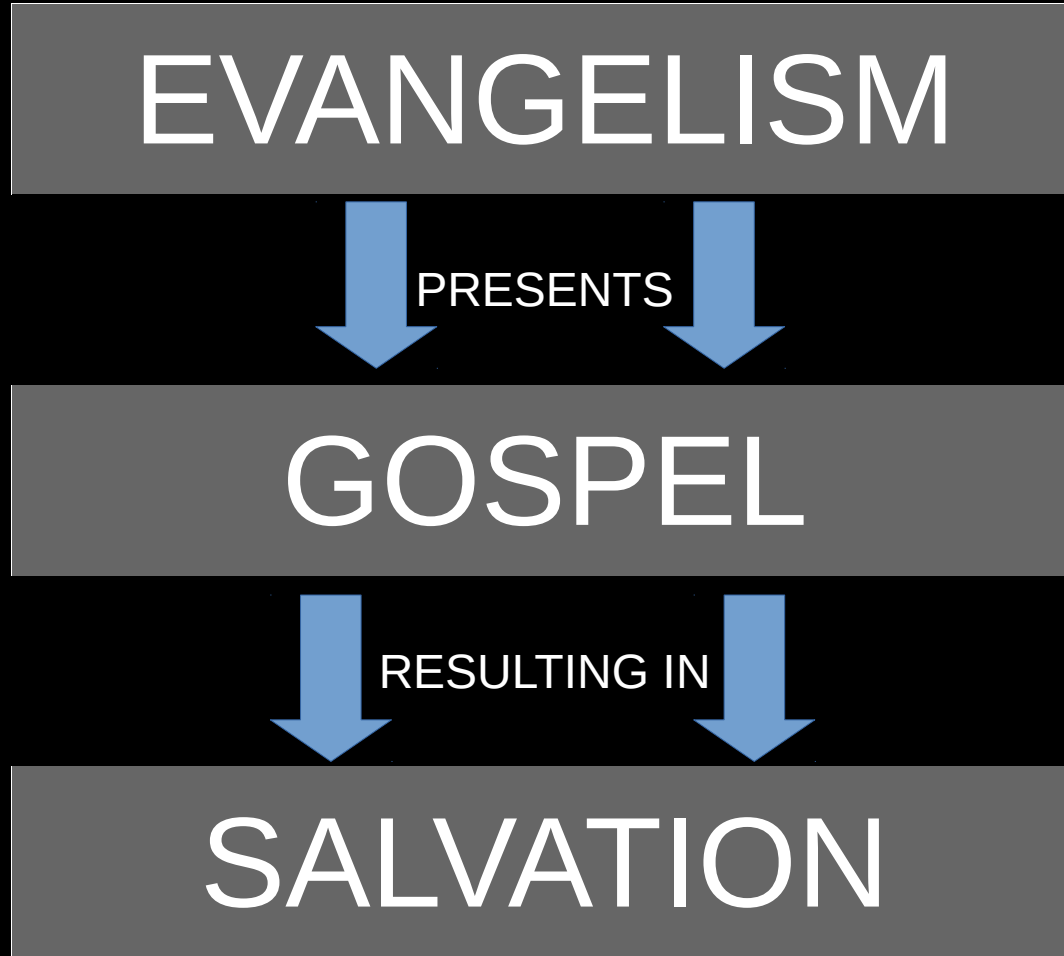
EVANGELISM

PRESENTS

GOSPEL

RESULTING IN

SALVATION



Intro to Evangelism

Evangelism: The Call

Intro to Evangelism

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

[Matthew 28:19,20 NLT “The Great Commission”]

Intro to Evangelism

The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?” So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus.

[Acts 8:34 NLT]

Intro to Evangelism

Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ....Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should. Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

[Colossians 4:3-6 NLT]

Intro to Evangelism

Gospel: The Message

Intro to Evangelism

εὐαγγέλιον

“eu” (good) + “aggelion” (news)

Greek

Intro to Evangelism

godspell

“god” (good) + “spell” (message/story)

Old English

Intro to Evangelism

Salvation: The Result

Intro to Evangelism

We are *saved* from...

Intro to Evangelism

We are *saved* from...

...the *penalty* of sin

past

justification

Intro to Evangelism

We are *saved* from...

...the *penalty* of sin

past

justification

...the *power* of sin

present

sanctification

Intro to Evangelism

We are *saved* from...

...the *penalty* of sin

past

justification

...the *power* of sin

present

sanctification

...the *presence* of sin

future

glorification

Intro to Evangelism

Salvation: Believe

Intro to Evangelism

πίστις

“pistis” = believe/trust/guarantee/conviction/
persuasion/faith

Greek

Intro to Evangelism

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

[John 3:16 NLT]

Intro to Evangelism

The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household."

