Lesson 9  Spreading the Gospel  How to Evangelize

Non-believers do not come to know the Lord Jesus for three reasons, one, they think they are too good to know him, two, they think they are too bad, three, they never heard the Gospel.

It has been reported that only 5% of born-again followers will ever share the Good News with anyone at least once before they die. Beloved this is why we as Believers get beat up from the Atheist and other religions. The Atheist have approximately twenty arguments against followers of Jesus, three good arguments against us that I somewhat will agree with them upon. The primary excuse or reason is we (Followers) do not tell others or non-believers about the one thing we say we believe in, second, that God could never allow pain and suffering-this is a difficult area to understand and hard to explain to anyone and third, the subject of Hell and damnation or judgment. I will agree with the Atheist on the first issue, I have trouble with the second one and I think I have the third excuse down, as least as my limited mind will understand. These are some of the reasons we live defeated lives. Is Jesus that weak that we are ashamed to tell another about him?

**Why are you afraid to be rejected by men? Do you fear rejection?**

The Great Commission

Jesus says in Mark chapter 16…

15 He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Many have told me that the word, “go” is not a command and it basically means “as you leisurely go through life and if someone asks you, please tell them”.

So let’s look at the Greek to clarify this powerful statement that most believers avoid.

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<th>English (NASB)</th>
<th>Strong’s</th>
<th>Root Form (Greek)</th>
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<tr>
<td>And</td>
<td>G2532</td>
<td>καὶ kai</td>
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<td>He said</td>
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<td>to them,</td>
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<td>αὐτός autos</td>
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<td>“Go”</td>
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<td>πορεύω poreuō</td>
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<td>into</td>
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<td>εἰς eis</td>
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<td>all</td>
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<td>ἀπὰς hapas</td>
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<td>the world</td>
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Lesson 9  5/15/2012  1
and preach | \(\text{κηρύσσω} \) kēryssō
the gospel | \(\text{εὐαγγέλιον} \) euaggelion
to all | \(\text{πᾶς} \) pas
creation. | \(\text{κτίσις} \) ktisis

The word, “\textit{Go}” means
1) to lead over, carry over, transfer
   a) to pursue the journey on which one has entered, to continue on one's journey
   b) to depart from life
   c) to follow one, that is: become his adherent
1) to lead or order one's life

The word, “\textit{Preach}” means
1) to be a herald, to officiate as a herald
   a) to proclaim after the manner of a herald
   b) always with the suggestion of formality, gravity and an authority which must be listened to and obeyed
2) to publish, proclaim openly: something which has been done
3) used of the public proclamation of the gospel and matters pertaining to it, made by John the Baptist, by Jesus, by the apostles and other Christian teachers
Mathew chapter 28 verses 18-20  *The Message*

Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

I hope you can get through this subject and allow the Holy Ghost to work through you. I get a huge blessing when I testify to a stranger or pray for someone in need. I want you to experience this as well. I have to warn you, Jesus is still despised and hated, that will also apply to you if you stand for the Master. You too will have people make the meanest and stupidest responses to you and pigeon-hole you in a negative manner.

Are you tough enough? If not, you are in the 95% that will face Jesus one day and say, “I am sorry but I feared man, I was too embarrassed to proclaim the Good news”.

I have been warned by fellow Believers to never use the name of Jesus in witnessing. That is crazy talk but most causal Christians are too embarrassed to proclaim the Good News especially since they have been set free. How about you?

**There are probably five legitimate reasons why you cannot share the Gospel to others.**
1. You are in active sin.
2. You have an unrepentant heart, harden heart or will not forgive someone.
3. You are a new believer.
4. You are not truly saved.
5. Being embarrassed is probably a pride issue.
6. Do not believe you are smart enough or good enough. Probably a pride issue, for no one is ever good or smart enough. It is all about being honest.

Being sick is not an acceptable excuse in fact is a good excuse to share the Love of Jesus.

**Cults and Sects**
We have competition and others that give us a bad name. There are many cults and sects that do evangelize; it is not really evangelism but proselytizing and making new converts. They rarely speak of Jesus and they are more interested in placing people in a religion. Most of these “Evangelists” are wolves in sheep’s clothing. These cults have many things in common with one another, concerns like, no hell, we are all gods, Jesus wasn’t God, you obtain your own planet, sexual paradise, etc. All the issues my flesh loves to hear are being spread by cults and these people do not care about your salvation.

Do not tell others about the truth unless you know that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Do not tell others to gain attention to yourself. Tell others about what Jesus
has done in your life and how wonderful he is. Let others know the peace and hope that is available to them.

Let’s Talk About Love….
I talked to a church leader that was against telling the good news and sharing with others. He was a powerful man that knew the bible but had a damaged heart. I believe he never got over the fact of his first wife divorcing him. I asked him how does he show love to the Father and he said he constantly talks to the Father and that proves he loves God. He also will not glorify or worship the Lord Jesus for he claims he cannot find this in the writings of Paul. When I bring up any objection, he claims I am judging him, on the other hand he requires two bible verses from me to make my point and yet does not change his opinion. These are classic signs of a damaged or locked or unrepentant heart.

So let’s quickly examine what is love and we could talk about this subject for a long time. Sadly on my part, I have been a loveless Christian most of my life. I still struggle and haven’t got where I should be.

Romans Chapter 12 NIV
Love in Action
9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

13 Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Let’s Talk Honestly
Have you ever fell asleep in church? I have. Today’s message is from King Jesus and the only way you can avoid it is by not intentionally listen, by curling up in a ball and daydreaming. Some of you are good at this skill. Others are good at listening but not thinking about the message.

I want to talk to you about the Great Commission. Many of you know about it and yet do nothing. Most of you say that it doesn’t apply to you or that you are unable to do it. Some of you think you are not good enough and some say you don’t have the time.
Some say we are supposed to be good stewards and not be disciples. I think this is reality is your pride and not wanting to surrender to Jesus.

Do not conform any longer to this world but be transformed. No longer be a causal Christian but become a committed Christian. I too have said these things and I was wrong. I too have avoided telling others about the amazing love of Jesus. I too have had thousands of opportunities and yet was too embarrassed and too ashamed to lose a possible friend and not tell them about Jesus and eternal live. Many followers of Jesus get side tracked and follow worldly directions even in the church.

**How do you know if you are saved?**

When you confess Jesus as Lord and Savior, you experience the new birth. Every abundant blessing He has for us is freely available in salvation (Romans 10:9-10).

The word salvation comes from the Greek word *soteria*, which means *saved, healed, delivered, pardoned, rescued, protected, preserved, made whole, cured, set free, and restored.*

**WHAT SALVATION IS NOT**

Salvation is not any of the things most people think or have been taught such as confirmation, church membership, water baptism, taking the sacrament, observing religious duties, going to church, saying prayers, reading the Bible, memorizing creeds, nor doing good deeds. I will use strong language here… salvation is not about raising your hand or saying a little sinner’s prayer unless you are honest and have counted the costs. To be saved you must be born-again (John 3:14-18; Romans 10:9-10).

"The aim of my kind of expository preaching is to help you eat and digest biblical truth that will make your spiritual bones more like steel, and will double the capacity of your spiritual lungs, and will make the eyes of your heart dazzle with the brightness of the glory of God, and will awake the capabilities of your soul to experience kinds of spiritual joy you did not know existed."

I have two scriptures I need to read to you, one from the Apostle John and the other one from Paul.

**3 John 1 verse 9**

9 I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will have nothing to do with us. 10 So if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, gossiping maliciously about us.

Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.

**And from the last chapter in Romans 16 verse 17**

17 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. 18 For those who are such do not serve our
Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech
deceive the hearts of the simple.

I have been told by God to witness to others and yet I was a coward. After all, I have a
reputation. I have to work with these people or I might see them in Wal-mart. They
might think I was a nut or worse a Jesus freak, a Holy Roller. A fanatic, a nut, but in
reality that is the enemy talking and he is great at deception.

I have been told by others that this avoidance or behavior is acceptable and yet I know
they are wrong, my flesh likes to hear those kinds of excuse. I have a hundred of these
excuses; my flesh loves the law and loves excuses. My flesh also loves the prosperity
gospel which is a false gospel.

I also like the people who say that God’s will, will either bring people here or that God’s
will, will shut these doors, my flesh loves that statement but it is not right, God’s will is to
glorify His beloved son. I don’t understand sovereignty but somehow evangelism can be
used in His sovereignty.

I said “coward” and I know this word makes many of you uncomfortable. It seems our
flesh has a great fear of telling others that they are headed to Hell and that their eternal
destruction means very little to us.

We also have a great fear that we will upset someone in the church or some special
ministry by inviting others to fellowship here. Or by adjusting the church back to focusing
on the bible and not business meetings.

Since when is it more important to have a business meeting on a Sunday night or a
Wednesday night and replace the service with a business meeting?

If I was a lost person or a Believer needing prayer, I would probably never return to
Church after a business meeting.

I must say, I’ve only had 1 or 2 people ever ask me about my salvation or if I was born
again that were legitimately concerned about my soul. I’ve had probably ten cult people
try to convert me but only a small , tiny amount genuinely ask me about my eternal life.
Maybe two people my entire life.

I remember a man, a very popular man and beloved in his church, a respected Sunday
school teacher told me on how he tells others about God. He receives praises with his
message, and yet I did not think he knows what he was talking about. He likes to
encourage others which is a good thing but rarely speak about God to others and claims
he is performing the Great Commission.

