

For the Love of the Truth

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Illustrated by Richard Gunther

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by Patrick J Burwell

**What is so great that men give their lives for?
What is so worthy that women face torture, even the loss of their
own children, to defend? What should we die for?**



**“Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”
(From John 18:37)**

**“For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.”
([2 Corinthians 13:8 \(ESV\)](#))**

*People are perishing because
they'd rather have lies...
...our job is to give them The
Truth.*



We live in a fallen world of perishing people. The world loves sin, hates the Children of God

and does everything they can to stop the truth... but why? Why are so many in this world, why is the vast majority of the people populating this planet so adamantly against God? What did God do that was so bad the world hates Him? He tells us why in His Bible:

The world hates God because they love their sin.



God tells us in 2Thessalonians 2:10 that man is destined to perish *because they do not love the truth.*

A wise man once said that there would be no standards for what is moral and right without Christianity. The very definition of good and bad, righteousness and evil, is given to man by God Himself. When Moses came down from the mountain with the Ten Commandments man learned what was right and what was not right, and those definitions have never wavered. Many in this world have tried to say they are not, but everyone knows, as God has said, that what the Creator says is true is *always* what is right. If you don't believe me, ask ANYONE whether murder, rape, killing children, is wrong. Unless they are being unreasonable, or are psychopaths, they will agree with God. So what then, why is the world so angry at God? If He is right about what is right and what is wrong then where is the disagreement; Why do men perish rather than love the truth? Again, God gives us the answer in His written Word...

John 8:45 (ESV)

But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.

Galatians 4:16 (ESV)

Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?

Psalm 119:43 (ESV)

And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for my hope is in your rules.

Wait... what? "(M)y hope is in your rules"? Why would I have "hope" when someone puts rules on me? I know I didn't like rules when I was growing up; I wanted to be "free" to do whatever I wanted. When my Dad said "Don't", I did just exactly what he said not to. I wanted my *own* way, my *own* life, my *own* kingdom, always. And when I was old enough I wanted to go out on my own. I didn't have any means so I entered military service. When my Dad signed my enlistment paper at 17 I took the hint and got out. Little did I know, that what I was getting myself into was far more rules than I had ever imagined! But I did learn something valuable, albeit painfully: Man's rules are for keeping the peace, not because they are right. But God's rules **define** what *is* right and wrong. When a man is at peace with God he can be at peace with any man. But to be at peace with man rarely makes you right with God. Look at laws man has decided are to be protected rights that God calls Sin; Rights that are not only to be tolerated but rather **celebrated**, Christians running the risk of losing jobs, friends and our very lives to reject as sin!



I have personally experienced this warped intolerance when a man who was "gay" complained to me during my lunch break what he should do about how he was treated by the others. Our private conversation he repeated to my boss and I was fired for being "intolerant". By telling this "homosexual" what God says in His Bible about sexual deviance I was intolerantly fired from my job at Tennessee Eastman Kodak in Charlotte, North Carolina, without notice and without any recourse for rebuttal. Who was being intolerant there?

No, you are *far better* to be at peace with God and at odds with man, for, as Jesus has said, you should not fear those who can only kill the body and afterwards can do nothing else to you. But rather you should fear Him who, after He has killed you, can cast your soul into Hell! Yes, Fear Him!

The Boundaries of God's Law

Without boundaries, without the Rule of Law, society would crumble into anarchy, and then NO ONE would be safe. But do we want a society that is so Anti-Christ? Yes, too many use their authority to ensure some have it better than others, unjustly, but this does not negate that total anarchy will always be the worst situation. So, then, why did I rebel SO badly? - Because God's authority and man's authority are not the same. All authority in life is given, not taken, so whenever anyone, other than God (who has the right) tries to take authority, all they get is rebellion. But when authority is granted, submitted to willingly, then authority is no longer oppressive but a protection. But even

that protection can be corrupted. If a society has peace without honoring God then they are truly evil.



Authority or Authoritarian?

I was given everything I ever needed in life and I was ungrateful. I despised authority, all authority, and anyone who told me they were in charge just got attitude. Now, I am told, I wasn't always this way, that I had to have learned this along the way. But God says, in His Bible, that there is NO ONE who is good, that every man is only seeking their *own* good, that every person is "desperately wicked." In other words, God says every sinful person is a psychopath, without real compassion for other people. So, no, I can't blame anyone else for what I got.

Even though I had learned that "love" just meant "I will give you what you want if you do what I say", and "family" was just an excuse to legally abuse, I still *knew* that was wrong. I knew that these definitions of love and family were evil; I just didn't know what to do about it. So, as I went looking for what was right, to find

out The TRUTH, I only was nearing the answers as I didn't care WHAT it cost me. It was all in God's plan, for, when you seek Him with your *whole heart*, God **can** be found.