[Acts 16:29-32 NLT]

Intro to Evangelism

Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before...It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you...I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

[1 Corinthians 15:1-4 NLT]

Intro to Evangelism

For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.”

[Romans 1:16-17 NLT]

Intro to Evangelism

Salvation: Repent

Intro to Evangelism

μετάνοια

“meta” (change) + “noia” (mind)
= change-of-mind/convert/repent*

Greek

Intro to Evangelism

Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God's Good News. "The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"

[Mark 1:14-15 NLT]

Intro to Evangelism

When the others heard this, they stopped objecting and began praising God. They said, “We can see that God has also given the Gentiles the privilege of repenting of their sins and receiving eternal life.”

[Acts 11:18 NLT]

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ἑπιστρέφω

“epi” (on) + “strepho” (turn/twist)
= turn/return/turn-around

Greek

Intro to Evangelism

“Do you think those Galileans were worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee?” Jesus asked. “Is that why they suffered? Not at all! And you will perish, too, unless you repent of your sins and turn to God.”

[Luke 13:2-3 NLT]

Intro to Evangelism

I have had one message for Jews and Greeks alike—the necessity of repenting from sin and turning to God, and of having faith in our Lord Jesus.

[Acts 20:21 NLT]

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Salvation: Act

Intro to Evangelism

Don't be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves will hear the voice of God's Son, and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment.

[John 5:28-29 NLT]

Intro to Evangelism

Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.

[Matthew 7:21 NLT]

Intro to Evangelism

I preached first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that all must repent of their sins and turn to God—and prove they have changed by the good things they do.

[Acts 26:20 NLT]

Intro to Evangelism

He will judge everyone according to what they have done. He will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers. But he will pour out his anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and instead live lives of wickedness.

[Romans 2:6-8 NLT]

Intro to Evangelism

What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?

[James 2:14 NLT]

Intro to Evangelism

Salvation: 1, 2, or 3 Steps?

Intro to Evangelism

Believe

Intro to Evangelism

Believe
Trust
Faith
Commit

Intro to Evangelism

Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before...It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you...I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

[1 Corinthians 15:1-4 NLT]

Intro to Evangelism

Believe
Trust
Faith
Commit



*He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.
[1 Corinthians 15:4 NLT]*

Intro to Evangelism

Believe
Trust
Faith
Commit



Christ died for our sins, was buried, a rose from the dead. Anyone who believes/trusts in Jesus for eternal life receives it.

Intro to Evangelism

Repent

Believe

Act

Intro to Evangelism

Repent
Turn
Re-orient

Believe
Trust
Faith
Commit

Act
Obey

Intro to Evangelism

Repent
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Christ died for our sins, was buried, a rose from the dead. Anyone who believes/trusts in Jesus for eternal life receives it.

Intro to Evangelism

...proper saving faith includes repentance and proper repentance includes faith...Repentance and faith are two separate things that come together for salvation, but they act together as one thing.

[<http://www.wayoflife.org/>]

Intro to Evangelism

Repentance and faith can be understood as “two sides of the same coin.” It is impossible to place your faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior without first changing your mind about who He is and what He has done...

[<https://www.gotquestions.org/>]

Intro to Evangelism

Repent
Turn
Re-orient

Believe
Trust
Faith
Commit

Act
Obey

Intro to Evangelism

Salvation: Unhelpful Verses

Intro to Evangelism

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

[Romans 10:9-10 NLT]

Intro to Evangelism

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

[1 John 1:9 NLT]

Intro to Evangelism

“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

[Revelation 3:20 NLT]

Intro to Evangelism

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

[John 1:12 NLT]



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Should We Stop Asking Jesus Into Our Hearts?

Doubting our salvation and false assurance are both exacerbated by the clichéd ways in which we speak about the gospel.

J.D. Greear / JULY 13, 2012

Intro to Evangelism

Salvation: Simple or Difficult?

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Lordship Salvation	Free Grace Salvation

Intro to Evangelism

Lordship Salvation	Free Grace Salvation
Accept Christ (as Savior) = Follow Christ (as Lord)	1 st = Accept Christ (as Savior) 2 nd = Follow Christ (as Lord)

Intro to Evangelism

Lordship Salvation	Free Grace Salvation
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Intro to Evangelism

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Intro to Evangelism

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Carnal Christian ≠ Christian	Carnal Christian = Christian?

Intro to Evangelism

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STRENGTH: Salvation is Difficult	STRENGTH: Faith is Simple

Intro to Evangelism

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STRENGTH: Salvation is Difficult	STRENGTH: Faith is Simple
ABUSE: “Works” Salvation	ABUSE: “Easy Belief” Salvation

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TIME CHECK!

