

## WITNESSING WITH A WATERED DOWN GOSPEL

The terminology used today in witnessing is far from what God has given us in his word through our pattern the Apostle Paul.

“Right off the bat” God’s will is to:

1 Tim 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

How does God want men to be save today?

Is it through works or believing whatever you want?

The Gospel that saves you today is found in 1 Cor 15:3

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins** according to the scriptures;

1 Cor 15:4 And that **he was buried, and that he rose again the third day** according to the scriptures:

I believe there is Power in this gospel.

1 Cor 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the **power of God.**

So if you sharing this you can know you are saved

and have the power of God

and

to know His knowledge (wisdom) for today it is the

1 Cor 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a **mystery**, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

This is what people needs to hear,

And you can only find it by rightly dividing the word of truth.

Many of us were taught in our early Christian lives

by men that we thought were “men of God”

and that God told them

to tell us what is right for us

and they would not lie. RIGHT!

They taught us many things like “What Bible to use”,

“How much Money should we give”,

“What to wear and not to wear” and “How to be save base on their denomination guide lines”.

I can remember the Southern Baptist minister at our home and all of us on our knees and the pastor saying to repent and confess your sins and ask Jesus into your heart.

And as that was not enough, Sunday night walking down to the baptismal pool and sealing it with a water ceremony.

Many of you can probably say the same thing.

But what did they do with the Gospel that saves today?

Did they give it to us in clarity?

Or did they add to or water it down

The Word is CLEAR and our minds should be clear about WHAT gospel is for today.

So today there is NO difference in the terms they use to share the gospel.

The watering down terms like “Give your heart to Jesus”, “Invite Jesus into Your Life” “Make Jesus the Lord of your Life” or “Try Jesus you might like it” and many more.

The Gospel tract that many of us use to witness.

“Are you Going to Heaven”.

Has a check list.

Obeying the Ten Commandments

Doing your best

Living a good life

Good works

Trying to obey the Golden Rule

Tithing, or giving money to the church

Church membership or attendance

Prayers

Water baptism

Holy communion

Born of Christian parents

Confirmation

Penance

Each one seems very important

BUT it waters down the truth and adds to the already finish work of Jesus Christ.

Just about everyone you talk with will say one of the above will get you to heaven.

In Romans 3:10-18

Rom 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Rom 3:11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

Rom 3:12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Rom 3:13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

Rom 3:14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

Rom 3:15 Their feet are swift to shed blood:

Rom 3:16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:

Rom 3:17 And the way of peace have they not known:

Rom 3:18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

So there's go over half of the check list that one might rely on to get saved.

Recently I call a few churches in our area and ask them how you get to heaven.

The Unity Church said:

They do not deal with the fact on going to heaven but deal with a kingdom on earth.

When they go into their transition (death) their spirit is in alignment with god and that he loves them no matter what they are or what they do.

All beliefs have a path to god and that god has a place for them.

You do not have to jump through any certain loops to get there.

Their bible is what ever you have.

Comments: What is wrong with that?

The Quaker church:

He said that was a good question!

His ideal was believed in Jesus Christ as your Saviour.

If you accepted him in your life

For your forgiveness of your sins and that Jesus risen from the dead and he came earth to take them away.

If you believe this BUT then you have to modify your life after Jesus Christ.

You cannot just say that you believe in Jesus Christ and go out and live like Satan as in living in sin and going against the scriptures.

They also believe you can lose your salvation if you turn your back on Jesus.

Peter talks about that as a dog returns to his vomit.

God does not turn His back on us but we turn on Him

Comments: Where is the clarity?

Charismatic: He would rely heavy on the Holy Spirit to lead him to say what he needs to say.

He use thee are you a Liar, Thief and adultery steps.

So he would show them who they are lost person and then as far as trusting what would get you to heaven he would use many things like using the Law to show them and how Jesus sacrifices work and pray with them and get them to pray.

Comments: Where is the gospel?

I was in the Sprint store and as I was talking with the young lady.

She asks me what I did for a living and I told her that I was a truck driver and a Preacher.