My Dad had a favorite catch phrase to mock Christianity, saying, "The wages of sin is death!" - and He would say it with a snarl. Even though, as a kid, I thought that seemed too harsh, unloving, and wrong, Dad had meant for me to take it that way. Eventually his training worked: I believed Christianity was for weak minded people. For the longest time when anyone even seemed like there were telling me I was wrong they got that same response. But somewhere, I never did know where exactly, I read, "God is love", and that got me

wondering. If God is love then how can death and love come from the same God? Why would "the wages of sin" be "death?" It was just all too confusing, so, for a **long** time, I just stopped thinking. After all, every time I asked someone who was supposed to know, all I got was some mushy answer. I became a total hedonist; I lived for me and didn't care about anyone else... Until I met Mary Conaway, that is...

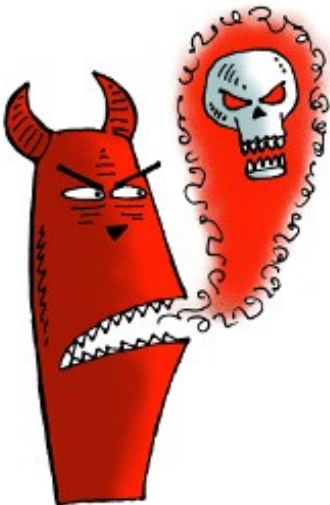


Unintended Lessons, Painful Reality

I was living in Alabama and trying to make it through the last 4 years of the stupid required public school (I remember thinking everything was stupid then). I had just been moved from New Jersey and had to tolerate going to school in the Deep South. With an Army Dad and a Jersey accent life was tough. I got kicked off the school bus in Jersey when I smacked a kid a little too hard for harassing me: I busted his lip for stomping on my boots. I had warned him and then I back-handed him. The real icing on the cake that day was when my Army Dad FINALLY, if only briefly, was proud of his puny little son.

Life is full of unintended lessons I am SURE Dad did not *mean* me to learn. Like, how “love” was just manipulation, or, that “life” is just about whatever you can get, that we live in a “dog-eat-dog” world. But that *is* what we teach our children, when that’s what we believe. When we reject the Authority of God the Old Lie that Lucifer taught to Eve is what every parent in the world will teach their children. More is caught than is *ever* taught. I sure was glad to learn, decades later, that The Truth was far better than even life itself.

I had a ray of hope in Mrs. Conaway, my best friend's mom and our neighbor. Mary told me how God cared for me, and now God’s love fills me with *such* Joy you would be hard pressed to not catch me smiling pretty often. But back *then*, when she knew me, I was *angry*. This world is under a Terrible, Vicious, and Evil Lie, and my Dad had never learned what the Truth was. So why would anyone expect him to teach us anything else? If he had **loved the truth**, things might have gone very differently. But as my Dad tried to teach me, he was also busy “getting his”, which, of course, came at the unintended expense of his own children. The Devil’s Lie (“hath God said?”) DRIVES some men to seek the Truth, as it did me, but it destroys most. God has interesting ways of planting the Love of the Truth in people, even to the point of using a Godless Dad to drive me Home.



What is “Truth”?

What is so great that men give their lives for? What is so worthy that women face torture, even the loss of their own children, to defend? What should we die for? **The Truth**... Because The Truth is a Person and He CARES, Jesus actually cares, for you.

When Jesus faced a ruler for trumped up crimes, from those jealous of His influence, He merely said He declares the truth, in answer to the questions posed to Him. To the world these are the words of an insane man, to those who live under the Lie:

“Therefore Pilate entered again into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus and said to Him, ‘Are You the King of the Jews?’ Jesus answered, ‘Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others



tell you about Me?' Pilate answered, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You to me; what have You done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.' Therefore Pilate said to Him, 'So You are a King?' Jesus answered, 'You say correctly that I am a King. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the Truth. Everyone who is of the Truth hears My Voice.' Pilate said to Him, 'What is truth?'" (John 18:33-38)



Jesus came to tell us all The Truth we need to hear, and then demonstrated what that knowledge does to you in the obedience to the Father He demonstrated, even to His own death. Jesus died for what He preached; what He believed, because He IS The Truth:

“And Jesus says, ‘IAM the Way, the Truth and the life. No one comes to the father but by me.’”
(John 14:6)

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So, as you can see, my experience isn't from the perspective of the theologian, or some ivory towered seminary graduate with a Doctorate in Biblical studies. I'm not a third generation pastor and I have never been the protégé of anyone. I'm not related to anyone important and I certainly don't care if I am. No, I'm just a guy that lives in the United States that believes and trusts in Jesus more than my own life. I'm no one special; I'm just a guy in the Church singing badly and not caring. I'm not rich and I don't speak all that well, though I have learned (practice makes perfect). I'm also usually too afraid to speak with people. Left to myself, I don't particularly *like* most folks, but God has his ways of getting me over my arrogance, my fears.