He never mentions the name Jesus and He has never brought anyone to Jesus but he
thinks He is doing an outstanding job. He has also been a follower since his youth. He
is not doing what Jesus says and only blowing his own horn.
We cannot encourage anyone to be saved, we can only tell what Jesus has done for us and tell others the Good News that Jesus is alive and He loves them. We need to use the name of Jesus. On the other hand, I do not like to mention names in church, but one man I know tells everyone about Christ and many people think he is strange.

No, he isn’t strange; he is normal, at least normal follower of King Jesus. If you are not telling others about Jesus you are abnormal. Unless you are an unbeliever, you have a reason not to mention the name of Jesus.

When is the last time you have gotten mad about a sermon? Today, you might feel the Holy Ghost convict you about these things and don’t take these up with me but you need to examine the Bible and repent. Recently I’ve had many people tell me about their being a member of a certain denomination some telling me they are Southern Baptist, Nazarene, or Catholic or ________________ or how long they have been a ________ but only one person telling me they are a follower of Jesus and I believed them. What a difference.

**How important is Jesus to you?**

So today, with your permission and with help from the Holy Ghost, I would like to talk about the great commission and how we as the Body get distracted from serving the Lord. I remember me hearing the Great Commission sermon about 5 times in my life. I was either caught in sin, backslidden or didn’t have a Godly example to follow. I also figured this message didn’t apply to me.

I figured if I tithed my small tiny amount that was a good enough testimony to how good I was and how much I needed Jesus. I figured that this message was 2,000 years old and that it wasn’t that important today. I figured that since I saw no one doing any evangelizing or telling me about Jesus then that gave me permission to avoid it and forget about it, like many of you will do today.

So with these excuses and a few more that I will throw out I will pray for you and invite you to come forward later to be confirmed as soul winners. The best testimony we can give is an honest testimony to others about what Jesus has done in your life.

I understand there are few that cannot tell someone that there is hope and salvation in Jesus. But unless you are not in a coma, you are without excuse. Others will say, I am covered by grace, and yes you are, this does not give you a license not to proclaim your love for Jesus. In fact, if you understand grace, you will be telling everyone about Jesus.

Remember that under law, you shall not murder, but under grace, even gossiping or speaking poorly of others is murder. Under the law, adultery is forbidden but under grace even looking at someone inappropriately is considered adultery.
Again let’s review what King Jesus says
Matthew Chapter 28: Verse 16

**The Great Commission**

16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them.

17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

**Verse 16** Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. 17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.

Some doubted, just like today, some doubt and I have to say, choose today. Do you need and love Jesus? If not do not tell others about Him.

**Verse 18** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

So many followers of Jesus have forgotten that we are more than conquerors. That no weapon formed against shall proper, that if God is for us, who can be against us.

**Verse 19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Beloved, we need to invite the lost and go out and tell the good news. We are being asked to make disciples. We sit in church and complain about this or that and we are not doing what Jesus asks. There is no reason but selfish pride why this church is not the biggest church in town, why we don’t have a packed parking lot.

I have heard we are a senior church or we are a friendly church, I say we are needing to tell this community that Jesus is king and Lord and he lives here.

**Verse 20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

What more can I say, teaching them, teaching the lost to love and to know we have hope in Jesus. Jesus promises to be with us even to the end of the age, so what is stopping you from bring one new person to church?
The three levels of Knowing God or three levels of Christianity
I would like to compare knowing God to three levels, there may be more, but this is where I am today. I will compare these levels to visiting the ocean.

1st. Level…Christianity- Being told that I can have enteral live by simply believing that Jesus died for my sins. I will compare this to a person that sees the ocean for the first time. This person may or may not go in the water but is moved by the grand sight of the powerful ocean. Most people have this type of relationship with God. This is basically the message of most churches and we call this salvation. Problem is that we never move forward. Once in a while, someone will want to know more about this relationship and then we move to the next category.

2nd. Level- Follower of Jesus - I will compare this level to the person that wants to dive in the Ocean and learn as much as possible about the ocean. This person will obtain a snorkel and enjoy the ocean. Maybe they'll snorkel a little or make it a lifetime goal to snorkel. These people are the students of Jesus or the Disciples. They want to know Him and learn as much as possible, but sadly many of these people are self-taught because the Church has not kept up with the discipleship. These people realize there is more to the Kingdom than salvation. Many will stay in this group forever.

3rd Level –Child of God - These people have discovered there is a deeper level than snorkeling. These Believers have seen the Gospel and have understood it. These Believers have now become scuba divers. They understand the Kingdom of Heaven and understand they are more than Believers, for now they are Children of God. These words are rare to hear in most churches and yet the Bible says this over and over. Somehow we have selected men that only know of the ocean from reading a book and have never experienced swimming in it. I hope all of you will discover the joy of knowing you are a Child of God and we are part of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Hypocrites
One thing about telling others about the Lord is you will be a trendsetter. Very, very few people do this and yet everyone is a self-proclaimed evangelist. Preachers teach it, but never do it outside the church, Deacons don’t have a clue but will give earthly advice, so you will have to know the truth and have a testimony and rely upon the Lord. I think in my 50 years, I have seen two or three people that reached this level; most Believers are caught in bondage and fear. Many are have damaged hearts and do not recognize the symptoms. Most paid leadership only produces a weak fruit because they are paid to do so. Unresolved shame

Make a difference…
We will deal with these issues more and it will be part of your doctorate program.
**Mistakes**

If you are willing to tell others about the Lord Jesus, you will make mistakes and you will also be beaten down from the Enemy. This is alright and acceptable. I have made so many mistakes and most are based upon my pride and not being in the Word. I can tell you it is very easy to miss lead or miss-direct people into thinking they know the truth. I have done it and I see many teach miss-direction in sincerity. Some also force feed the Gospel in a manner that requires conversion, this is wrong and does not help in building the Kingdom.

One poplar evangelistic method is sin conviction. This is when the unbeliever is convicted of sin usually associated with the Ten Commandments. I rather not try to convict the person intentionally but allow the Holy Spirit to do his job. He has been working on the unbeliever with conviction. I do not need to show the exact commandment that was broken. I know that statement will upset the evangelist that uses the Ten Commandments to convict a person. I say if it works for you use it but do not force a person to accept the Gospel.

I think almost any or all evangelical methods, Roman Road, 4 Spiritual laws to the Five Questions will work if you are honest and merciful. If you lack one of these Jesus traits of honest, faithfulness or mercy (love), seek help and restore your heart.

I have even told non-believers in a forceful and angry tone to accept the Lord. I was wrong for I was in a spiritual battle or hungry, angry or tired or worse, I was showing off. These people are probably not saved, for being saved is about loving the Lord Jesus.

So be aware of pride, spiritual battles and even lust. I have run in to trouble because I have witnessed to some very attractive women that were probably more interested in me than Jesus. Many women connect quickly with any man they perceive as spiritual. I think most women find Jesus attractive because he is always good to women and in general, Jesus is an easy sell to women, but I want these lost people to find everlasting life and not me. I want them to meet the Master and grace. I hope you do the same. I try hard not to even mention my name or anything about myself. I want them to be free and know the truth and become a follower of the Lord. How about you?

**Not to be the sexist...**

Women make wonderful evangelists too. The first and one of boldest evangelist I have seen was a woman. She was an Evangelical Lutheran. I watched her as the lost made fun of her and she kept on trucking.

If you are a woman, be aware that you may be very successful with men, at least on the surface. You will need to quickly reach their hearts or else the man will think of you as something else and usually in a sexual manner. The Enemy and human programing will kick in and distribute the message. So recognize this problem and overcome. I personally would like to see men be the leaders in this area but drugs, alcohol, work, porn and everything else has tripped up and hardened the man’s heart. The primary
issue is most men become intellects and reject child-like faith and call themselves “conservative”. Others become legalists and many do not find true salvation.

In general, waitresses, fast food workers, grocery store check-outs are always easy and fast targets or prospects to tell a short version of the Gospel and make good practice for a beginner. One thing to remember, many of these people are saying “yes” because they are trying to please their employers and may not be true converts. I have seen the nicest and receptive people say yes to me and then I see they throw my materials to the trash. So be prepared and don’t let this get you down, Jesus is still despised and people do not want to be associated to him in any fashion. Be prepared for a quick yes for an answer, I realize some of these yes answers are for real but many are on the surface and these people will not love the Lord.

If you are struggling and do not find success, which is okay, keep a soft heart for the lost and soon God will use you and remember that we are nothing but ambassadors trying to spread the message and we are in a foreign land, a hostile land.

**Newest Trend, Former Christians**

In a short period of a few years, there are more people proclaiming to have left the faith and now are calling themselves former believers. Witnessing to these people is difficult for they like to bash believers and do a good job. So far of these former Christians, I have seen a trend, many have been spiritually abused or hurt in some fashion by a religious person. I agree somewhat with their thinking for I too know this abuse. But we need to have the subject be about one man, that man is the Lord Jesus and not tradition, religion or church. Some of these former or reformed believers hate the Lord because he did not answer a prayer. This is a difficult area and I see a little of their concern. Basically we need to love them and point them back to Jesus and very few will have this opportunity and very few are wise enough to do so, but love can do it.

The Holy Spirit has been working on these people also and it is your turn to tell them how to get right with God. Remember, God gets all the glory when witnessing and not you. If you need the glory, you probably have a pride issue and need to remove the root cause, and the root is always insecurity or hidden pride.
There are hundreds of successful ways and methods to bring someone in the Kingdom of Heaven, here are a couple. There are even programs you can purchase and follow...

Roman Road- *Very Popular*

*Romans 3:23*  "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
We all have sin in our hearts. We all were born with sin.
We were born under the power of sin's control. - Admit that you are a sinner.

