



Evangelism – Sunday School

Part 2: The Content of Evangelism

I. The content of the gospel.

For many, the essence of evangelism is “telling others about what Jesus has done **for** ____.”

However, Jesus said it is the truth that sets people free (John 8:31-32).

Acts 2:22-39

Acts 20:21

Therefore, communicating the truths of the gospel to a lost person is the number ____ priority in all evangelistic efforts.



1. Gilbert’s book

- A. Write a simple overview of the content of the book.
- B. Write a couple of key lessons you learned from the book.
- C. Note any significant weaknesses found in the book.
- D. What are the essential elements of the gospel as he presents them?

Below is the outline of what I believe includes the content of the basics of the gospel - plus one.

Please **memorize** this outline, including the Scriptures in parentheses (you may choose different Scriptures if you prefer; just make sure they are connected with the idea being conveyed).

- There is only _____ true God. He is holy (Ps 99:5), the just judge of all humans (Heb 13:4), as well as a loving and kind provider of all the things we enjoy (Acts 14:17).
- We are all _____ (Rom 3:10, 23) and under condemnation (Rom 3:19-20), and hence separated from God (Isa 59:2) and justly sentenced to hell forever (Matt 25:41).
- There is _____ we can do to save ourselves from this predicament (Rom 3:19-20; Gal 2:16).
- God sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to _____ this problem for us (John 3:16). To accomplish this, Jesus died on the cross (Rom 5:8), bearing the punishment we deserved. He then was raised from the dead on the third day (Acts 10:39-40), guaranteeing that all who believe in Him will also receive eternal life (John 3:36).
- To receive the blessings of forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with God and eternal life, we must _____ of our sins and _____ in Jesus Christ (Acts 13:38-39; John 3:36). There is no other way to be saved but through trusting in Jesus (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).
- All who trust in Christ become _____ of God (John 1:12). They have new life and are changed into a people who now live for God and not for sin (1 John 3:9-10).

A few exhortations:

First, you cannot help others to clearly understand something you do not yourself clearly understand. If you would wish to be clear in sharing the basics of the gospel with others, **make sure you are _____ about what you believe and why you believe it.**

Warning:

Second, I suggest that you **use lots of _____** when preaching the gospel to someone, for it is the power of God by which a person is born again (1 Pet 1:23). But, please be careful to make sure that the passages you choose to share are **relevant** to the topic you are discussing at that moment.

Third, do not forget that **the goal is _____ simply to take a person point by point through this outline.**

Fourth, I understand that in the course of a conversation **it will be _____ that you will be able to get through every point of this outline.**

As an aside, one big concern I wish to point out here is **our own** tendency to _____ all over the place rather than sticking with the core of the message.

A common suggestion about how to make the gospel message more acceptable to the lost. “But, would we not perhaps get more people to believe if we just made the message a little less offensive? After all, the most important thing is that we get as many into heaven as we can.”



2. Take a couple of minutes to write down how you would respond to this.

First, in Galatians 1:6-9 – “⁶I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.”

Second, in 2 Corinthians 5:20 - “Therefore, we are **ambassadors** for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

An ambassador represents someone and his job is to accurately deliver a message of the one who sent him. He does not have freedom to in any way tweak or change the message he was sent to deliver.

Horton:

The same thing can happen with the Great Commission. We think it doesn't really matter if we don't get all the details right, as long as we are zealous. It is easy to subordinate the message to the mission, the evangel to evangelism, as if being busy with outreach could trump the content of what we have been given to communicate. Of course, it can work the other way too. We can be preoccupied with getting the message right without actually getting it out. The evangelist D. L. Moody once quipped to a critic of his methods, “I like my way of doing it better than your way of not doing it.” If “zeal without knowledge” is deadly (see Rom. 10:2–3), then knowledge without zeal is dead. The Great Commission doesn't give any quarter to either of these extremes.¹



2. What is something helpful you learned in the lesson today that is related to evangelism? Please take a few minutes to write your answer below.

¹ Michael Horton, *The Gospel Commission: Recovering God's Strategy for Making Disciples*, Baker Publishing Group, 23. Kindle Edition.