So why did I write this book? - Because, I'm just like you. And if I can do this, so can you.

This book isn't about me anyway, it's about **you**. It's about you getting over the fear that we ALL feel and doing what you most desire to do in speaking the truth to a lost and dying world headed for Hell. I mean, after all, who doesn't want to love others unconditionally? Who doesn't want to care about another more than themselves? Only psychopaths don't. Yes, the world teaches the Lie of the Devil, but they *know* it isn't right. That understanding is reflected in the way even the lost react to obviously evil deeds:

Years ago a little girl was stolen by an evil man who did unspeakable things to her little body and then buried her alive clutching her teddy bear to die alone in the dark,



terrified. Right at this moment you wish you could get your hands on his throat, don't you? - So did everyone else. What he did was SO evil no one even DARED say otherwise. Every person who heard the story wanted his blood, and rightly so! Because God has written the truth on all of our hearts, we all know it's wrong to lie. We all know it's wrong to steal, and we all sure do know that this little girl deserved Justice! One day that evil creature will get his Justice from God Himself...

...Unless he repents.

"Now, wait a minute!", you just thought. "What do you mean, 'unless he repents?!'" Am I saying he does not *deserve* ETERNAL FIRE and torture? Nope. Am I saying that creep didn't deserve to be hung by his heels and tickets offered for Law abiding citizens to take turns at him with a crowbar and pliers? No. He should get ALL of those things. I even considered killing him myself, his crime was so horrible to me.

Yes, I am quite serious.

"So whattaya mean letting this guy get away with it?", you say? Now, let's just stop right here, OK? First, let me say, **he got away with nothing**. God WILL get justice on him. But you are asking the wrong question. The RIGHT question is,

"Do I deserve better?"

God's Light in Your Darkness

Do you deserve Hell-fire and the Eternal Lake of Fire, like evil men do? Well, do you? You may say, "I'm certainly better than that creep!" Well, maybe you are, and that is commendable, expected. But does this make you *less* evil? Are you thinking you deserve to go to Heaven? If you do then you are a product of the FALSE modern Gospel message, that says,

"God has a wonderful plan for your life! And if you ask Jesus He will help you live that wonderful life now. Because God loves you, just as you are!"



NOTHING could be further from the truth.

You lie, you **are** a liar, as God says.

You steal, no matter what the value or justification, you *are* a thief, as God says.

If you lust after someone then you *are* an adulterer at heart (see Matthew 5). That **is** what Jesus said!

See, in the light of God's Law you **are** a sinner. And ALL sinners will receive the sentence of Hell.

Do you, Christian, want so much to tell people you work with, and live around, about Jesus, just like that, that it keeps you up at night? **I do**. I SO much want to give an answer to the despair I keep seeing in the eyes of those I walk past. You stand in line at the coffee shop and you think...



"What about that person behind me? Will he die and go to Hell?"
"Am I her last chance to avoid God's ANGER?"
"Should I hand them a tract?"

Well maybe you've not thought these *exact* things but you can relate. But, even though every Believer has the *desire* to make Jesus known, the vast majority of us just don't have the first clue *how to witness*. You're afraid to mess someone up. You're afraid you won't get it right; You're mortified you'll make them assured of a salvation they don't actually *have*...

...that fear is valid.



Let me say that again

If you are afraid to tell someone about Jesus, because you are sure you will mess them up, *you are correct!* You **WILL** create a false convert, someone who came to Jesus for the wrong motive, a professing Christian who never had a *legitimate conversion*, if you don't know what you're doing. If that doesn't frighten you then you haven't thought that through properly. The words of Jesus **NO ONE** wants to hear, "Depart from me, you worker of iniquity", should come to mind.

Yet, I am glad to tell you, sharing your faith *is* simple, when you know and have the right tools.

Simple, but not easy

I was born again in 1993 and tried to tell many people about Jesus. I pray for those people today because I surely didn't do it right. How do I know? Well, when someone says things like, "Hey buddy, I'm glad that works for you, but I'm just not religious", after you told them how they can be saved, it's a pretty good clue you blew it, that you messed up that Gospel presentation *royally*.

A wise man once said that when you preach the Gospel *correctly*, which is what telling someone about Jesus is, you should only get two responses.

They should want to kill you

-OR-

They should be weeping so profusely they can't even pray.

With such expected reactions *you'd better be right*.

A Light in the Dark (Psalm 119:105)

The Gospel is merely telling someone how they can be right with their Maker, plain and simple. But *if you don't know what you are doing you can lead people astray*. I had a conversation with an older fella at the park with his grand-kids. We began speaking to each other about our plans for the children we were pushing in the swings, everything was innocuous. I despise innocuous. I have lived 51 years on this earth, as of this writing, and I don't have time for, "Blah, blah, blah." So I deliberately told him about Jesus.