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Tracts & Methods: A Sampling

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Simple Steps to Peace with God

STEP 1. GOD LOVES YOU

STEP 2. SINS GET IN THE WAY

STEP 3. JESUS GETS RID OF SIN

STEP 4. ACCEPT JESUS

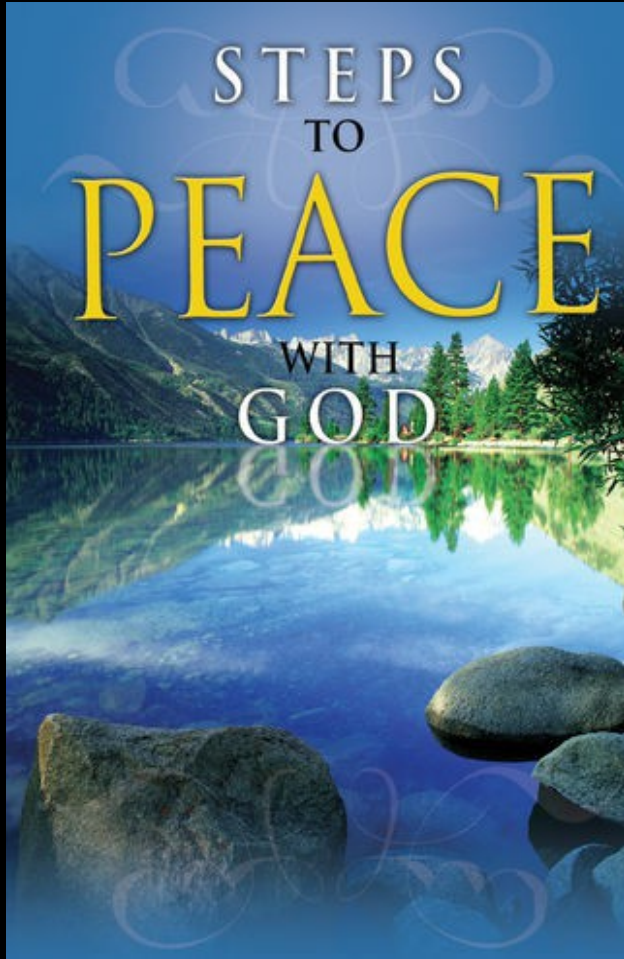
1. *Tell Him you need Him.*
2. *Be sorry for your sin.*
3. *Believe that Jesus died for you and rose again.*

STEP 5. WHAT TO PRAY

Dear Jesus, I know that I sin, and I am sorry. Please forgive me. I believe You died on the cross and rose again to pay for my sins. Thank You for putting me back together with God again. Amen.

STEP 6. GOD'S GIFT TO YOU

Intro to Evangelism



Steps to Peace with God

Step 1. GOD'S PURPOSE: PEACE & ETERNAL LIFE

Step 2. OUR PROBLEM: SIN & SEPARATION

Step 3. GOD'S REMEDY: THE CROSS

Step 4. OUR RESPONSE: RECEIVE CHRIST

1. Admit your need (I am a sinner).

2. Be willing to turn from your sins (repent).

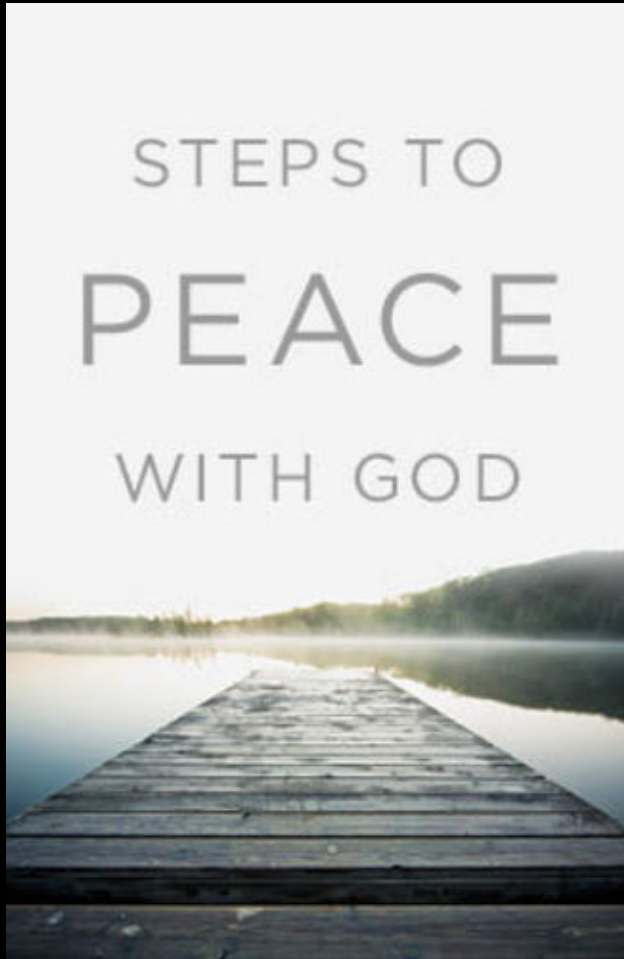
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave.