*Romans 6:23a*  "...The wages of sin is death..."
Sin has an ending. It results in death. We all face physical death, which is a result of sin. But a worse death is spiritual death that alienates us from God, and will last for all eternity. The Bible teaches that there is a place called the Lake of Fire where lost people will be in torment forever. It is the place where people who are spiritually dead will remain. - Understand that you deserve death for your sin.

*Romans 6:23b*  "...But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
Salvation is a free gift from God to you! You can't earn this gift, but you must reach out and receive it. - Ask God to forgive you and save you.

*Romans 5:8*  "God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us!"
When Jesus died on the cross He paid sin's penalty. He paid the price for all sin, and when He took all the sins of the world on Himself on the cross, He bought us out of slavery to sin and death! The only condition is that we believe in Him and what He has done for us, understanding that we are now joined with Him, and that He is our life. He did all this because He loved us and gave Himself for us! - Give your life to God... His love poured out in Jesus on the cross is your only hope to have forgiveness and change. His love bought you out of being a slave to sin. His love is what saves you -- not religion, or church membership. God loves you!

*Romans 10:13*  "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved!"
- Call out to God in the name of Jesus!

*Romans 10:9,10*  "...If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus 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." - If you know that God is knocking on your heart's door, ask Him to come into your heart. *Jeff's favorite*

Lord Jesus said,
*Revelation 3:20a*  "Behold I stand at the door and knock, if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him..." - Is Jesus knocking on your heart's door?
Believe in Him.
Ask Him to come in to your heart by faith, and ask Him to reveal Himself to you. Open the Bible to the Gospel of John and read what God says about Jesus, about you, and about being born again.

God will help you. He loves you.

You need to look for a local church where God’s word is preached. The Bible says that we are to desire God’s word like a newborn baby desires mother’s milk.

Aren’t you hungry to know the truth?

Answer these four questions:
1. Do you want to be forgiven and saved (1 John 1:8)?
2. Do you believe Jesus Christ, God’s son died for you (1 John 1:7)?
3. Are you willing to repent of sin and follow the Lord Jesus Christ for the rest of your life (Acts 2:21; 3:17-19; 16:31; 1 John 1:9)?
4. Do you believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that God does forgive you of your sins and that He does cleanse you from all unrighteousness (Romans 10:9-10; 1 John 1:9)?

Other Bible Verses that work…
Salvation is NOT found in a religion or good works, but in a Person... The LORD JESUS CHRIST!

- John 11:25, “Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.”
- John 14:6, “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”
- John 6:40, “And this is the will of him that sent me, that everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.”
- Mark 1:15, “And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”
- Acts 26:18, “To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”
- Romans 10:13, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
- 1st Corinthians 3:11, “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”
Galatians 3:26, “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”

The Five Question or a variation of these questions is popular with strangers. Do what you can, with what you have, where you are. Theodore Roosevelt

1. Do you have any spiritual beliefs? Or Do you consider yourself a spiritual person?
Generally strangers will open up and discuss these matters and generally are very sincere (I am not saying they are honest) about these issues. Once in a while you will get a pagan, witch or atheist that will generally be polite and will dismiss you. I’ve had a few but rare hostile people, maybe three in twenty years and usually they were spiritually abused or even sexually abused in a church. There is little you can do for these folks. Their hearts have been ripped in two and many of these will destroy you unless you can counsel them. They have a damaged heart and many become super intellects and you will be able to identify them with time.

The newest term of atheists especially the “new atheists” or “Brights” they will say they believe in the Flying Spaghetti Monster, the first time I heard this, I thought I was talking to a demon, but it is their little game the play trying to dismiss Believers. They will also say that the bible is fairy tale, that Jesus is a lair and call the bible “damned”. Don’t let this or other rude comments shake you up.

Many of these self-proclaimed pagans and atheists know the truth but are testing God and their belief systems. Many are simply heart broken and need love. I bet most of the men never had a father that loved them or told them that they were important or had what it takes and most of the women did not have a father that cherished them. I have seen the worst of all these groups come to the knowledge of Jesus. Whatever happens, give all the glory to Jesus. Some people will be very spiritual but nothing close to knowing the truth, be prepared to deal with pagans, tree huggers, yoga (Hinduism) and all the other phoniness. Try to keep eye contact even if you are embarrassed or become scared. If you are unable to keep eye contact, try to look at the person’s forehead. I bring up this statement because there are times that these people will say things that will shake you. You will never know all the answers and that is okay. Deal with what you know and take the smaller subjects and try to love the person.

Dealing with Luciferians Any Occult or Secret Society (including Masons and Shriners)
For many years I never heard or understood this term. I thought it was an over dramatic term to scare certain people and maybe a little fanatical. Basically these non-believers are either blatant, ignorant or deceived satan worshippers. The primary issue when dealing with these people is their master is a liar and murder and so are his children or his slaves. Many do not know they serve him and many think they are Christians. I know that is strong language but it is true and some of these wolves are in the ministry and doing a good superficial job.
Many of these people look and talk like Christians and will even say things like saved, born-again and call you brother, they will say God bless you too. I am sure they mean little god on that one or god of this world. They have a code language that you need to be aware of and not frightened.

Here are some of their code words, I am pure, virtuous, wholesome and innocent. They will avoid any talk on sin and know very little of the bible or of Lord Jesus, even of the popular scriptures. These people are wonderful people and do lots of good works to recruit more followers and do a better job than the saved people. They are nicely dressed and super difficult to pick out of a crowd, I doubt if I could do it without talking to them and even talking it takes some time because they are wonderful liars and speak like lambs. Many Christians will ignore these people and this subject and pretend they are not really a threat or even exist. Many believers are scared of these people. I would say the believers that are not in the Word will avoid these people all together. These non-believers are great at avoiding the Word and certain books in the bible and certain subjects.

The saddest thing is the ones that believe they are Christians and think they are saved for doing good works. They language is strongly self-righteous and like to use unusual holy words like pure and wholesome. I am not saying that all people that talk like this are demon possessed, or that all demons speak like this, but they do use unusual words and seem either very confident or rehearsed or scare to death when speaking to a believer. If you are a Mason or Shriner and have a problem with this area, you need to check out the truth of your organization and repent. These are not the only organizations but the primary two Luciferian organizations, there are maybe ten more that follow the enemy without knowing it. They too need a savior and many have been deceived, all of us have been deceived or will be deceived by the prince of the power of air and we need to focus on the Holy Spirit and I think 1 John the 4 chapter is a great tool and for some reason the enemy hates that book more than others.

Demon Activity
Now I will be honest and rarely this happens but the enemy will do some amazing and unpredictable things if you get out and try to reach the lost. Maybe 1 out of 100 people and maybe two or three days in a row, I have found myself totally unprepared for supernatural activity, I have been caught off guard and wondering what to do or what was really happening. I would like to go in to more detail but many will dismiss this area and I have found a couple of truths with people that avoid demon talk, 1. Very few deal with the Gospel, but they are so called self-appointed experts. 2. Even rarer, very few will evangelize to the lost. But they will dismiss any experiences and do not even talk about the Lord.

So if you really love the Lord Jesus and really love the lost, you may have some experiences that are supernatural. No one will believe you and no one will talk to you. It is between you and the Lord. My advice is never base your theology on your experiences.
Be prepared for the unexpected and never be fearful. You will be perplexed and may need to step back and think about what is going on but you will be okay and the enemy will flee. Remember we fight against powers and principalities in high places.

He can’t do anything to you unless the Lord permits it and if the Lord permits it, it must glorify the Lord and all we can do is pick up our cross and deny ourselves. It will quickly pass and tomorrow the sun will rise again.

2. Primary Question, Who is Jesus to you? Secondary questions: Do you consider yourself a good person? Or Do you attend a church?
The primary question is usually answered with the following basic answer, Jesus was a good ______________. Usually that he was a good teacher. Rarely will you hear the Son of God or He is God. You will need to be prepared to answer that Jesus was more than a good man, teacher, and/or prophet. Jesus can’t be a good teacher alone.

Two direction to go on second and third alternative questions, I prefer to ask if they go to church for that somewhat indicates if they are a believer. Generally speaking, you can see it in their eyes. Now, just because they attend church doesn’t mean they are saved. I have brought many church attenders to the knowledge of Jesus. Usually you will hear a comment like, “No one has ever spoken to me like that before”. It kind of breaks your heart. If you have gotten this far, you will generally be able to close the deal or at least pray for them.

Once in a while people will say “Jesus is the Savoir” and yes he is… You will have to make a decision to tell this person that Jesus is more than a Savior or leave the person alone.

Some misled people will get on you for teaching “Lordship salvation” simply blow them off for they don’t talk to anyone about the Lord anyways. I say to them it is Loveship salvation. I think it is funny on the advice I get from ministers while many of them will reach out to the lost even if they have a perfect opportunity. I remember I followed a preacher one day, not intentionally but he went in a doctor’s office before me and I followed. He didn’t say a word, a paid preacher, a so called evangelist and you would think he didn’t know the Lord or had anything to do with a church. Some will say I am being too hard on the poor fellow, maybe I am, but this type of man will be the first to criticize any one evangelizing and sometimes it is best never to say a word to anyone about your efforts. Keep it between you and the Lord and you will be blessed. I remember a time I talked to a man that was much older than me and I tough he could give me advice on evangelism. Basically he told me all about his knowledge of Greek and didn’t help me to know the Lord other than I couldn’t pronounce any ancient Greek words properly. We are talking about a dead language here, and he knew exactly what I was saying but if you don’t know the lord the best thing to do is make up laws and/or act like a religious expert.