Scccccrrreeech!

It was like someone stopped the record player with their hand and the needle scratched across the surface, blowing out your ear drums! I was abrupt, and it showed in his response. But when you know WHAT to say even abrupt will work. I told him how I was one of those people that sampled everything I could to find what was True. And now that I know The Truth I'm going to make sure my boys know it, are grounded in it, before I even **consider** sending them to a public school, and out into the world. Yes, the conversation STARTED at homeschooling but I quickly used the subject like a dive board to jump right into telling him how Jesus is the ONLY way to have **his** sins forgiven. I used the third party explanation of what Sin is from the Bible that our best is nothing but "filthy rags" worthy of nothing but Hell to God; That Jesus is the Only One who paid the price we NEVER could pay; I explained to him that all religions are the same in their attempts to be good enough to go to heaven, EXCEPT Christianity, where God paid the price we DESERVE! *He nodded profusely.*

I totally expected his rejection, and yet there he was, agreeing and acting like he had never understood the Gospel before then. His group was leaving by that time, as it was getting chilly, but he thanked me sincerely, *twice*, and took our ministry card.

I was his light in the darkness and because I was PREPARED I knew what to say when I recognized the opportunity. You can do that, we can help.



I have often heard the phrase, "the wages of sin is death," but the rest reads, "but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23, WEB) Most people know Jesus died for sinners, but do you know sin is any violation of God's Laws? If you have ever lied, stolen or lusted then God judges you to be a liar, a thief and an adulterer, at heart. Your just sentence is Hell, but God's own Son, Jesus, took your punishment. If you will forsake your sins, believe and trust in the Savior then God's Mercy can be yours. Then read and obey the Bible every day.

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I had handed out some tracts that day, fishing for a "ears to hear", but here was one I had not handed a card to. Yet God *had* wanted him to hear The Truth, so he was ready, even by the way I began the discussion with such a start.

Yes, you CAN do that too, you just need to be taught how. Hang on, we are getting there...

Driving

When I was living in Alabama I liked to watch my Dad drive. He seemed so skilled, the way he shifted. Even his driving an automatic was interesting, but I never tired of watching him drive a stick. I **yearned** to drive. I begged him to let me and he would hold the wheel sometimes as I steered from the front seat. I remember sitting in his lap, driving around the neighborhood when I was younger, in Texas. So when Dad sold the Jaguar XKE, when I went in the Army, I was torqued. I wanted to buy that car from him, but by the time I got back from Basic, he had sold the best stick shift car he had to some kid for pennies. I was OK with it, eventually, as he let me drive his '66 Dodge Dart instead.



Now, you know Dad didn't just throw his keys at me and say, "Well, if you are **my** son you should just **know** how to drive." That would have been just stupid. Dad told me later he sold the Jag *because* he was sure I would kill myself in it. The Dart was a nice, safe TANK, and I was grateful for the wheels.

SO MANY Pastors tell their congregations saying, "When the time comes, when the time is 'right', God will open your mouth and you will have what to say." Experience has taught me this is NOT so. Dad isn't going to throw you His keys until you know the rules of the road. I waited a LONG time, blathering at people when I couldn't wait any longer. God NEVER did "fill my mouth" and there was a reason: I had not learned HOW to "drive" home the Gospel. The Scripture these Pastors are referring to is about knowing what to say *in DEFENSE of the Gospel*, when you are brought before rulers for the sake of your witness of Jesus. THEN God will give you what to say, when you need it. Remember how Stephen did in the Bible? That's what such verses mean. God COMMANDS us to, VERY CLEARLY..

"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every Creature."



God tells us we will, "Receive power when the Holy Spirit comes", but that does *not* mean we will be his "witnesses" without *training*, learning how to share our faith in Him.

Remember, the Apostles were trained by Jesus for 3 years. So, now, SOMEONE has to teach us. But who does that job in the Church? The Pastor? ...that poor, overworked, under-paid, under-appreciated under-shepherd? You're going to add ANOTHER task to his already daunting list? Well, no, right? But the reason you think it's the Pastor's job is because the office in

the Church listed in the Scripture that is MOST neglected, most misunderstood, is that of the Evangelist. The presumption for the Evangelist is that Pastors are also "Evangelists" because they are telling us about Jesus. But we are **in** Church because we **ARE**, *supposed to be*,



Christians. So the Pastor isn't to be evangelizing anyone. And just because we have SO many false converts in amongst the Church that does not mean the office of Evangelist is the Pastor's responsibility. No, the Evangelist TRAINS the body of Christ HOW to share their faith, while the Pastor *nurtures* the flock to maturity. I venture this misunderstanding of the role of the Evangelist is the REAL reason so few Christians know how to witness.