4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit.

STEP 5. WHAT TO PRAY

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am sinful and I need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died to pay the penalty for my sin. I want to turn from my sin nature and follow You instead. I invite You to come into my heart and life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Intro to Evangelism



Steps to Peace with God

Step 1. UNDERSTAND GOD'S PURPOSES— PEACE & ETERNAL LIFE

Step 2. ADMIT THE PROBLEM— OUR SIN & SEPARATION

Step 3. DISCOVER GOD'S BRIDGE— THE CROSS

Step 4. EMBRACE THE TRUTH— RECEIVE CHRIST

- *Admit your need—that you are a sinner in need of God's forgiveness.*
- *Be willing to turn from trusting in anything else for eternal life and trust only in Christ.*
- *Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross, came back to life from the grave, and is your only way to heaven.*
- *Receive Jesus's offer to forgive your sins and come into your life as your Savior.*

STEP 5. YOU MAY WANT TO TELL HIM IN WORDS LIKE THESE:

Dear Jesus, thank you for making it possible for me to find peace with God! I believe that when you died you were paying the penalty for my sins. I now receive you into my life as my Savior, so I can have forgiveness and never-ending life from God! Thank you for the gift of eternal life!

Intro to Evangelism

Christianity shouldn't be built on an emotional high where we cry, pray a "sinner's prayer," invite Jesus into our heart, and then we move on like nothing happened. Unfortunately, that's what often happens when people use this phrase as an explanation of what it means to be a Christian.

[<https://livingtheologically.com>]

Intro to Evangelism

Have You
Heard
of the **FOUR**
SPIRITUAL
LAWS?

Have You Heard of the Four Spiritual Laws?

Law 1. God LOVES you and offers a wonderful PLAN for your life.

Law 2. Man is SINFUL and SEPARATED from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.

Law 3. Jesus Christ is God's ONLY provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life.

Law 4. We must individually RECEIVE Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

You Can Receive Christ Right Now by Faith Through Prayer:

"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be."

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God *loves* you and has a wonderful plan for your [current & future] life [unless you reject Him]

Intro to Evangelism

God *loves* you and has a wonderful plan for your [current & future] life [unless you reject Him]

God is *angry* with you and has a terrible plan for your [eternal] life [unless you repent]

Intro to Evangelism

The Romans Road to Salvation

**THE
ROMANS
ROAD
TO SALVATION**

We are all sinners by nature and by choice.

Romans 3:23
For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

We receive eternal life as a free gift!

Romans 6:23
For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God demonstrated His love for us, His enemies.

Romans 5:8
But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.


We must trust and surrender to Jesus as Lord.

Romans 10:9-10
That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

A sinner's prayer for forgiveness
"Dear God, I know I'm a sinner. I know my sin deserves to be punished. I believe Christ is the Son of God, who died for me and rose from the grave. I want to turn from my sin and trust Jesus Christ alone as my Savior. Thank You for the forgiveness and everlasting life I can now have through faith in Jesus. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Our assurance of salvation through Jesus

Romans 10:13
For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.


teenmissions.org

Rom. 3:10, "As it is written, 'There is none righteous, not even one...'"

Rom. 3:23, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Rom. 5:12, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned."

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

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

Rom. 10:9-10, "if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

Rom. 10:13, "For whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved."