Be careful on your theological stances also. I had people shut me down if you reveal your theological tradition or preferences, like where you stand on the rapture and so on.
If you say you believe in the rapture, someone will say, “you are a dispensationalist” if you say something else, they will say you are a “covenant theologian”. Again the bottom line, all these scoffers do not tell anyone about enteral life nor know the Gospel but will become a stumbling block to you if you allow it. So my advice, don't allow them to steal your joy, most of these men want to go home and watch their favorite crime show and meditate on the news. Simply learn to laugh and play their game. I find the best game to play with them is to ask them to define their theological term and ask them to describe the advantages and disadvantage to their term. 90 percent cannot define the term and no one has ever been able to tell me the disadvantages to their stance.

We are often told to mirror talk when people are hurting and sometimes mirror talking to these scoffers will bite you back. Scoffer, wicked and foolish men will beat you down so use a lot of kindness and love and shake the dust from your feet and move on. It is not big deal.

**Ephesians 4:14**
Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit. But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into Him who is the head —Christ.

**Matthew 7:15**
“Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravaging wolves. You'll recognize them by their fruit. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles?

3. **Can I tell or share with you what I believe in? Or Can I tell you about the hope I have?**
This is the time to be completely honest and tell them what Jesus has done on the cross and in your life.

Try to have one or two short and sweet testimonies to tell people why you love Jesus. Every believer should be able to tell at least two reasons other than salvation why they believe. Many will not know the Lord and have a weak testimony of child baptism, good works or self-righteousness. They are unable to tell you of a transformed life and have no fruit but believe they are saved. These are the ones who need special Holy Spirit led advice. I often have to step back and ask the Holy Spirit what to say, sometimes He tells me and sometimes I don’t have a clue. Sometimes He tells me and I don’t tell the lost and sometimes He tells me later what I should have done and that is okay because He is always kind and gentle and I am still a rookie in this area.
4. What happens after you die?
Many people know there is a heaven and hell but many believe that good works will get you to heaven. In general, the only problem at this stage is the occasional Jehovah Witness or cult member that has been brain washed in believing a lie or alcohol, drug addict that is not ready to stop drugging and drinking. The Jehovah Witness has been trained to reject this information and the alcoholic and drug addict usually has a damaged heart, now that doesn’t mean they won’t repent or convert. Just a couple of problems or concerns to think about. If you are showing love and honesty, these will break most of these walls. I think love will cover all your mistakes. The cults members want to argue over the meanings of terms and words, you tell they the reason you believe. Don’t get mad, for these people have been drilled day-after-day on defending their false religion. They usual have broken and damaged hearts and cover it with religion. Many have false guilt and shame and those are hard to break.

One stumbling block to learn and master is the issue of soul sleep. If you hear anything like soul sleep you will have either one of the following problems. 1. Someone from a cult. 2. An ignorant and misled person that doesn’t really know anything. 3. A very conservative legalistic person that had their heart ripped out and needs to be restored. I have trouble with soul sleepers and preterists but the Holy Spirit is working on me and one day I will be able to talk to them in love. Currently, the Lord has sent many of these people in to my life and I need to recognize that I must have a gift for no one else seems to talk to these people. That is how it will be with you, God has certain people that He knows only you can deal with. I rather decide on this issue but God is smarter and He knows what I am capable of and He loves for me to learn more about Him and that is okay with me.

Preterists are a super problem and a deceptive group of Believers; I do not consider them Believers at all but a cult. I know that is strong words, but basically they believe that Lord Jesus has already came and set up His Kingdom. They believe the that Matthew chapter 24 has happened or parts of it has happened. A tiny part of the chapter has happened but they believe Josephus on the issue making them a cult. The dangerous part of this ideology is that if Jesus did come back, we are no longer under grace but under law, we have no hope and no resurrection. I didn’t get to see Him on the Throne. Many preterists will back it down and say, “I am only a partial preterist” I say, get to know Jesus and forget that intellectual stuff.

Remember, these people are going to hell and you may be the only thing to stop them. I hope that if I was living a lie, someone would be honest and tell me the truth.

Think about this…How excited God is that you are willing to share the truth with the lost. Jesus was super happy after the 70 came back after they when out to reach the lost. God is excited with you and you are blessed.
5. On judgment day, what will you say to obtain entrance into heaven?
Notice the word “Judgment day.” Many people know a little of the bible so you should really use the words, day you die, rapture, second coming. I was talking to a lady and used the word or phrase the “day you die” She went on to tell me that the day you die is not the judgment day and therefore I was wrong. I explained that I meant the day you are judged, she gave me a hard time but later surrendered.

Most people will say to you that they will go to heaven because they were good people or did more good than evil. Be prepared to give an answer to every man, in season and out of season.

Remember to allow the Comforter to do his job. If you step back and allow him to work, you will see a miracle and that is exciting.

The closing comment should be…If there anything that you thought you didn’t know, would you like to know it?

It is best to share a few bible verses and share the Gospel.

Arthur Blessit’s Slam  One of my favorite evangelists
He doesn’t call it the slam, I do and it is powerful and I love it, but it takes courage.

Basic questions
He will usually say the following and the Holy Spirit takes the wheel…

Introduction  - Opener-  God Bless you…
This gives an indication where the person stands.

1. Question right off the cuff and right to the heart. Can you live the rest of your life with or without Jesus?
Most people will claim with Jesus even non-believers rarely will you get a no or I can live without him, but if you do, move to the 2nd question and this one will usually seal the deal. Maybe 10 percent will reject this answer.

2. Do you want to die with or without Jesus?
This will close the deal with most unbelievers and many people will be convicted by the Holy Spirit. Many will cry for they recognize they have been rebellious.

My Favorite Openers
Arthur Blessit is very successful for many reasons, a couple reasons are he carries a huge cross and gives out stickers, plus he has a great smile and soft spirit.

We too can purchase little gifts or stickers to break the ice. I love a writing pen that a company called CTA sells.  www.ctainc.com  These pens cost approximately $1.00 each and have various scriptures that unroll. My two favorite pens are the Roman Road
and the beautiful Easter pen. They also have great items for children. They are a friendly and Christian company. So if you are struggling, purchase a little opener.

**Great Tools**
These openers and tracts can be utilized in mighty ways. Try to give one up front and if the conversation goes bad, don’t fret. I have seen people come back to me and ask questions later. Sometimes we do not realize that people may be busy and cannot talk to us when we like.

**Tracts**
Tracts in general are wonderful openers... Sadly you will find them in the trash or thrown on the ground, but accept this for many hate Jesus and his word. It is not a big deal. I prefer a kind and easy tract, a great one is currently free and called “Route 66”. You can obtain these from [www.TheOriginalRoute66.com](http://www.TheOriginalRoute66.com). This man may or may not charge you but it is his ministry and he loves to spread God’s word and I like his presentation. **It is wonderful that many believers will give of their resources and time to tell a complete stranger of the love and mercy that is freely available.**

**Simple Prayer for Salvation**
Confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior that He was crucified for your sins and God raised Him from the dead.

Ask Him to make you a new creation with a new heart (To become a born-again child of His by the power of the Holy Spirit) (John 3:3). Finally, ask the Lord Jesus for the baptism of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13), and ask for the Holy Spirit to teach you new things and reveal God’s heart to you.

Then thank Him for becoming the Lord of your life, you can close prayer by saying 'In Jesus Name, Amen'.

*You can modify almost any prayer but basically and this offends the religious folks, but the short and sincere “Jesus, save me” will work. For it is all about the heart. Remember not all of these people are truly saved, many will forget Jesus in a few days, you have to explain that Jesus is alive and he loves them that he is real and he cares.*
Problems
Many of you will think I am a great evangelist and I am not, I don’t even think I am good at it, I fail and beat myself down for knowing nothing, but I do believe God’s desire is that no one should perish. I have taken many of these Christian tests and evangelism is my worst gift. Almost any and all problems associated with telling someone the Great News is associated with pride. Most of my problems were when I glorified myself or wanting to impress someone. Example, I had one of these evangelist come to me and he bragged how he taught others his methods so I said to him, let’s go out and tell others. I wanted to show him I was better than him, for he was all talk, he never told anyone including his own family the truth. So I wanted to embarrass him. I did it out of spite not love.

Another time, I rushed a person through a super-fast Roman Road, not really caring for the person but wanted that notch on my gun belt. I didn’t give this person a chance to think but led him in a hasty fashion. It was not loving or caring but I was driven. I was wrong, but that is okay, for no one really teaches this stuff but the Holy Spirit. You will know if the Holy Spirit is there for you will feel him and he will speak through you. It is a good feeling.

Another problem, some of you will beat yourself up if you make a mistake or upset a non-believer or even worst, upset a believer. It is not that big of a deal. If you upset a believer so what? They may correct you and maybe lecture you but they aren’t spreading the Gospel. Let them step out and try it and then they can lecture you. The problem that really beats me down are the Christians that do not want you to mention the Name of Jesus. They say it is too aggressive, I think they are crazy and are more interested in being political correct than tell the truth. The only legitimate exception I can think of not using his name is if a weak believer thinks his name is too holy to mention, then I can accept that excuse.

John MacArthur’s Slam
Simply ask the unsaved, if they had the Gospel explained to them.

Sit and honestly explain the Gospel to an unbeliever.

What is Salvation Like for the New Believer?
This is a difficult area and few will speak on it. I can only tell you my experiences. Generally four things happen after you present the Good News to a new Believer.
1. Nothing, at least at first. In general, the normal person that lives a normal life isn’t that excited and does not experience anything at all. This is okay and normal. They may or may not want to know more and in general terms they fit nicely in to the lukewarm church.

2. Nothing and skeptical at first. They want something to happen and generally have a lot of crazy bible questions. Everything from dinosaurs to evolution. Two directions will come from this encounter, the primary one is no one will answer or minister to this
person and this person may believer but will never be a follower of Jesus and probably never again attend church. The second issue and is very rare, someone will disciple and teach the new believer the truth. This person will generally become a disciple.