Evangelism is for the Evangelist to do?



The Pastor is a shepherd.

The Bible teacher teaches.

The Helper helps.

All this is true, but the Evangelist has a unique office. The Evangelist does not exclusively evangelize FOR the Church. How do we know this? Because, the Great Commission was not given to the Evangelist only, but to **all** the Disciples. So, logically, this shows the Evangelist trains the Disciples to *evangelize*. Pretty simple, right? So what is the deal with the gold fingered, Armani wearing fool, pimping Jesus for money, claiming to be the Evangelist? Well, they lie, so there's a clue.

The Rules

"By the law is the knowledge of sin"

"The Law of God is for sinners"

"The Law is our teacher to bring us to Christ"

"The Law of God is perfectly designed to convert the soul"

"The Law stops the mouth of the sinner"

"The Law of God leaves a man guilty"

So what is this "Law of God" the Bible keeps talking about?

The Ten Commandments!

Here is where I'm gonna get mail from all the legalists that tell me we can only be Christians if we obey the Law. And the mail I'm gonna get from the Grace only people is going to be how we aren't under the Law anymore.

Well, you're both *wrong*.

Christians are no longer under the CURSE of the Law, but the Law remains. Jesus said not one stroke of the pen in the Law will "pass away" until he enters into His Kingdom.



And, NO, Jesus has not yet begun to reign over ALL the earth. Jesus reigns over some of us, Yes, but “all the Earth”, no, not yet. But IN, BY and THROUGH Jesus we fulfill ALL the Law. Indeed, Believers go FAR BEYOND the Law by fulfilling the **Spirit of the Law**, which is to love one another. Then we go on to fulfill **the Law of Christ**, which is to love as Jesus loves US. We can do all things through Christ who gives us His strength to accomplish His Father's Will.

Tools in the your Belt

1. The Decalogue

The Law is like looking at your reflection in a lake on a clear, calm day. You can see what you look like and fix what needs doing, but the lake reflection doesn't do anything more than show what's up. You need the water to wash off the mud. Well, this is what you do when you speak to someone about Jesus. Now, unless you are an Orthodox Jew of the Highest Sort, you are unlikely to know the Ten Commandments. This is your first tool. **Go learn them.** I recommend a children tract by Ray Comfort made for kids to learn the Commandments. I learned them in only 10 minutes with their tract.

Got to www.LivingWaters.com and search for Ten Commandments...

Then there are other tools you need to know...

2. **Don't make statements!**

In my experience, in personally witnessing to over ten thousand individuals, which is enough to know what works, I have found the way Jesus dealt with those, who wanted to entrap Him, works best. Jesus would ask *telling* questions, the kind of questions that demonstrated who his accusers were, to everyone around them, by the very way they answered...

Consider the situation Jesus had with some “teachers of the Law”. They came to Him, hoping they could entrap Him, to get Him either in trouble with the Romans or to get Jesus to lose followers. Their first idea, to entrap Jesus by getting Him at odds with the rulers of the day, only demonstrated where their real desires were: Power, and Control. If they had known to Whom they were speaking they would have prostrated themselves TO Jesus!

And their second motive, to entrap Jesus and get Him to lose followers, is just, plain funny. Jesus took care of winnowing down the number of His own followers by speaking to them of things they could not accept, unless they were willing to Trust Him AS Messiah.

Jesus wasn't exactly looking for a mega church was He, Joel Osteen?

So here they come...



"The Pharisees went and took counsel how they might entrap him in his talk. They sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are honest, and teach the way of God in truth, no matter who you teach, for you aren't partial to anyone. Tell us therefore, what do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"

But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test me, you hypocrites? Show me the tax money." They brought to him a denarius [tax coin]. He

asked them, "Whose is this image and inscription?" They said to him, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." -Matthew 22:15-21(WEB)

As you can see, the Pharisees demonstrated their own ignorance, both of Who Jesus is, and, of what He had come to do. They accused Him to Pilate, as someone who said *not* to pay taxes, blatantly lying. How Jesus spoke to them, how He exposed them, was first by asking questions, not making statements.

3. Do unto others

One of the first things I learned, when speaking to people, is that when you want to talk about something...uh...awkward... you don't make RUDE exclamations, like, "You're going Hell!" *You* wouldn't like that, would you? That isn't going to work, so lose it; That's no way to talk to anyone. "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you". And "No!", that is NOT saying, "give what you get", like the world teaches you. All you will "get" then, if you act like such a jerk, is what the Bible promises. If you talk like the late, and very likely burning forever, Fred Phelps Sr., of Westboro Baptist Church infamy, then nasty, mean, outraged responses is what you will get in return. Phelps deserved what he got and so will you if you act like him. What sad Fred was missing was God's love; you had better not be also, or you "are none of His."