She went on to tell me that she sometimes go to a Methodists church and sometime a Catholic church and that she could not get anything out of it.

So I pop the question and said Jen if you die today on stood in front of God and He said “Why should I let you into Heaven” and you had one thing to say what would you say?

She said that’s just it I do not know.

I try to do well.

I get up wanting to do things be I fine myself being lazy.

I thing that I would be better off turning to the Amish to live like them.

I said Jen listen to what you are saying.

Your are saying exactly what those churches are telling you.

You are trying to work to get there.

So I went on to share how Christ died for her and

you put your trust in that and that along and you are saved.

Boy her eyes lit up like a Christmas tree.

We went on to talk more about the doctrine for us today.

My new neighbor had no knowledge of the Jesus Christ or the Bible and as I was talking to him he ask me “WHAT DO I DO TO BE SAVED!

I went on to share with him how Christ died, was buried and rose again.

I’ve come to the conclusion that people have been lied to so long that when you share to truth for today they thing you are lying to them.

In today’s world we do find people that have trusted in Christ

but

it seems that always they want to add something to the finish work of Christ.

They are some that believe and quote Acts 2:38

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

They say this and

is it Biblical? YES

And you ask them how do you repent?

or they say for you to tell God you are SORRY that you are that way and you will not do it again.

How many times in your life have you told someone that you are sorry and turn right around and did it again?

I’ve heard that I SORRY DADDY so much with my children that I wanted to block it out.

BEING SORRY DOES NOT SAVE YOU.

THE PROBLEM IS STILL THERE.

POINT THEM TO THE CROSS THAT IS WHAT THEY NEED TO HEAR.

When you go from unbelief to believing the gospel that saves  
that is repenting.

You change your mind or thinking.

Should you tell some to TURN FROM THEIR SINS?

If so How can you turn from your sins?

I know I still have problems and for me to tell some one else to turn from theirs would be wrong  
very wrong.

Sin is still a problem for us believers.

Rom 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the  
heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Rom 6:18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

So instead of them turning from their sins point them to the one who died for them.

Getting back to Acts 2:38

The majority of the churches today base their beliefs somehow or some way in the verse.

Is it scripture YES?

Is it Dispensational NO!

Does it save anyone today? NO



There are basically three things they say. You have to (1) repent and (2) be Baptized in Jesus's name (3) receive the Holy Spirit.

But where is the Cross work of our Lord Jesus?

1 Cor. 15:3, 4 Christ died was buried and rose again.

WE HAVE TO WITNESS WITH TRUTH

Witnessing with this gospel Acts 2:38

does not save you today.

It waters down the Truth.

And takes the SIMPLICITY out of the Cross.

We heard a woman on the say that God will is to have all men to be saved (we got excited about this) then she said that the gospel that saves was ACTS 2:38

Other terms

Lordship Salvation / "MAKE JESUS THE LORD OF YOUR LIFE

says that Jesus Christ must be made the Lord of one's life, in every area of one's life, if a person is going to be saved.

This teaching tell you that there is no salvation if Jesus Christ isn't the Lord of one's life, and has one's obedience and surrender of will in every area of life.

(John MacArthur says this

**Fourth**, Scripture teaches that real faith inevitably produces a changed life (2 Cor. 5:17). Salvation includes a transformation of the inner person (Gal. 2:20). The nature of the Christian is new and different (Rom. 6:6). The

unbroken pattern of sin and enmity with God will not continue when a person is born again (1 John 3:9-10). Those with genuine faith follow Christ (John 10:27), love their brothers (1 John 3:14), obey God's commandments (1 John 2:3; John 15:14), do the will of God (Matt. 23:39), abide in God's Word (John 8:31), keep God's Word (John 17:6), do good works (Eph. 2:10), and continue in the faith (Col. 1:21-23; Heb. 3:14).

In contrast, easy-believism teaches that although some spiritual fruit is inevitable, that fruit might not be visible to others and Christians can even lapse into a state of permanent spiritual barrenness.

