

Personalizing Salvation: law & Gospel

Let's Look At Some Terms:

Law

Natural Knowledge of God
Natural Law
Conscience
Written Law

Verbal Inspiration

A/D. The Bible contains the Word of God.
Inspired
Inerrant

No _____ No _____

Sooooo Don't _____, _____, _____

Faith
Unbelief

Gospel

Grace
Mercy
Peace

Transition Questions:

We have to realize what about ourselves in order to appreciate what?

What is the hold up in coming to terms with this reality concerning ourselves?

What are the results when we do not, and when we do acknowledge the 'facts of life?'

Discussion based on Jeremiah 2 ...

Based on the opening words, what are some of the essentials for being a witness?

Summarize the Lord's issue with the Children of Israel (Judah).

Let's elaborate on verse 11 (27).

What gods today?
People / Nation in crisis tendency ...

Verse 17 (32).

Who is responsible for the problems?

PROBLEM -

SOLUTION -

Verse 19.

Elaborate on the Consequences.

Take a few moments in small groups to discuss...

The Bible is not relevant to our situations today.

Everybody breaks the law, what is the big deal.

Every one breaks the law, so who are you to lecture me.

Discussion Questions based on Romans 3:9-31 ...

What is it all human beings have in common?

Why is this knowledge significant?

Since this is the case about ourselves, what action are we not able to take when it comes to God? (1 Cor. 12:3)

The purpose of the Law is what as noted in verse 20?

God's Solution can also be called a _____ since we have not deserved or earned it.

What do people usually do with a gift?

In connection with verse 28, what is not the purpose of the Law?

Define the term 'justified,'

What is the role of 'faith' in connection to our salvation?

How does faith attempt to show itself? (31)

Take a few moments in small groups to discuss...

Before I go and share 'my' faith, it would be good for me to ...

Look up Luke 18:9-14. Which one went home justified and why?

How does the Pharisees' rationale play out today?

Since we are not saved by the Law, we do not need to focus on the Law.

What would you rather hear more about and why is this the case: What Christ has done for me or what we can do for Christ?

God's Law and God's Gospel are essential when it comes to evangelism because ...

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Part 2

Let's Look At Some Terms (what is the intent of the word):

Legalism

Moralism

Relativism

Justification

Sanctification

Means of Grace

Transition Questions:

All people are going to be saved in the end ... And you say?

There is more than one way to be saved /to get to heaven ... And you say?

It does not matter what you believe as long as you believe ... And you say?

Discussion based on Jeremiah 3 ...

What was the Lord's 'complaint' against Israel, note the imagery used and why this was a fitting description?

How bad had the situation become among them? (2)

Was there a consequence for their spiritual adultery? If so, what was it? How did they respond to this? (3)

What did Israel (Judah) expect of God given their spiritual adultery? (1, 4)

What are the similarities, expectations, consequences, and more of Jeremiah 3:1-5 to our day?

Take a few moments in small groups to discuss...

What example of spiritual adultery would you use in a conversation with someone in order to begin a discussion on the need for God's Law and God's Gospel?

It comes up in conversation, God is to blame for the way the world is today. How would you respond to this statement?

Further Discussion based on Jeremiah 3 ...

Note: To learn more about Josiah (640-609 BC) time on the throne, go to 2 Kings 22 & 23, and 2 Chronicles 34.

What lesson should Judah (south) have learned from Israel (north)?

Instead, how did Judah respond?

How can the Lord say that Israel 'is more righteous' than Judah? (11)

What does God promise to do for Israel and Judah despite their unfaithfulness?

Why would God take such an action?

How does this conversation tie in to us today?

In order for Judah (us) to appreciate God's mercy, they needed to admit what about themselves?

Take a few moments in small groups to discuss...

How would you describe what kind of follower God expects.

Finish the thought: God does not take pleasure in...

How does this thought carry over to you and me ...

Personally –

Corporate Body –

How does the Conclusion to the Commandments fit into this conversation?

Discuss briefly the purpose/role of Church Discipline, and also of the Doctrine of Fellowship.

Discussion based on Romans 10 ...

The OT Children of Israel may have had zeal, but what was wrong with the zeal they expressed?

What is meant with the words "Christ is the end of the law"? (4)

In order for people to confess Jesus is Lord, what has to take place?

How does this which is necessary come about?

Who has the opportunity to be saved?

How can you be described as a person with beautiful feet?

Will everyone accept the message you present to them?

If not, why not?

If so, how can this be?

Lev 19:2 (Mt 5:48)

Lk 10:28

Rom 3:23; 6:23

Is 59:2

Prov 16:25

Jm 2:10

2 Cor 5:21

Jn 3:16

Eph 2:8-10

The _____

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Part 3

(A good share of this lesson is based on Lesson 19 from the workbook 'By Grace Alone')

1) What great command has Jesus given to all Christians?

Mark 16:15 – He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”

Matthew 28:19 – Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.