3. Big experience and life changes right then. Rarely but it does happen. I have seen the worse of drug/alcohol or sex addicts convert right then. I remember the first couple of believers and I really did a poor job explaining the Good News to them, but wow, they were transformed. Once in a while these will backslide back into addiction and that is because no one disciples them or restores their damaged heart.

4. The Enemy scares them. We like to forget the Enemy will attack them and us on these issues. Sometimes, the day after a new Believer comes to know the truth, the enemy declares all-out war on us. This is a hard issue, but it happens more than I like to admit to. We are a threat to him, but the Holy Spirit inside us is greater than the enemy. We have to proclaim our testimony and plead the blood of Jesus to cover us. I like to mention using the convent names of God and the endearing names of Jesus and scripture reading works. If the new convert can hang in there, most of these problems clear up in a few weeks. Most new converts claim it was worth the hassle. I think all of us will go through these spiritual battles and sometimes it is good to know we are a threat to the enemy. I have spoken the enemy’s language for too long and I surrender to General Jesus. I am nothing but a private and I am willing to take his orders for now on. I need peace, hope and assurance.

What About the Ones that Reject the Offer?
We forget that the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus are hurt on these rejections and that they are thousand times smarter than us. We have to let it go and hope they will find the truth before they die. Sometimes the Holy Spirit will send someone else that will be able to connect with the person.

Never think that this person needs to wait a period of time before they can be told again or they need to wait for some other reason. I have seen a 18 year girl come to know the truth and in one hour she was killed by a car. We never know what will happen. Hang in there and be ready to give an answer for the hope we have.

Recently, I had a man with a harden heart reject the salvation message at least three of four times. I tried everything, and I heard he had a stroke. I was happy at first for I thought that will show him. Then I prayed about it. God wants all of us to go to heaven, He doesn’t want to lose anyone and He even wants this man that rejects his son to have another chance. I am reluctant, but if the Lord can use me, I will go and try again. My flesh wants to say, “I told you so”. My heart says, “Jesus loves you and wants you to come to him”. You too will be blessed by many challenges.
Wear a Shirt
Purchase and wear a Jesus T-shirt and occasional, people will inquire about it and that is the time to tell them the truth. You need to possess boldness to wear a target that says “Jesus”. I think of the world and what I see people wearing and believing and I like to be a rebel and proclaim, “I love Jesus.” I have been told for too long to hate him and I want to take a stand.

Dealing with Believers
Beloved, many of the people you will meet are born again believers. Be ready to pray and bless them. Many need to re-dedicate their lives to the Lord. Do not be led down the church or domination road because these may end up in a fight. That is crazy talk but it happens. This is one reason I hate religion. We need to act as if we are the Bride of Jesus.

Encourage the backsliders and tell them that the Lord with forgive them and he loves them. Our Enemy is very good at tricking believers no matter what you have been taught. I know, I have fallen for most of his plans.

Sometimes other Believers will get excited and bless you. I have broken down and cried tears of great joy after talking to sold-out believers and one time I was sure the person was really an angel. You will get huge blessings when you least expect it and my only advice is to watch the person’s eyes. Sometimes you can see the love in the eyes and you know they are sold-out.

Who Should I talk to about Jesus?
Hard to say…I have found that the people I really do not like or do not want to talk to, the mean, ugly and dirty people are usually the ones that will listen and accept the message. The big biker types, women with more tattoo then teeth, people that look mean seem to want to know the truth and somehow the Gospel melts these people. I don’t understand but it works. The well-dressed the preppie people, the attractive people seem to be a hard nut to crack. But you may be successful with a different group of people. I personally like a challenge and prefer the harder people but sometimes the Enemy tells me I am not good enough or smart enough or saved enough to tell others. He is a liar.

Professionals
I think our human nature says it is okay to evangelize to people of a lower stasis or position but never to a higher position. Example, it is easier to talk to a waitress than to a lawyer. There is a little truth to it but with time, you will find there is no real difference between the two positions but only the stereotype in your mind. I find it hard to talk to very attractive women, but at one time it was hard for me to talk to tough looking men. So in a few years, I should be good in all groups and I am a very shy person because I’ve been damaged in the past.
Money
Once in a while, someone will hand you money. Even complete strangers. The first time someone offered me money I refused it because I was unprepared. I told this man the Gospel and there were two men behind him that I was unaware of them being there and hearing me. The man I talked too rejected everything I said. These two men came up and handed me $500 and I didn't know what to do. I said thank you and no. But I rejected to bless those men. That was there gift to build the Kingdom but I was unaware. Sometimes you will receive a blessing for being a Kingdom builder. I always receive free food or gifts from people and all I said was God loves you. If you do receive money, you need to think about the use and the reason you've received it.

Do not spread the Gospel for money, we have too many that do that and they are nothing but wolves in sheep’s clothing. Do something that will last an eternity. If you receive a gift, bless the person and thank the Father. Some people only possess the gift of giving and that is alright.

Cold Calls
Once in a while you find someone that wants you to kick in the door and tell a specific person. Maybe tell an adult child or a sick person. These are tough calls and you need to bath this in prayer. I have been thrown in this deal and sometimes it works. It is officially called “Presence“ and it is powerful but sometimes it is a desperate mother that wants her kids to be delivered of drugs or suicide and you need a church that has resources to help this person. Many churches could care less for these people but once in a while, you can find help that is real and merciful.

Burnout
If you try too hard, you will burn out and the biggest problem is compassion fatigue. Find a person which you can trust and love and share your struggles with this person. I have burned out and been deceived on these matters several times, but I am getting better.

Miracles and Disasters
If you want to be used by the Lord you will see incredible miracles and incredible disasters. You will have great joy and be part of something eternal. I have also been scared at least once or twice because I was unprepared. I have seen the lord deliver the lost and seen the Lord take away life from the unrepentant. Jesus is the sweetest name but sometimes it is hard to understand how he works. I have witnessed to two men that rejected the message; I came back to be thrown out the door, to be embarrassed and ridiculed and in a short time these healthy strong men were dead. This is also true for people that receive the message; I have seen healthy, young, attractive people die soon after learning the truth.

It makes me wonder why this happens, but we are servants and not bosses. We are children of the King and not kings.
Dealing With Professionals, Doctors, Dentists, Lawyers
I am not an evangelist and whenever I take a spiritual assessment to determine my spiritual gifting, I score the lowest on evangelism. With this concept in mind, you do not need to worry, for you too can tell others about Jesus.

Whenever you see the doctor or dentist, take a minute and tell them the good news. Most of these professionals and their nurses and related staff do not know the Gospel or have backslidden. I am amazed that there are doctors that see 20 patents a day and they do not know the gospel or even think about God. I think that these doctors must see at least one preacher a week and no one shares the Gospel with them.

I remember a time I saw a doctor and I took a half hour to tell him the Good News. He had been in practice for twenty years and no one mentioned the Gospel to him, ever. Doctors are an easy slam. Many ministers think that if the doctor sees a medical miracle they will look towards God and be saved. These same ministers are the ones that will not talk to the lost and deny that miracles still happen. It is a double hypocrisy.

I have met many sold-out doctors. So take advantage of these opportunities. Another time I went to a dentist office, and right before me was a famous minister. That guy didn’t say a thing. I witnessed to the entire office, all the staff and other people. I had a hard time talking to the dentist and I was much unprepared for dealing with a dentist is difficult if you can’t speak.

He made fun of me but I told him the truth. I wished I did a better job, but I was caught unaware. The Dentist had the advantage, sharp wit, me in the chair, his assistants all around, but I wasn’t going to cower. So take advantage of professionals. Many of these highly trained people will listen to you because it is there job, so take the opportunity.

I believe there was a point for that famous preacher to be before me on that day. You can use tracts, pens or go in naked. All three work if you are honest and merciful. A lot of men think merciful is a woman’s trait. I really believe you have to be a real man to possess mercy. It is easy to hate and kill, but to show mercy and love to killers is pretty tough and tougher than most men. For basically merciful men are fearless.
Definitions

Pre-destination

Predestination, in Calvinistic theology is the doctrine that all events have been willed by God. John Calvin interpreted biblical predestination to mean that God willed eternal damnation for some people and salvation for others. Explanations of predestination often seek to address the so-called "paradox of free will", that God's omniscience is seemingly incompatible with human free will.

Predestination and election are both biblical teachings. The English "predestination" is translated from the Greek word proorizo which means 1) to predetermine, decide beforehand; 2) in the NT, of God decreeing from eternity; 3) to foreordain, appoint beforehand. Predestination, then, is the biblical teaching that God predestines certain events and people to accomplish what He so desires. The word proorizo occurs six times in the New Testament, each time demonstrating that God is the one who is foreordaining and bringing about certain events:

1. Acts 4:28, "to do whatever Thy hand and Thy purpose predestined to occur."
2. Rom. 8:29, "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;"
3. Rom. 8:30, "and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified."
4. 1 Cor. 2:7, "but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom, which God predestined before the ages to our glory."
5. Eph. 1:5, "He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will."
6. Eph. 1:11, "also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will."

You must also note that God predestines people as Rom. 8:30, and Eph. 1:5, 11 demonstrate. There is, however, controversy as to the nature of this predestination. In the Reformed (Calvinist) camp, predestination includes individuals. In other words, the Reformed doctrine of predestination is that God predestines whom He wants to be saved and that without this predestination, none would be saved. The non-Reformed camp states that God predestines people to salvation, but that these people freely choose to follow God on their own. In other words, in the non-Reformed perspective God is reacting to the will of individuals and predestining them only because they choose God, where by contrast the Reformed position states that people choose God only because He has first predestined them.