So, tell me, would you ever, *in your right mind*, walk up to a woman and say...

"Man you are FAT!"

Not if you value your life, right? Well, then, why would you ever approach someone who is still guilty, still living in their sins, and say, "You need Jesus 'cause you lie!" So the *best approach*, then, is *the way Jesus demonstrated it*, like with the rich young ruler.



This young guy walks up and asks Jesus what he needs to do to go to Heaven. What a noodge! The atmosphere must have been thick with nervous tension from all His followers, and the Religious (who wanted to catch Jesus in some bad thing). "What's He going to do? Will he scold the young man for his pomposity?" But Jesus, ever the cool head, asked the jerk calm questions in reply, letting this *boy* accuse himself, **with his own words**. So, once Jesus heard the man proclaim his own goodness, knowing the Scripture that says, "There is none good but God", had him dead to rights. Jesus began with what the man thought was "good" and moved to his own sin to show the young man that knew what he thought of himself was wrong. We come away from Christ's discussion with a clear example then:

Ask questions and let what comes out of a person accuse him.

"Out of the mouth the heart speaks", or, "Out of the mouth comes the issues of the heart", is what God says in His Bible, depending on your translation, so you get the idea.

4. Memorize some Scriptures

Yes, this is going to be a requirement. Much as I hate to admit it, because I do not like memorizing anything, this is going to be an invaluable tool for you. Start with one. Make it small. I find most believers know quite a bit of the Bible, they just couldn't tell you WHERE in the Bible what they know is.

I feel your pain; I can quote allot but, like Paul, I merely say, "somewhere it is written", and let them go and look for it.

I suspect Paul knew what **he** was doing, right?



So, somewhere in the Bible it is written: "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." And, "There is none good, no not one", "everyone seeks their own good", and "every man will proclaim their own righteousness".

Again, you get the idea. It works to be able to quote Scripture, for then you can merely state, "Hey, God said it, take it up with Him. He said it, I believe Him, and that's good enough for me." That works really well with those who want to waste your time arguing. You are not there to argue, so remember some Scripture to clear the air.



5. DO NOT FEAR, but expect to go it alone

Another painful point I have learned, that I will pass on to you, is that "few there are" that Believe God, *few* professing Christ *actually demonstrate His love* in caring enough to LEARN how to share their faith.

Shocking, but true.

So, expect to be alone in this, but not really alone, right? Jesus IS WITH YOU, Dear brother or sister in Christ, so DO NOT FEAR. Remember we are in this to please Jesus, whom we L O V E more than life itself. Never mind the naysayers. But there is an important point about WHEN to witness you MUST know...

6. DON'T BORROW TROUBLE

DO NOT preach the Gospel at your workplace.

"Now wait a minute!", you might say here. "I've heard God will make sure you are protected from suffering, never give you what you can't handle, right?" And where exactly does it say we should be ashamed of Jesus where we work, and...", and on and on. Listen to me, I am a living example that shooting your mouth off at work will only bring you unemployment, and suffering, your family expects you NOT to make them experience. What the Scripture DOES say, what God PROMISES, is that HE will take care of witnessing to your family and friends. Here is what I promise all my fellow Christians.

I will preach the Gospel to your family, friends, and co-workers (outside of your office), so you preach to mine.

Deal?

I lost a Vice President job, with benefits and *bonuses*, because I WOULD NOT learn the following rules, please don't *you* be so stupid:

When you can, preach the Gospel, when you cannot BE THE GOSPEL

I opened my mouth one time too many, instead of being the very nice, well liked, best employee ever. So, yeah, no, I was not treated fairly. So, like, show me in the Bible where Jesus promised fairness?

Jesus promised us *suffering*, actually PROMISED tribulations and trials, for His Name's sake. Elsewhere in the Bible, it is written we will stink to the lost, and smell nice to other Believers. So why make it worse, on purpose? You know those who still love their sins will only kill you for telling them they are wrong, so let's be wise here.

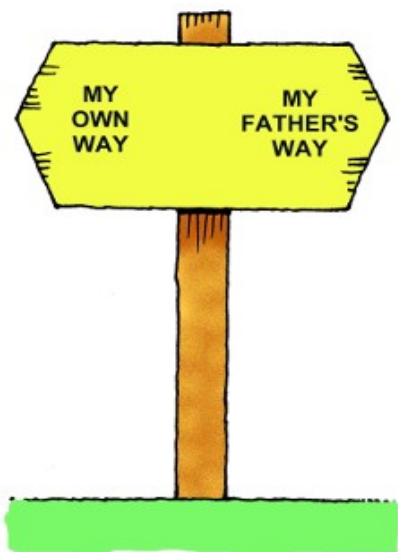
Especially when God is clear we are to,

"Let our light so shine that others will see our good works and glorify God in Heaven."