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Evangelism: Review

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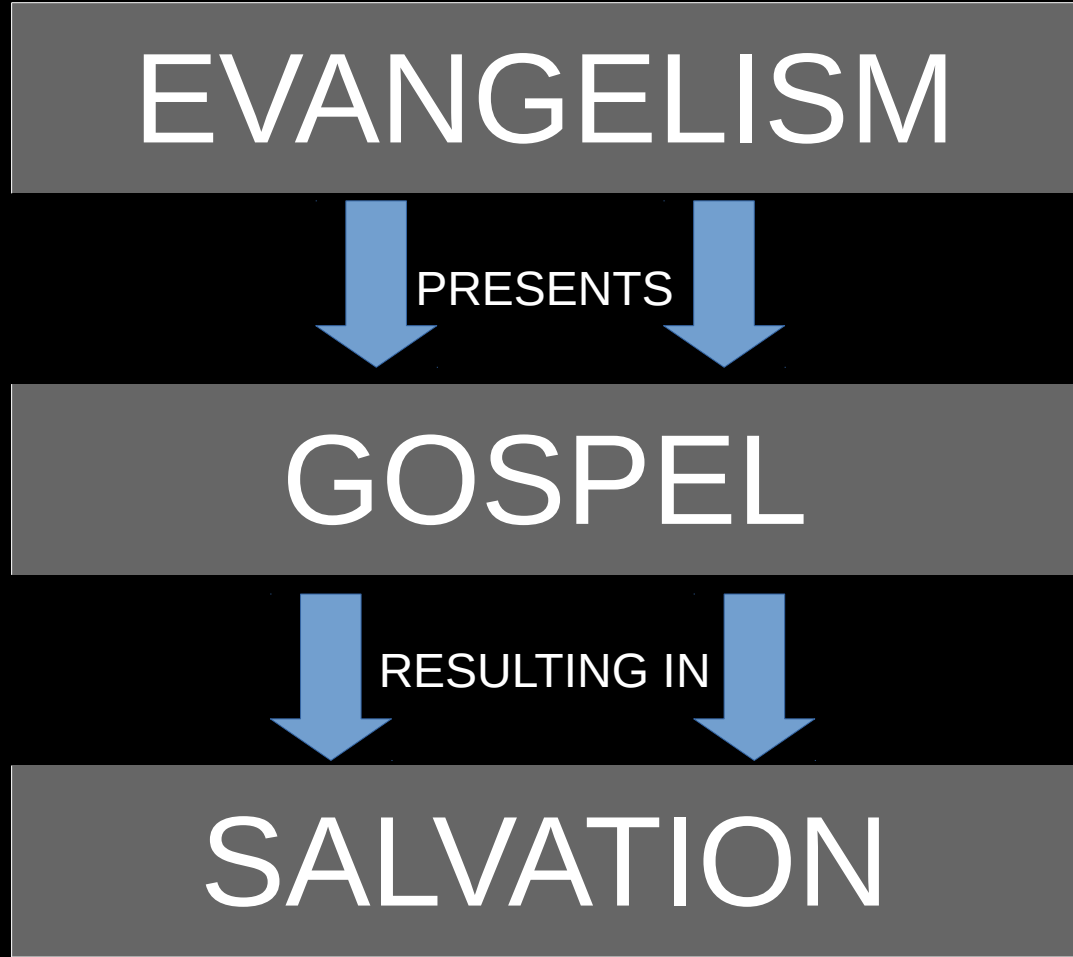
EVANGELISM

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SALVATION



Intro to Evangelism

Based on my understanding of the Bible, the teachings of the Catholic Church, and my study of salvation theology, only three things are needed for salvation, as a bare minimum:

- 1. Love your neighbor*
- 2. Regret your worst sins*
- 3. Follow your own conscience*

[<https://ronconte.wordpress.com/>]

Intro to Evangelism



Christ died for our sins, was buried, a rose from the dead. Anyone who believes/trusts in Jesus for eternal life receives it.

Intro to Evangelism

Repent
Turn
Re-orient

Believe
Trust
Faith
Commit

Act
Obey

Christ died for our sins, was buried, a rose from the dead. Anyone who believes/trusts in Jesus for eternal life receives it.

Lordship
Salvation
Free Grace
Salvation

Intro to Evangelism

CHRISTIANESE EXPRESSIONS

“Saved”

“Washed in the blood”

“Altar call”

“Sinner’s prayer”

“Accepted the Lord”

“Born again”

CHRISTIANESE TERMS

“Sin”

“Grace”