Whichever side you believe, remember that predestination and election are biblical concepts. You must also remember that how you believe or not in predestination and/or election does not affect your salvation. Therefore, you should be gracious to other Christians who differ with you on this subject.
Predestination is the Divine foreordaining or foreknowledge of all that will happen; with regard to the salvation of some and not others. It has been particularly associated with the teachings of John Calvin. Predestination may sometimes be used to refer to other, materialistic, spiritualist, non-theistic or polytheistic ideas of determinism, destiny, fate, doom, or adrsta. Such beliefs or philosophical systems may hold that any outcome is finally determined by the complex interaction of multiple, possibly immanent, possibly impersonal, possibly equal forces, rather than the issue of a Creator's conscious choice.

For example, some may speak of predestination from a purely physical perspective, such as in a discussion of time travel. In this case, rather than referring to the afterlife, predestination refers to any events that will occur in the future. In a predestined universe the future is immutable and only God's ordained set of events can possibly occur; in a non-predestined universe, the future is mutable. In Chinese Buddhism, predestination is a translation of yuanfen, which does not necessarily imply the existence or involvement of a deity. Predestination in this sense takes on a very literal meaning: pre- (before) and destiny, in a straightforward way indicating that some events seem bound to happen. The term, however, is often used to describe relationships instead of all events in general.

Finally, antithetical to determinism of any kind are theories of the cosmos which assert that any outcome is ultimately unpredictable, the ludibrium of luck, chance, or chaos theory have determinist implications, as a logical consequence of the idea of predictability. But predestination usually refers to a specifically religious type of determinism, especially as found in various monotheistic systems where omniscience is attributed to God, including Christianity and Islam.

Predestination may be described under two types, with the basis for each found within their definition of free will. Between these poles, there is a complex variety of systematic differences, particularly difficult to describe because the foundational terms are not strictly equivalent between systems. The two poles of predestinarian belief may be usefully described in terms of their doctrinal comparison between the Creator's freedom, and the creature's freedom. These can be contrasted as either univocal, or equivocal conceptions of freedom.

In terms of ultimates, with God's decision to create as the ultimate beginning, and the ultimate outcome, a belief system has a doctrine of predestination if it teaches:

- God's decision, assignment or declaration concerning the lot of people is conceived as occurring in some sense prior to the outcome, and
- the decision is fully predictive of the outcome, and not merely probable.

There are numerous ways to describe the spectrum of beliefs concerning predestination in Christian thinking. To some extent, this spectrum has analogies in other monotheistic religions, although in other religions the term "predestination" may not be used. For example, teaching on predestination may vary in terms of three considerations:

- Is God's predetermining decision based solely on a knowledge of His own will, or does it also include a knowledge of whatever will happen?
• How particular is God's prior decision: is it concerned with particular persons and events, or is it limited to broad categories of people and things?
• How free is God in effecting His part in the eventual outcome? Is God bound or limited by conditions external to his own will, willingly or not, in order that what has been determined will come to pass?

Furthermore, the same sort of considerations apply to the freedom of man's will.
• Assuming that an individual had no choice in who, when and where to come into being: How are the choices of existence determined by what he is?
• Assuming that not all possible choices are available to him: How capable is the individual to desire all choices available, in order to choose from among them?
• How capable is an individual to put into effect what he desires?

Biblical support of predestination
Some Biblical verses often used as sources for Christian beliefs in predestination are below. Note that most of these verses do not distinguish between the conditional election (Arminian) and unconditional election (Calvinist), but are simply evidence of some type of election.
"For many are called, but few [are] chosen." (Matthew 22:14, KJV)

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:5 NIV)

"As soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve, began asking Him about the parables. And He was saying to them, "To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables, so that while seeing, they may see and not perceive, and while hearing, they may hear and not understand, otherwise they might return and be forgiven." (Mark 4:10-12, NASB)

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will," (Eph. 1:3-5, NASB)

"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified." (Rom. 8:28-30, NASB)

"... but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; ..." (1Co. 2:7, NASB)
"For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur." (Act. 4:27-28, NASB)

Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them. (Psa. 139:16, NASB)

"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth. "Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden." (Romans 9:15-18, NIV)

"The LORD said to Moses, "When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go." (Exodus 4:21, NIV)

"What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction? What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory— even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?" (Rom. 9:22-24, NIV)

"For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:8-10, NKJ)

"And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed." (Acts 13:48, ESV)

**Biblical support of free will**

Examples of Biblical passages which are used to argue for free will:

Deuteronomy 30:19 "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants,"

Joshua 24:15 "But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."
Ezekiel 18:32 "For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the LORD. Repent and live!"

I John 4:8 "He who does not love does not know God, for God is love." NKJ

Mark 16:16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

Romans 10:9 "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Matthew 9:29 "Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."

1 Thessalonians 4:14 "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

2 Corinthians 5:15 "He died for all, so that those who might live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised." NAB

Jeremiah 18:7-10 "The instant I speak concerning a nation, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it. And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it, and if it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it." NKJ

I Timothy 2: 3-4 "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." NKJ

II Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." NKJ

Note, however, that II Peter 3:1 and 3:8 address the "beloved," which are assumed to be the elect, or Christians. Therefore, the context may determine that II Peter 3:9 means "...but that all 'the elect' should come to repentance." This could mean that God will not lose even one of those he has chosen for salvation. This concept may be supported in John 10:28: "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of my hand."
Furthermore, Martin Luther wrote in his book "Bondage of the Will" that the "imperative does not imply the indicative." In other words, just because God commands us to believe does not indicate that we are capable of it.

Whichever side you believe, remember that predestination and election are biblical concepts. You must also remember that how you believe or not in predestination and/or election does not affect your salvation. Therefore, you should be gracious to other Christians who differ with you on this subject.

**Free Will**

Free will in theology is an important part of the debate on free will in general. This article discusses the doctrine of free will as it has been, and is, interpreted within the various branches of Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Zoroastrianism. Religions vary greatly in their response to the Standard argument against free will, and thus might appeal to any number of responses to "the paradox of free will" - the claim that omniscience and free will are incompatible.

**In Arminianism**

Christians influenced by Jacobus Arminius, such as Methodists, believe that while God is omnipotent and knows the choices that individuals will make, he still gives individuals the power to ultimately choose (or reject) everything, regardless of any internal or external conditions relating to the choice. Like John Calvin, Arminius affirmed total depravity, but Arminius believed that only prevenient grace allowed men to choose salvation:

Concerning grace and free will, this is what I teach according to the Scriptures and orthodox consent: Free will is unable to begin or to perfect any true and spiritual good, without grace.... This grace \( prœvenit \) goes before, accompanies, and follows; it excites, assists, operates that we will, and co-operates lest we will in vain.

Prevenient grace is divine grace which precedes human decision. It exists prior to and without reference to anything humans may have done. As humans are corrupted by the effects of sin, prevenient grace allows persons to engage their God-given free will to choose the salvation offered by God in Jesus Christ or to reject that salvific offer. Thomas Jay Oord offers perhaps the most cogent free will theology presupposing prevenient grace. What he calls "essential kenosis" says God acts preveniently to give freedom/agency to all creatures. This gift comes from God's eternal essence, and is therefore necessary. God remains free in choosing how to love, but the fact that God loves and therefore gives freedom/agency to others is a necessary part of what it means to be divine.
In Lutheranism

...man's will has some liberty to choose civil righteousness, and to work things subject to reason. But it has no power, without the Holy Ghost, to work the righteousness of God, that is, spiritual righteousness... –Augsburg Confession, Art. 18: Of Free Will

Lutherans adhere to divine monergism, the teaching that salvation is by God's act alone, and therefore reject the idea that humans in their fallen state have a free will concerning spiritual matters. Lutherans believe that although humans have free will concerning civil righteousness, they cannot work spiritual righteousness without the Holy Spirit, since righteousness in the heart cannot be wrought in the absence of the Holy Spirit. In other words, humanity is free to choose and act in every regard except for the choice of salvation.

Lutherans teach that sinners, while capable of doing works that are outwardly "good," are not capable of doing works that satisfy God's justice. Every human thought and deed is infected with sin and sinful motives.

Orthodox Lutheran theology holds that God made the world, including humanity, perfect, holy and sinless. However, Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, trusting in their own strength, knowledge, and wisdom. Consequently, people are saddled with original sin, born sinful and unable to avoid committing sinful acts. For Lutherans, original sin is the "chief sin, a root and fountainhead of all actual sins."

According to Lutherans, God preserves his creation, in doing so cooperates with everything that happens, and guides the universe. While God cooperates with both good and evil deeds, with evil deeds he does so only inasmuch as they are deeds, but not with the evil in them. God concurs with an act's effect, but he does not cooperate in the corruption of an act or the evil of its effect. Lutherans believe everything exists for the sake of the Christian Church, and that God guides everything for its welfare and growth. Lutherans believe that the elect are predestined to salvation. Lutherans believe Christians should be assured that they are among the predestined.