Getting fired ain't shining.



I'm not writing this book to make points here, but I do hope you're getting the gist.



7. Pray, Pray, Pray

"Nuttin is mo dumb", than a Christian going out with all the tools in their belt, a plan and knowledge on how to share their faith, thinking "I got this." No, you don't "got" a thing, unless you talk to Jesus about the day **first**. You ask HIM to guide you, open your mind, put you in front of the people **He** has prepared. I cannot tell you HOW many times I have struggled and strained at trying to get SOMEONE to listen, only to realize I had forgotten to ask Jesus to bless the day with HIS FATHER'S WILL. When do you pray? Well you are asking the WRONG question there, again. When do you NOT pray?

I have found that I pray before I get out of bed, pray brushing my teeth, pray driving to work...

Talking to God is your LIFE, get started living it.

8. TRACTS

I cannot stress how important it is to have BIBLICAL tracts on you at ALL times. SO many times I have found I needed one and did not have one. There are resources that will send you free ones, but I am glad to recommend Ray Comfort's Ministry here, again, for their W O N D E R F U L tracts (not "tracks" like Mark Spence calls them). You want the Law presented first, the Gospel simply explained, and what they must then **do to be saved**. Living Waters ministers all around the world, so, when you think you are not getting to enough people, you can rest assured your purchases are helping THEM to!

9. BE YE PATIENT

You want SO much to tell someone about Jesus. You make a plan to go to the parade. You have your tracts; you have prayed; you are prepared. You pull out and get a mile away and your car dies. You brought your little boy along and he messes his drawers, and you forgot pull ups and wipes. You get all the way down to the parade and realize you went ON THE WRONG DAY. ALL these I have experienced in one form or another, MANY times. IF you have prayed, IF you're Christ's, IF you expect God's Will to be done, then let it. You never know when you will meet someone you would never have if that *annoying thing* had not happened. I met a Christian ministry in Ohio that ordained me for evangelism and ministry I would never have



known, had I not lost my job first, and then had to take an out of state contract, for 3 months, to make ends meet. It was an interesting time but I met LOTS of people I never would have ministered to otherwise.

Let God be God and you enjoy the ride



There are many things and moments in life that will try your patience. But know that, for the Believer, "All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose." I happen to know this verse is Romans 8:28 because it is the one I have leaned on for years, over an extremely trying time I went through, and am still going through, over my first son and I being separated from one another, since he was 2 years old.

God knows

Trust Him

10. Be prepared to talk

When you are there to minister to someone, expect it to be a pretty long conversation. My wife has learned to go on when she sees the ministry begin, because she knows how long these things can take. What is a soul worth after all? A little of your time? Expect it, and be prepared to minister, and inconvenience yourself and others doing it. Believe me, they will understand in the end. So, just tell your family and friends that when you see me ministering to someone, pray for me, and them, and expect me to take the time I need to be assured the person I am speaking to has been sufficiently been instructed in the things of God.



When I came to trust in Jesus it was through **years** of talking, and struggling, and arguing with a man of God by the name of Leroy, and his *very patient wife* Kathy, Headley. Lee took all the time I needed, stayed up *as long as he could*, each and every time I wanted to talk, just to make sure I understood!!! And Kathy made sure I was made healthy again and thoroughly encouraged in the love of the LORD Jesus.

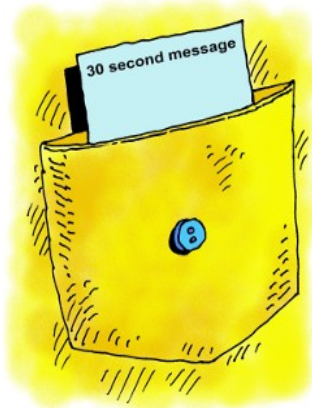
That's the way to do it!

11. Don't ask if you aren't ready for Him to use you

"Pray the LORD of the Harvest sends laborers into the field. For the harvest is ripe and ready and the laborers are few."

SO many have entered into the field and have walked away, or have fallen away into sin. There is a TERRIBLE epidemic right now of Missionaries leaving the mission field here and abroad. The heat is up and the workers are failing. Prepare your heart to never come back, if you go to another country to be a missionary, or don't go at all, PLEASE!!? I have my calling and my field, find yours. But please don't be like John Mark, of Scripture infamy, you can bet *he* regretted turning back, for the rest of his days. Even though he was restored you can guess he would pay quite allot to do THAT one over.