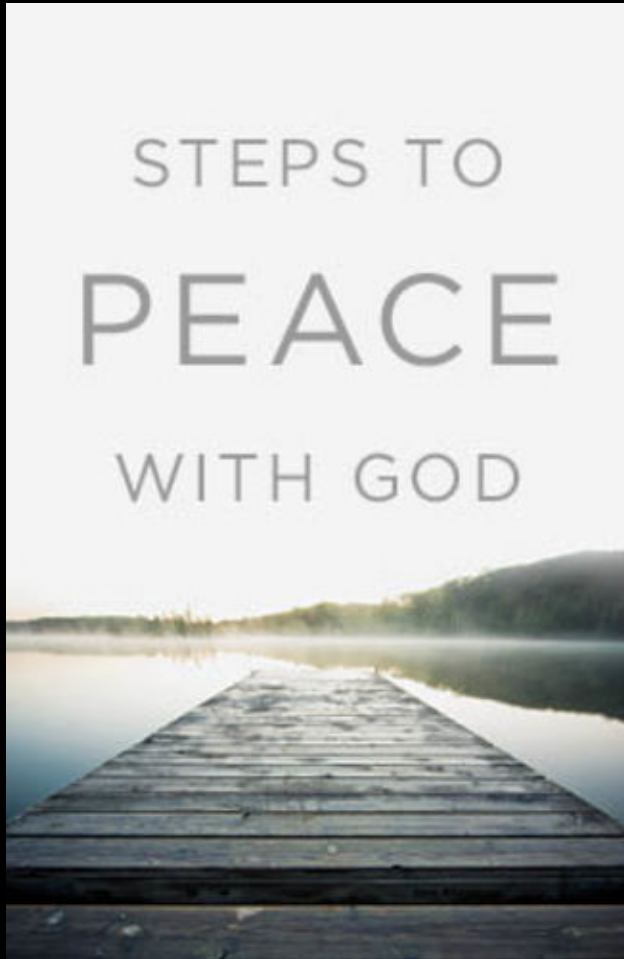
“Repentance”

“Faith”

“Savior”

“Lord”

Intro to Evangelism



Steps to Peace with God

Step 1. UNDERSTAND GOD'S PURPOSES— PEACE & ETERNAL LIFE

Step 2. ADMIT THE PROBLEM— OUR SIN & SEPARATION

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- *Receive Jesus's offer to forgive your sins and come into your life as your Savior.*

STEP 5. YOU MAY WANT TO TELL HIM IN WORDS LIKE THESE:

Dear Jesus, thank you for making it possible for me to find peace with God! I believe that when you died you were paying the penalty for my sins. I now receive you into my life as my Savior, so I can have forgiveness and never-ending life from God! Thank you for the gift of eternal life!

Intro to Evangelism

The Gospel: What is It?

Intro to Evangelism

The gospel is the good news that Christ lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead to satisfy God's wrathful judgment on the world. Because of Jesus' payment in full for OUR debt, it is now possible for anyone to receive salvation through a living faith in Christ.

[<http://www.faithfacts.org/>]

Intro to Evangelism

Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God's Good News. "The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"

[Mark 1:14-15 NLT]

Intro to Evangelism

The Gospel is just that: the announcement that Jesus Christ is King. To the extent that Jesus is king of all things, there is no area of life that the Gospel doesn't touch. The Gospel proclamation is the announcement that He is Lord over all of creation.

[<http://www.colsoncenter.org/>]

Intro to Evangelism

The Gospel: More Than Salvation

Intro to Evangelism

So what is the “gospel”? It can easily be proved from Scripture that the gospel is more than faith alone in Christ alone. Much more...It includes elements of the kingdom of God on earth. It includes facts about justification, sanctification, glorification, security in heaven, satisfaction and contentment on earth, and eternal reward. The gospel includes all of this.

[<https://redeeminggod.com/>]

Intro to Evangelism

So the real the real question then is, “If that’s the gospel, do you have to believe the entire gospel to receive eternal life?” The answer is “No!” What is the Gospel? The gospel is more than faith alone in Christ alone, but at the same time, a person does not have to believe the entire gospel to receive eternal life! Only one element of the gospel must be believed to receive eternal life.

[<https://redeeminggod.com/>]

Intro to Evangelism

God came to earth in the flesh to establish his kingdom, a kingdom in which his sovereignty is recognized and all is good and perfect. Jesus made this kingdom — and our entry into it — possible by defeating sin and death, once and for all, through his perfect life, death, and resurrection. As a result we are extended an open invitation into the kingdom of God and into a right relationship with him. The Holy Spirit empowers us to live the kingdom life, and we become a sign to all men everywhere that Jesus is Lord and that life in him is perfect and good. God is glorified, and as the fullness of the kingdom comes, we will share in his glory.