Lutherans believe that all who trust in Jesus alone can be certain of their salvation, for it is in Christ's work and his promises in which their certainty lies. According to Lutheranism, the central final hope of the Christian is "the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting" as confessed in the Apostles' Creed rather than predestination. Conversion or regeneration in the strict sense of the term is the work of divine grace and power by which man, born of the flesh, and void of all power to think, to will, or to do any good thing, and dead in sin is, through the gospel and holy baptism, taken from a state of sin and spiritual death under God's wrath into a state of spiritual life of faith and grace, rendered able to will and to do what is spiritually good and, especially, led to accept the benefits of the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.
Lutherans disagree with those that make predestination the source of salvation rather than Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. Lutherans reject the Calvinist doctrine of the perseverance of the saints. Like both Calvinist camps, Lutherans view the work of salvation as monergistic in that "the natural [that is, corrupted and divinely unrenewed] powers of man cannot do anything or help towards salvation" (Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration, art. ii, par. 71), and Lutherans go further along the same lines as the Free Grace advocates to say that the recipient of saving grace need not cooperate with it. Hence, Lutherans believe that a true Christian (that is, a genuine recipient of saving grace) can lose his or her salvation, "[b]ut the cause is not as though God were unwilling to grant grace for perseverance to those in whom He has begun the good work... [but that these persons] wilfully turn away..." (Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration, art. xi, par. 42). Unlike Calvinists, Lutherans do not believe in a predestination to damnation. Instead, Lutherans teach eternal damnation is a result of the unbeliever's sins, rejection of the forgiveness of sins, and unbelief.

**In Calvinism**

Calvinist Protestants embrace the idea that God chose who would be saved and who would be not saved prior to the creation. They quote Ephesians 1:4 "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight" and also 2:8 "For it is by grace you are saved, through faith, and this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God." One of the strongest defenders of this theological point of view was the American Puritan preacher and theologian Jonathan Edwards.

Edwards believed that indeterminism was incompatible with individual dependence on God and hence with his sovereignty. He reasoned that if individuals' responses to God's grace are contra-causally free, then their salvation depends partly on them and therefore God's sovereignty is not "absolute and universal." Edward's book *Freedom of the Will* defends theological determinism. In this book, Edwards attempts to show that libertarianism is incoherent. For example, he argues that by 'self-determination' the libertarian must mean either that one's actions including one's acts of willing are preceded by an act of free will or that one's acts of will lack sufficient causes. The first leads to an infinite regress while the second implies that acts of will happen accidentally and hence can't make someone "better or worse, any more than a tree is better than other trees because it oftener happens to be lit upon by a swan or nightingale; or a rock more vicious than other rocks, because rattlesnakes have happened oftener to crawl over it."

It should not be thought that this view completely denies freedom of choice, however. It claims that man is free to act on his strongest moral impulse and volition, which is externally determined, but is not free to act contrary to them, or to alter them. Proponents, such as John L. Girardeau, have indicated their belief that moral neutrality is impossible; that even if it were possible, and one were equally inclined to contrary options, one could make no choice at all; that if one is inclined, however slightly, toward one option, then that person will necessarily choose that one over any others.
Some non-Calvinist Christians attempt a reconciliation of the dual concepts of predestination and free will by pointing to the situation of God as Christ. In taking the form of a man, a necessary element of this process was that Jesus Christ lived the existence of a mortal. When Jesus was born he was not born with the omniscient power of God the Creator, but with the mind of a human child - yet he was still God in essence. The precedent this creates is that God is able to will the abandonment of His knowledge, or ignore knowledge, while remaining fully God.

Thus it is not inconceivable that although omniscience demands that God knows what the future holds for individuals, it is within his power to deny this knowledge in order to preserve individual free will. Other theologians argue that the Calvinist-Edwardsean view suggests that if all human volitions are predetermined by God, then all actions dictated by fallen will of man necessarily satisfy His sovereign decree. Hence, it is impossible to act outside of God's perfect will, a conclusion some non-Calvinists claim poses a serious problem for ethics and moral theology.

An early proposal toward such a reconciliation states that God is, in fact, not aware of future events, but rather, being eternal, He is outside time, and sees the past, present, and future as one whole creation. Consequently, it is not as though God would know "in advance" that Jeffrey Dahmer would become guilty of homicide years prior to the event as an example, but that He was aware of it from all eternity, viewing all time as a single present. This was the view offered by Boëthius in Book V of the *Consolation of Philosophy*.

Calvinist theologian Loraine Boettner argued that the doctrine of divine foreknowledge does not escape the alleged problems of divine foreordination. He wrote that "what God foreknows must, in the very nature of the case, be as fixed and certain as what is foreordained; and if one is inconsistent with the free agency of man, the other is also. Foreordination renders the events certain, while foreknowledge presupposes that they are certain." Some Christian theologians, feeling the bite of this argument, have opted to limit the doctrine of foreknowledge if not do away with it altogether, thus forming a new school of thought, similar to Socinianism and process theology, called open theism.
Comparison of Protestants
This table summarizes the classical views of three different Protestant beliefs.

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For a treatment of free will in relation to theodicy and the Bible, with a comparison and critique of the Protestant positions held by open theism and classical theism, see Theodicy and the Bible, especially Section 5 “Free will defense (theodicy).” There it is documented that John Calvin asserts that everyone possesses free will in the sense of volitionality (*Institutes*, II.2.7).

In Catholicism
Theologians of the Catholic Church universally embrace the idea of free will, but generally do not view free will as existing apart from or in contradiction to grace. St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas wrote extensively on free will, with Augustine focusing on the importance of free will in his responses to the Manichaeans, and also on the limitations of a concept of unlimited free will as denial of grace, in his refutations of Pelagius. Catholic Christianity's emphasis on free will and grace is often contrasted with predestination in Reformed Protestant Christianity, especially after the Counter-Reformation, but in understanding differing conceptions of free will it is just as important to understand the differing conceptions of the nature of God, focusing on the idea that God can be all-powerful and all-knowing even while people continue to exercise free will, because God does not exist in time (see the link to Catholic Encyclopedia below for more).

I herewith also pull the attention to Schillebeeckx, Edward to his book:"Mensen als verhaal van God"(Schillebeeckx, Edward: "Mensen als verhaal van God"; Uitgeverij H. Nelissen B.V., Baarn 1989 p. 109) where Schillebeeckx states:""Daring to call human beings to life creatively is from God's perspective a vote of confidence in humankind and in its history, without any condition being placed on human beings or any guarantee being asked of them. The creation of human beings is a blank check for which God alone is a guarantor. By creating human beings with their own finite and free will, God voluntarily renounces power. That makes [God] to a high degree dependent on human beings and vulnerable." [ "Doubt in God's Omnipotence: "When Bad Things Happen to Good People" in For the Sake of the Gospel, 93. Schillebeeckx’s claim that this view of God’s power as "non-authoritarian, vulnerable, even helpless" (Dutch: "Niet-autoritaire,kwetsbare, zelfs ontmachtig ") should serve as a model for how ministerial authority is to be exercised in the church. (Church: The Human Story of God, 221; Mensen als verhaal van God, 239) is intended as a critique of an authoritarian exercise of leadership by those in the ecclesiastical hierarchy. That model of ministerial authority, particularly in the English translation, is problematic, especially for women who have been characterized as "vulnerable" and even at times "helpless," and who are prevented
structurally from exercising authority in relation to word and sacrament. A more adequate expression of Jesus’ exercise of authority is reflected in Schillebeeckx’s citation from Aquinas: "The power and rule of Christ over human beings is exercised by truth, justice and above all love." (III Sent., d. 13, q. 2; ST III, q. 8 and q. 59, a. 4).

**Election**
The word "election," or "elect," comes from the Greek word *eklectos* and occurs about 25 times in the New Testament. It signifies "to pick out, choose, to pick or choose out for one’s self, a choosing one out of many."¹ The one who does the choosing, the electing, is God.

1. John 13:18, "I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, "He who eats My bread has lifted up his heel against Me."

2. Eph. 1:4,"He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him."

3. 1 Tim. 5:21, "I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality."

Again, there is debate within Christianity as to the means and purpose of God's election. Some say that God elects individuals and others say He only elects nations and/or groups of people. If God elects individuals this means that God is predestining them, electing them into salvation and He is not electing others. This does not sit well with many Christians. On the other hand, some Christians state that God elects based upon a foreknowledge of what an individual will do.

Whichever side you believe, remember that predestination and election are biblical concepts. You must also remember that how you believe or not in predestination and/or election does not affect your salvation. Therefore, you should be gracious to other Christians who differ with you on this subject.

**Justification**
Justification is being declared legally righteous by God. This justification is received by faith alone (Rom. 4:1-6), in the work of Christ fulfilling the Law in his earthly ministry (1 Pet. 2:22), and his removing of sin by his sacrifice. Justification is a gift from God (Rom. 3:24) and is received apart from the works of the Law (Rom. 3:28; Gal. 2:21).
Eternally Secure (My personal favorite and the toughest to nail down)
In a nut shell a belief that once saved is always saved. Many will disagree with this issue and that is okay.

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand," (John 10:27-28). Christ has done all that is needed for our salvation and he says that those who have eternal life will never perish. Those who appeared to be Christian but fell away never were Christians to begin with (1 John 2:19). Eternal security does not mean that we have a license to sin (Rom. 5:21-6:2) and those who state thus do not understand God's ability to regenerate the sinner and turn his heart to repentance. Because of the diversity of opinion on this issue, we does not condemn or pass judgment upon those who believe it is possible to lose one's salvation. However, we oppose the position that a person's security before God is maintained through his good works since his would be works righteousness.

Regeneration
Upon belief a sinner is regenerated; that is, he is changed into a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17) and is then able to resist his sin and seek to increase in sanctification before the Lord. Those thus regenerated do not seek to abide in sin, though they do fall into it, but war against it and repent of sin before the Lord.

Holiness doctrine/movement
The holiness movement refers to a set of beliefs and practices emerging from the Methodist Christian church in the mid-19th century. The movement is distinguished by its emphasis on John Wesley's doctrine of "Christian perfection" - the belief that it is possible to live free of voluntary sin - and particularly by the belief that this may be accomplished instantaneously through a second work of grace.