**Sixth**, Scripture teaches that Jesus is Lord of all, and the faith He demands involves unconditional surrender (Rom. 6:17-18; 10:9-10). In other words, Christ does not bestow eternal life on those whose hearts remain set against Him (James 4:6). Surrender to Jesus' lordship is not an addendum to the biblical terms of salvation; the summons to submission is at the heart of the gospel invitation throughout Scripture.

In contrast, easy-believism teaches that submission to Christ's supreme authority is not germane to the saving transaction.

**Seventh**, Scripture teaches that those who truly believe will love Christ (1 Pet. 1:8-9; Rom. 8:28-30; 1 Cor. 16:22). They will therefore long to obey Him (John 14:15, 23).

In contrast, easy-believism teaches that Christians may fall into a state of lifelong carnality.

**Eighth**, Scripture teaches that behavior is an important test of faith. Obedience is evidence that one's faith is real (1 John 2:3). On the other hand, the person who remains utterly unwilling to obey Christ does not evidence true faith (1 John 2:4).

In contrast, easy-believism teaches that disobedience and prolonged sin are no reason to doubt the reality of one's faith.

FAITH IS NOT A WORK

IF YOU TAKE THE WORD OF GOD THAT IS NOT ADDRESS TO YOU IT IS UNBELIEF IT IS NOT OF FAITH.

**Ninth**, Scripture teaches that genuine believers may stumble and fall, but they will persevere in the faith (1 Cor. 1:8). Those who later turn completely away from the Lord show that they were never truly born again (1 John 2:19).

In contrast, easy-believism teaches that a true believer may utterly forsake Christ and come to the point of not believing.

Comments: FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND THE WORD rightly divided you will be tossed to & fro.

1 Cor 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

That price was the blood of Jesus

THATS HOW WE CAN CALL HIM LORD

“GIVE YOUR HEART AND LIFE TO THE LORD”

What is wrong with this?

God said in Prov 23:26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

Is this something that you want to tell a lost man

What does the word say about your heart?

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Now does God call a lost man SON?

NO

How can you give your heart to God if you are unsaved?

He want you to first trust His Son that he died for you.

Spirit of a lost man is separated from God

Eph 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins:

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Eph 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

This what we need to show the lost man.

Where was your heart then?

Salvation is not what you give God,

It is what He gave you!

THEN THEY WILL SYA “ASK JESUS TO COME INTO YOUR HEART”

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

WHO IS HE TALKING TO?

THE LOST MAN

OR THE CHURCH IN AGES TO COME

WHAT YOUR HEART NEEDS IS:

Rom 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have **obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine** which was delivered you.

Give them truth that they can stand on.

FROM THE WAY OF THE MASTER

"How do I witness to someone I know, like a family member?" (Rom 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.)

For most of us, it is far easier to witness to a stranger than to someone we know and respect. An effective way to soften the message without compromise is to speak in the "first person" or in testimonial form. Say something like, "I didn't realize that the Bible warns that for every idle word I have spoken, I will have to give an account on Judgment Day. I thought that as long as I believed in God and tried to live a good life, I would go to heaven when I died. I was so wrong. Jesus said that if I as much as looked with lust, I had committed adultery in my heart, and that there was nothing I could do to wash away my sins. I knew that if God judged me by the Ten Commandments on Judgment Day, I would end up guilty, and go to hell."

"It was when I acknowledged my sins that I began to understand why Jesus died. It was to take the punishment for my sins, and the sins of the world." Then, depending on the person's openness, you may ask, "How do you think you will do on Judgment Day, if God judges you by the Ten Commandments?"

"How do I reach my neighbors with the gospel?" (Prov 27:10 Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: for better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off.)

Neighbors are like family. We don't want to offend them unnecessarily, because we have to live with them. We need to be rich in good works toward all men, but especially our neighbors. The Bible reveals that this is a legitimate means of evangelism. Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in

heaven" (Matthew 5:16). It is God's will that "with well doing you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men" (1 Peter 2:15).

Sinners may disagree with what you believe, but seeing your good works makes them think, "I don't believe what he believes, but he sure does. He certainly is sincere in his faith." A friendly wave, a gift for no reason, fresh-baked goods, etc., can pave the way for evangelism. Offer to mow your neighbors' lawn or help do some painting. Volunteer to pick up their mail and newspapers while they're on vacation. Compliment them on their landscaping and ask for gardening tips. Invite them over for a barbecue or dessert. Pray for an opportunity to share the gospel, and be prepared for it when it comes.