[<https://jamesbrett.wordpress.com/>]

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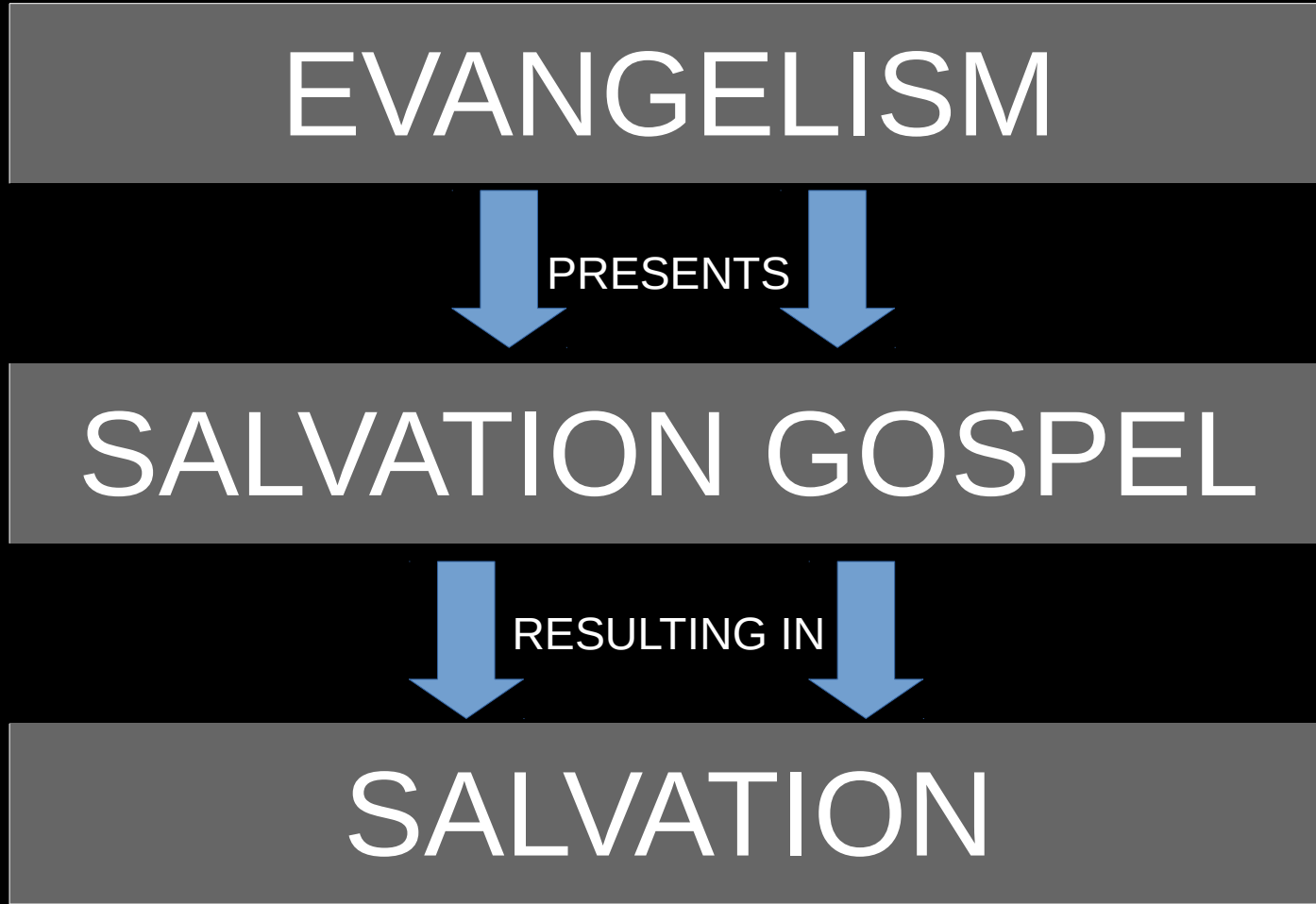
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Evangelism: Videos

**TO BE
CONTINUED...** 

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Bonus: More Stuff

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SECOND BIRTH

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

on the 10 day of August, 19 72

(Your name) Warren Enns

was born a ^{son} daughter of GOD

Signed Warren Enns your name

I was led to the Lord by Don Doerkson Smiley

Intro to Evangelism

Practical Issues

Intro to Evangelism

Walking an aisle in response to the emotional and caring invitation of a pastor does not save anyone. Asking Jesus into one's heart does not save anyone. Writing the date in the back of one's Bible to commemorate the day a decision was made to follow Jesus does not save anyone. And praying a prayer does not save anyone.

[<https://carm.org/>]

Intro to Evangelism

CHRISTIANESE EXPRESSIONS

“Saved”

“Washed in the blood”

“Altar call”

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“Accepted the Lord”

“Born again”

CHRISTIANESE TERMS

“Sin”

“Grace”

“Repentance”

“Faith”

“Savior”

“Lord”

Intro to Evangelism

BEFORE



AFTER



Intro to Evangelism

bragimony n. [brag 'a pompous, self-congratulatory anecdote' + testimony 'a brief telling about how converting to Christianity has changed one's life'] A testimony in which the emphasis is on one's own accomplishments rather than on God's power and grace.