The holiness movement seeks to promote a Christianity that is personal, practical, life-changing, and thoroughly revivalistic. The key beliefs of the holiness movement are (1) regeneration by grace through faith, with the assurance of salvation by the witness of the Holy Spirit; (2) entire sanctification as a second definite work of grace, received by faith, through grace, and accomplished by the baptism and power of the Holy Spirit, by which one is enabled to live a holy life.

In the context of the holiness movement, the first work of grace is salvation from sin, and without it no amount of human effort can achieve holiness. People are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ who made atonement for human sins.

The second work of grace refers to a personal experience subsequent to regeneration, in which the believer is cleansed from the carnal nature, and is empowered by the Holy Spirit to lead a holy life. Most teach that it is still possible for the sanctified to sin, and one grows in grace after this second spiritual experience and should strive for perfection.
The experience of sanctification enables the believer to live a holy life. Most holiness people interpret this as living a life free of willful sin or the practice of sin. The motive is to live a Christ-like life, to be conformed to the image of Christ and not the world. Since holiness is the supernatural work of a transformed heart by the Holy Spirit, many holiness churches are careful to follow moral principles and what they perceive as the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Most followers of the holiness movement believe as Christ said, that love fulfills the entire law of God.

Holiness groups tend to oppose antinomianism, which is a theological framework which states God's law is done away with. Holiness groups believe the moral aspects of the law of God are pertinent for today, inasmuch as the law was completed in Christ. This position does attract opposition from some evangelicals, who charge that such an attitude refutes or slights Reformation (particularly Calvinist) teachings that believers are justified by grace through faith and not through any efforts or states of mind on their part, that the effects of original sin remain even in the most faithful of souls.

**Sanctification**
Sanctification is the process by which the Holy Spirit makes us more like Christ in all that we do, think, and desire and increases our ability to repent from sin -- by God's grace, (1 Thess. 4:7; Eph. 2:10; 1 Tim. 4:4; 1 Peter. 3:15; 2 Tim. 2:25). This process continues all of the Christian's life and is the result of salvation, not a cause of it, nor a contributing factor to it. Furthermore, the effort of sanctification does not maintain the believer's salvation.
Comparison among Protestants
This table summarizes the classical views of three different Protestant beliefs about salvation.

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Election</td>
<td>Unconditional election to salvation only</td>
<td>Unconditional election to salvation and damnation (double-predestination)</td>
<td>Conditional election on the basis of foreseen faith or unbelief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justification</td>
<td>Justification of all people completed at Christ’s death</td>
<td>Justification is limited to those predestined to salvation, completed at Christ’s death</td>
<td>Justification made possible for all through Christ's death, but only completed upon placing faith in Jesus (hypothetical universalism)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conversion</td>
<td>Monergistic, through the means of grace, resistible</td>
<td>Monergistic, through the inner calling of the Holy Spirit, irresistible</td>
<td>Synergistic, resistible due to the common, sufficient grace of free will</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preservation and apostasy</td>
<td>Falling away is possible, but reflection on one's faith provides assurance of preservation</td>
<td>Perseverance of the saints; the eternally elect in Christ will necessarily persevere in faith and subsequent holiness until the end</td>
<td>Preservation is conditional upon continued faith in Christ; reflection on one's faith provides assurance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are probably ten other views on this subject, or modifications to the above terms, terms like reformed and sometimes people will add points or remove points. I like to use the word "reformed" to confuse the scoffers.
Greek Breakdown of John 3:16

John 3:14
GNT Morph
3:14 καὶ καθὼς Μωϋσῆς ὑψωσεν τὸν ὄφιν ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ οὕτως ὑψωθὴναι δεῖ τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου

English (NASB)  Root Form (Greek)

Strong's

"As G2531 καθὼς kathōs
Moses G3475 Μωϋσῆς Mōysis
lifted up G5312 ὑψῶ hypsoō
the serpent G3789 ὄφις ophis
in G1722 ἐν en
the wilderness, G2048 ἐρήμος erēmos
even so G3779 οὕτω(ς) houtō(s)
must G1163 δεῖ dei
the Son G5207 υἱὸς huios
of Man G444 ἄνθρωπος anthrōpos
be lifted up: G5312 ὑψῶ hypsoō

Textus Receptus
3:14 καὶ καθὼς Μωϋσῆς ὑψωσεν τὸν ὄφιν ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ οὕτως ὑψωθὴναι δεῖ τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου

John 3:14
GNT Morph
3:15 ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων ἐν αὐτῷ ἔχῃ ζωὴν αἰώνιον

English (NASB)  Strong'sRoot Form (Greek)

so that G2443 ἵνα hina
whoever G3956 πᾶς pas
believes G4100 πιστεύω pisteuō
will in G1722 ἐν en
Him G846 αὐτός autos
have G2192 ἔχω echō
eternal G166 αἰώνιος aiōnios
life, G2222 ζωή zōē

Textus Receptus
3:15 ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ ἀπόληται, ἀλλ᾽ ἔχῃ ζωὴν αἰώνιον
John 3:16

GNT Morph

3:16 οὕτως γὰρ ἠγάπησεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν κόσμον ὡστε τὸν υἱόν τὸν μονογενῆ ἐδωκεν ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ ἀπόληται ἀλλ’ ἔχῃ ζωὴν αἰώνιον

English (NASB)  Strong's Root Form (Greek)

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

Textus Receptus

3:16 Οὕτως γὰρ ἠγάπησεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν κόσμον ὡστε τὸν υἱόν αὐτοῦ τὸν μονογενῆ ἐδωκεν ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ ἀπόληται ἀλλ’ ἔχῃ ζωὴν αἰώνιον

Definition

Believes g4100 πιστεῦω pisteūō

1. to think to be true, to be persuaded of, to credit, place confidence in
   1. of the thing believed
   2. in a moral or religious reference
      1. used in the NT of the conviction and trust to which a man is impelled by a certain inner and higher prerogative and law of soul
      2. to trust in Jesus or God as able to aid either in obtaining or in doing something: saving faith
      3. mere acknowledgment of some fact or event: intellectual faith
   2. to entrust a thing to one, i.e. his fidelity
      1. to be intrusted with a thing
Lesson 9 Spreading the Good News

Name ___________________________________  Date ______________

E-mail _________________________________________________________

Please answer these questions with a one or two sentence answer.

1. Did Jesus teach salvation to Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman?

2. Did Jesus teach salvation to these two people and not to the 5 or 4 thousand?
3. Why didn’t Jesus teach salvation to the 5 or 4 thousand and only in secret to one person?

4. What is the Gospel to you?
5. How did you learn of the Truth?

6. Did the Truth set you free?
7. Define these religious words or terms…in biblical terms.

Pre-destination:

Free Will:

Election:

Eternally Secure:
Holiness doctrine:

Sanctification:

8. Which religious terms best describes your position?
9. Bible Time... Tell me the names of the people and a little about them, the people who were at Lord Jesus’s crucifixion.
10. What were Lord Jesus’s last words on the cross. I think there are seven statements.
11. Do you believe in Jesus of Nazareth as a historical figure and/or as God?

12. Does this belief save you from Hell?

13. Does the Lord Jesus know you? Why or why not. 2 pages
Some of these terms are on God’s side of the fence, but nonetheless, we have to know these terms on a human scale. Some of these terms mean very little and all of the terms have some truth to them. Remember not to be caught in these terms, but be caught in Jesus’s love. I don’t care if you know any of these terms, as long as you tell others about the Kingdom of Heaven with love and grace. Maybe I’ll add love and grace as terms to be defined for I too struggle with these and most things.

Many believe you can lose your salvation, it is okay to believe it as long as you don’t judge others, I personally believe you cannot lose it but it is not a deal breaker if you do believe it, so please explain where you stand and why. You cannot fail this question. I personally have a problem if you are self-righteous and feel you can never sin after accepting Jesus in your heart. I meet lots of sinless perfection people and the next one that tells me they are sinless and they have defeated the flesh and our old nature, I will pour a bucket of cold water on their head and see if they react as Jesus did at his crucifixion. Some of these people are lucierfians and don’t know it.

**What do you think of Calvinism, Arminianism or Lutherism?**

All three have great points and ideas full of truth and at times that don’t make biblical sense. I know that will rock a few of you, but you need to examine them carefully. I like Calvinism because I was trained in it but today I question parts of it and like parts of the 7 point Calvinist. It really doesn’t matter what we like but you need to know the basics because someone who thinks he is smarter than you will question you on these matters.

God bless and thank you for hanging in there. God has great plans for you. You are going to be a huge part in His works.

**TLC Bible College**

Dr. Jeff Durbin  
PO Box 3060  
Chino Valley, AZ 86323

It is best to e-mail either one of the professors for information. You can choose one professor or the other. Or one will be assigned to you.

You can fax the assignment to us (928) 468-0675

**I prefer that you e-mail us. Sometimes it takes a week or so for us to return your grades to you.**

It has been said that a weak or powerless Gospel is not really a Gospel at all.

Please pray for us. We need prayer too. We make mistakes and fall just as easy as you and others do.
Prayer:
Thank you, Father, for your faithfulness to us. Lord, how rich is your grace; how infinite is your patience; how long you delay and warn, beseech and urge, and try to turn us back. How wonderful is your saving grace that sends again and again a Savior into our life to restore us and to bring us back. Lord, we pray that we will give heed to this voice, this blessed one who has come into our hearts and lives to redeem us, to save us, and to deliver us. Help us to walk with him and know the glory of a life of victory, so that with the apostle Paul we can say, "Thanks be to God who in Christ always leads us in triumph and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere."
In Jesus' name. Amen.

May Adonai bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

In Jesus' precious name   Amen

May God Bless You.