"How should I witness to someone who belongs to a denomination, who I suspect isn't trusting the Savior?" (Mat 8:14 And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever.)

The most effective way to speak about the issues of eternity to a religious person is not to get sidetracked from the essentials of salvation. Upon hearing a person's background, we may feel an obligation to speak to issues such as infant baptism, transubstantiation, etc. However, it is wise rather to build on the points of agreement between the Bible and the person's denomination, such as the virgin birth, the cross, and so on. One point of agreement will almost certainly be the Ten Commandments. They are the key to bringing any religious person to a saving knowledge of the gospel.

After someone is converted to Jesus Christ, the Bible will come alive and he will be led into all truth by the indwelling Holy Spirit. God's Word will then give him light, and he will forsake religious tradition as he is led by God. While there are strong biblical arguments that may convince unregenerate people that their church's traditions contradict Holy Scripture, there is a difficulty. Some religious people hold the teachings of their church to be on a par with, or of greater authority than, Holy Scripture. It is therefore often futile to try to convince them intellectually that their trust should be in the person of Jesus Christ, rather than in their own righteousness or in their church traditions. For this reason we should aim at the conscience, rather than the intellect. Take them through the Law of God (the Commandments) to show that they are condemned despite their works, and strongly emphasize that we are saved by grace, and grace alone, rather than by trusting in our own righteousness or religious traditions.

If they are open to the gospel, and are interested in what God's Word says in reference to their church's teachings, they will listen to Scripture. For example, in Matthew 8:14 we see that Peter (whom the Roman Catholic church maintains was the first pope) was married, as were many of the other apostles (see 1 Corinthians 9:5).

JOEL OSTEN?

FROM THE TEEN DAILY

The first step in becoming a Christian is to know that we are all sinners. In Romans 3:23 it clearly states, " for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." The word sin is plural, this means that all it takes is one sin and your going to Hell. How do we know you will die just for one sin? Because in Romans 6:23 it states, " The wages of sin is death."

Wow, were in a little predicament are we not. We now know we all have sinned and now we are all going to die because of it. Now if that doesn't ruin your day I don't know what will.

Does this story have a happy ending? In John 3:3 it says, " Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." Hmm, things are starting to look a little up here. The Lord shows us that even though we are going to die, we can get off at the next exit and go to heaven, but only if we are born again.

Well, I have already been born once and from what my Mom has told me, I don't know if I would really want to go through that again. So how do we become born again? In John 14:6 Jesus says, " I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Bingo!! There is our exit sign right there. This shows us that we can get out off this Hell bound road by going through Jesus Christ. So this is the only way.

OK turn your blinker on cause here we go. Romans 10:9-11 says, " 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. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. " It also says, " Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

There you have it, all we have to do is confess our sins and in 2 Corinthians 5:15, " and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again." That's it!! Confess and leave your past life behind you. Once you accept Him into your heart its a new beginning, a new life. " Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone who hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and dine with him, and him with me." Revelation 3:20. There is your invitation, the time is now and He just knocked on the door. Will you open the door and let Him in, or will you keep it shut? Its your move now.

Before you can open the door we must look at 5 quick things to make sure we have everything straight:

- 1.) We have established that we all are sinners.
- 2.) Do you want forgiveness for these sins?
- 3.) We learned that Jesus died and rose again.
- 4.) Are you willing to surrender your life to Jesus Christ?
- 5.) Are you ready to invite Jesus into your heart and life?

If you agreed and answered yes to the following, it is time to take the biggest and the greatest step of your life. It is time to turn the knob and let Jesus into your heart and life. I now ask that you pray this prayer with me and open the door to your new life.