12. Prepare a 30 second Gospel presentation to have always at the ready
...and have it **ready**.



Three times I have been with the dying or severely injured.
Three times I have looked in their eyes and not knew what to say.
Three times was three times too many.
I now have a 30 second gospel message that I can deliver to anyone, at any time. PLEASE do not make my mistake and wait until you have watched people march off into Judgment, denied Jesus **three times**, not telling the Gospel.

Am I ready? The quakes and the shakes...

I have been asked to give a Gospel message and many times it came out differently than the way I had intended. But the message was ALWAYS the same:

You must be known by Jesus to be saved from your just reward of Hell eternal.

Wrap your brain about the profundity of that message. You are about to tell someone, you likely do not know, they are deserving of God's ANGRY WRATH. You are about to tell someone who doesn't deserve to be saved, just like you didn't, that this same God will rescue them IF they will let Him. And you are quaking in your boots!

Will they stone me? Will I get hit?

Will someone stand up and shout nasty things at me?

Will I mess this up?

Oh look, a squirrel!

Everyone has moments of fear, trepidation, the shakes, and welcomed distractions. If you want one, you will always find an excuse NOT to share your faith. Every time I go out I have a battle with my own mind and soulish flesh over why I don't need to. Even your own family and closest friends will be used to deliver a dart of discouragement. EXPECT IT. "The righteous are as bold as a lion.", is what you MUST tell yourself. "If you don't tell them will they ever hear it again?", is another point to remind yourself with. Doesn't Paul himself say



that those who are sent must tell the lost how to be saved, or they will not know? And, not to scare you unduly, but, in Ezekiel God Himself says that if you know the truth, that you have a warning to save people, and do not tell it to them, then *you* are responsible for *their* blood, before God Himself.

YOIKS.



A friend in Christ asked this question, of me, in wonder over the article that follows about a teacher telling a First Grader ([Brynn Williams](#)) to stop talking about the Bible during discussions about Christmas in her public school.

<http://www.faith-freedom.com/news/teacher-tells-first-grader-you-are-not-allowed-to-talk-about-the-bible-in-school/>

"Why have people become so intolerant to hear about God? If they don't believe, why does His name create so much feelings that they can't even tolerate hearing about Him? Maybe it is because they are afraid that they are wrong?"

Of course it is exactly because they think this.

I know I was afraid to hear what I would have to "give up". I first had to be shaken by the results of my own "mistakes" (read "Sin" here) before I would even consider that maybe, just maybe, Someone was trying to get my attention.

If we refuse to hear the Law then God will use the pain of suffering under our sin to open our ears.

Psalm 19

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

12 Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.





Recently I had a conversation with a young boy that called Rheinhard Boeke "Uncle". Our disagreement was over "Uncle" refusing to use the Law of God in his evangelism. And Rheinhard also apparently believes he is personally responsible for "millions" of people coming to Christ, to which I cried, "Balk!", over. My point to this young man, is that Jesus Himself said just *how narrow the way is that leads to life* and how FEW there are that go that way. That's a very clear comment by the Savior Himself that shows there will *not* be "millions" coming to Christ by the preaching of ONE man. No - no, WIDE is the way that Leads to destruction and MANY go that way! After all, if one man could bring "millions" to Christ then every person on the Earth should be a Christian already! No, Jesus said that we would suffer persecution because the message of God's anger and Judgment on the World would NOT be popular. Indeed, the

message of reconciliation is not just foolishness to the Lost but an OFFENSE without the use of the Law to explain their need! So where is this great crowd coming from in Rheinhard's meetings? He's scratching their ears, giving the Lost a placebo of lies, that God will forgive everyone, without ANY discussion of God's Holiness, His judgment or their impending destination of Hell-fire. Don't let this be you, for all such, that preach an easy grace, a "come as you are" message, that God said False teachers would preach in the Last Days; they will be Judged with harsher Judgment than those they led to Hell!

14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

So, you have your orders. Report for duty.

If we can be of service to you, reach out to us.

Patrick J. Burwell
www.OnlyJesusSaves.com Ministries



Go to www.livingWaters.com and click on "Save Yourself Some Pain."

Then apply to the School of Biblical Evangelism
Mark Spence is Dean of at
www.BiblicalEvangelism.net

Go to www.LivingWaters.com/tracts for all your tract needs.

And, as always, our ministry
www.OnlyJesusSaves.com is here as a ready resource for you.

Scriptures:

- [**2 Corinthians 13:8 \(ESV\)**](#)

For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.

- [**John 8:32 \(ESV\)**](#)

and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

- [**Ephesians 4:21 \(ESV\)**](#)

assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,

- [**Colossians 1:5 \(ESV\)**](#)

because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel,

Brynn Williams:

- [CBS LA](#)
- [NBC Southern California \(with video\)](#)
- [The Blaze](#)
- [Christian Newswire](#)
- [Temecula Patch](#)



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