*fire-insurance gospel n. [see *fire insurance] A presentation of the gospel that pressures its audience to convert to Christianity or else face eternal condemnation in hell.*

Intro to Evangelism

It is not the responsibility of the Christian to prove who Jesus was and what he did.

Rather, it is the responsibility of the Christian to present the truth.

It is God who opens the heart and the mind to understand and believe the Scriptures.

[<https://carm.org>]

Intro to Evangelism

*Are you hurting and broken within,
Overwhelmed by the weight of the sin,
Jesus is calling.*

*Have you come to the end of yourself,
do you thirst for a drink from the well,
Jesus is calling.*

*O come to,
the altar,
the fathers arms are open wide,
forgiveness,
was bought with,
the precious blood of Jesus Christ.*

*Leave behind your regrets and mistakes,
come today there's no reason to wait,
Jesus is calling.*

*Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy,
from the ashes a new life is born,
Jesus is calling.*

*Oh what a savior,
isn't he wonderful,
sing hallelujah Christ is risen,
bow down before him,
for he is lord of all,
sing hallelujah Christ is risen.*

Intro to Evangelism



Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry

Intro to Evangelism

Based on my understanding of the Bible, the teachings of the Catholic Church, and my study of salvation theology, only three things are needed for salvation, as a bare minimum:

- 1. Love your neighbor*
- 2. Regret your worst sins*
- 3. Follow your own conscience*

[<https://ronconte.wordpress.com/>]

Intro to Evangelism

Humor: Don't be Offended!

Bible Lacking Sinner's Prayer Returned For Full Refund

WILSON, NC—After purchasing a defective Bible that seemed to omit the sinner's prayer—apparently due to some kind of printing error—local woman Gayle Dunsby reportedly returned the incomplete book to her local LifeWay Christian Store for a full refund Tuesday.

"It was really strange," Dunsby told reporters gathered outside the Christian bookstore after she had received back her \$36.99 plus tax in full. "I searched that Bible through and through and couldn't find anything about a magic prayer I could lead people to say in order to instantly get them into the Kingdom and have them be forevermore secure in their eternal salvation no matter what their life looks like afterward."

A LifeWay representative confirmed that the misprint may be part of a widespread issue after store associates were unable to locate a suitable replacement Bible for Dunsby, as none of the Bibles on their shelves seemed to contain the biblical sinner's prayer either.

"We're facing what is possibly an unprecedented, industry-wide misprint of the Word of God," the representative said in a brief statement to the press. "As we work diligently to locate the source of this error, let us be comforted by the words of Scripture: 'This too shall pass.'"

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Woman Dies Of Awkward Feeling While Sharing Her Faith

COLUMBIA, SC—Local woman Michelle Desmond tragically dropped dead of a sudden, acute feeling of awkwardness Wednesday evening while sharing the gospel with one of her coworkers, a representative for persecuted church ministry Open Doors confirmed

Desmond was seen asking her associate from the accounting department whether or not he believed in God as the two exited the building for the night when the awkwardness attack occurred, leaving the 29-year-old Customer Service Representative crumpled on the floor as the coworker ran to get help.

The tragedy confirms many American Christians' worst fears, that the sense of discomfort which usually arises when telling an acquaintance about Jesus could potentially be fatal.

"This just goes to show you how dangerous it is to share the gospel in closed countries like America," the Open Doors representative said. "You really have to count the cost before you decide to open your mouth and proclaim His truth in your middle-class, suburban neighborhood—you could lose everything."

"Are you prepared to suffer a potentially deadly, super-awkward feeling for the sake of Jesus?" he added.

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Pastor Repents Of Mentioning Repentance In Sermons

BATON ROUGE, LA—Many Christian leaders pridefully refuse to publicly repent, so it's always refreshing to hear of a pastor who is willing to admit when he is in the wrong. Such is the case with local pastor Ralph Atkinson, who issued a public statement Monday morning openly repenting of mentioning the biblical concept of repentance in his weekly messages and Bible studies.

According to Atkinson, he began to feel convicted of talking about repentance too much during his Tuesday night Bible study, as he suddenly realized that calling his people to repent of their sins just felt "super awkward."

"It suddenly dawned on me: I needed to repent of talking about repentance so often," a spiritually broken Atkinson told reporters, his head in his hands. "I am turning away from my old way of doing things and casting myself on God's mercy, praying that that He will help me stop making people really uncomfortable by talking about repentance."

Atkinson further stated he plans on "lightening up" when it comes to talking about sin, hell, death, and the Lordship of Christ.

"I only pray God will forgive me for being so faithful in past years," he said, before adding, "God's a God of new beginnings, and I know He'll give me a fresh, repentance-free start."

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