Dear Heavenly Father:

I come to you today in hopes that I may be able to leave this past life that I have led and to come to You for salvation and the promise of eternal life. Lord, I know that I am a sinner and that I have fallen short of Your glory. But Lord I know I should go to Hell for my sins but I want to ask you for forgiveness. I believe that Your Son died for me, and I want to spend the rest of my life serving you. As I start my new life with you Lord I ask that I stay close to You and that You help me through my struggles. I love you Lord and I want to spend the rest of my life living and loving only You. In Jesus name I pray. AMEN

What is wrong with this?

Let me share these statistics with you

In 1940 you know what the top teen age problems where?

- 1) Talking in class 1999 – Drugs



- 2) Chewing Gum 1999 Alcohol
- 3) Acting Rude 1999 Pregnancy
- 4) Running in Hall 1999 Suicide
- 5) Dress Code 1999 Rape

WHAT HAPPEN?

JOSH MCDOWELL "THE LAST CHRISTIAN GENERATION"

NO FOUNDATIONAL BELIEF SYSTEM

Non Christian

Christian

Satisfied with ethics/character

90%

91%

Physically hurt/somewhat angered

67%

63%

Lied to a parent

93%

93%

Lied to a teacher

85%

83%

Cheated on a test

76%

74%

## WHAT HAPPENED?

### Affiliation Stability of General Public

Attend Weekly: 25%

Inactives: 75%

Wouldn't switch: 96%

Might Switch 4%

Wouldn't Switch:  
80%

Might  
Switch:  
20%

**Only 16% of Population Might Switch, but probably won't**  
**(4% X 25% + 20% X 75% = 16%)**

### Understanding the difference

**Attendees (committed) 25%**

**Non-attendees (uncommitted)  
75%**

Already attend weekly

Don't attend anywhere

Strong church social ties

Few church social ties

Steeped in False doctrine

Superficial belief system

Hard to teach truth

Easy to teach truth

**the religious cafeteria junky**

**Asked of the 75% who don't attend weekly:**

**"Some observers maintain that few people are actually abandoning their religious traditions. Rather, they draw selective beliefs and**

**practices, even if they do not attend services frequently. They are not about to be recruited by other religious groups. Their identification with their religious tradition is fairly solidly fixed, and it is to these groups that they will turn when confronted with marriage, death and frequently, birth. How well would you say this observation describes YOU?"**

- ☐ very accurately 45%
- ☐ somewhat accurately 33%
- ☐ not accurately at all 12%

### **Religion a' La Carte**

Church leaders in 1800's	"This is what religion is"
church leaders today	"What do you want religion to be"

### **What will market bear?**

#### **2 Timothy 4:1-5**

**2 Tim 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;**

**2 Tim 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.**

**2 Tim 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;**

**2 Tim 4:4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**

**2 Tim 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.**

### **Religion A` La Carte in practice**

Ordination of Practicing Homosexuals	1 Cor 6:9-10
Pre-Marital Sex Permitted	Heb 13:4
Woman Preaching in Pulpit	2 Tim 2:2
Emasculate God (father to person)	Deut 4:2
Church Membership by yearly \$\$\$	Heb 10:25
Every Social Program Under the Sun	John 6
How can they practice such things? It is the doctrine of the times!	

**Social gospel: attracting the masses with bread**

### **Negative Attendance Spiral**

To increase membership  
roll, Preachers water down  
gospel

which leads to... Weekly  
attenders begin  
to view  
attendance as  
optional  
which leads to... Average

commitment level  
drops

which leads to... Fewer people,  
not more,  
attend church

To increase membership

roll, Preachers water down and  
gospel even more...

so

on ...

### **The social gospel leads to spiritual death**

This is why we need to witness with a Gospel that is not water down.

LET NOT THIS BE SAID OF US

Let me ask you HOW MANY OF YOU WHILE YOU ARE AT WORK, PLAYING  
SHOPPING

OR ETC HAVE SOMEONE WALK UP TO UP AND ASK YOU “ARE YOU GOING TO  
HEAVEN”

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THAT?

SO LET US BE THE ONE TO GO OUT AND SHARE THE GOSPEL THAT IS NOT WATER  
DOWN

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

#### MAN’S PROBLEM

Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

#### GOD’S SOLUTION

Rom 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

OUR RESPONSBLITY