Answer:

2) Why are Christians expected to do mission work?

1 Peter 2:9 – But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (note who you are 1st – why good to do that?)

Acts 4:20 – For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.

Answer:

3) Why is it so important to preach the Gospel to all the world?

Mark 16:16 – Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Note what it is that condemns and what does not in and of itself.

Romans 10:14 – How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?

The Gospel is not going to be found where?

Acts 4:20 – Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

Will this be offensive to people?

The Truth h__ _s for a reason, so it can also h__ _l. Explain this last point.

Acts 1:8 – You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Answer:

4) What is the Gospel that the unbeliever needs to hear? (*circle or underline the Gospel*)

1 Corinthians 2:1,2 – When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

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

Before we can appreciate the Gospel, we need to know/admit what about ourselves? (repeated theme)

Romans 3:23, 24 – For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

The Gospel clearly puts the emphasis on whom and on what?

What ideas fly in the face of your answer thus indicating the importance of your faithful witness?

Answer:

5) Will it do any good to witness?

Romans 1:16 – I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power (*dynamite*) of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. (on your own see also the Parable of the Sower Luke 8:4-15)

Answer (keep in mind what your role is and what it is not):

6) How does a Christian do mission work? (we will talk specific examples/responses in Part 4)

1 Peter 3:15 – Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

What qualifies you to be considered 'prepared'?

Ephesians 4:11,12 – It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. (*teamwork ... it is not about egos or numbers ... it is about _____*)

Matthew 9:37, 38 – Then he [Jesus] said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Finish the thought: The odds are against us yet...

Matthew 5:16 – Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

What is the light you have to shine, and how can you go about letting it shine?

The opposing side likes to intimidate until people come around or go away silent. What is a way to let your light shine when faced with such opposition? (list a specific opposing view and then a way to speak to it)

Answer:

Recap – It is most important that this job gets done, because no one can go to heaven unless he hears the Gospel and believes it. It is not enough to tell the unbeliever about church or God or the Commandments. He must learn that Jesus Christ, true God and true man, has suffered and died to pay for his sins. Many who hear this truth will reject it, but the Holy Spirit has the power to make people believe it. Therefore the Christian works at witnessing, in his daily contacts with others, by his personal example, through his mission offerings, and by serving as pastor, teacher, missionary or lay evangelist. Christian witnessing is an important and essential part of a Christian's life. But forgiveness and salvation come only because Jesus died for our sins.

True or False Discussion –

- Every Christian should take part in mission work.
- The main reason for witnessing is to get more members for the church.
- It does no good to witness to some people.
- It is bad manners to argue about religion.
- It is better not to witness at all unless you have had the proper training.
- One good example of Christian living is worth more than a thousand words of witnessing.
- With their offerings Christians can send the Gospel to all parts of the world.
- We should not witness to people from other churches.
- One good pastor will win more souls for Christ than a dozen well-trained lay people.

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Part 4

Discussion based on Jeremiah 4 & 5 ...

1-2: What did the Lord want from His people Israel?

How were they to show they wanted this too?

Not only Israel would have been blessed by this action, who also would have been blessed by it?

What passage speaks to the hope God has for all His human creation?

How are the people to go about revealing they get this and appreciate it?

As the church holds firm to the Lord, who benefits and how so?

As the nation holds firm to the Lord, who benefits and how so?

Describe the church, and the nation, at this moment. What is the conclusion from our description?

4: What does the Lord want His people to do and why?

Matthew 22:37-40

5-10: What does the Lord see instead and so what is His response?

What is the 'deception' talked about in verse 10?

What is the deception message of today?

14: What does this verse tell us about God and the situation then and today?

18: What message does the world need to hear?

Why would the 'world' have a problem in admitting this truth?

22: Why are the words 'fools' and 'senseless' fitting words to describe OT Israel/Judah?

How is the church today 'foolish' and 'senseless'?

What is the theme which keeps repeating itself in the days of Jeremiah and in our own day?

Have we reached a point in our day that it is too late to repent, that it will not do any good to witness?

Why does the world seem to have a problem in taking God, and His faithful messengers, seriously?

5:18-31: Despite the warranted destruction/end of all people to hell, what does the Lord promise to do?

People tend to ask 'why...why is this happening,' and you can tell them what?

What is the 'shocking thing' noted in verses 30-31?

Examples of this today are ...

Again, we established the need for God's Law and for His Gospel, spoken without apology or with twists.

Are you up for the challenge?

1 Peter 3:15,16

2 Peter 3:18

Ephesians 2:8-10

Ephesians 6:10-18

- Some Practical Offerings -

How has our culture changed over the years and how do you see those changes in our society and in our churches?

Agree or Disagree. People no longer appear to know what sin is. Explain your answer (give examples).

What do we need to change, if anything, when it comes to how we are to go about reaching this current culture?

If people do not see anything wrong with their current way of life, then what will be the conclusion?

We have looked at the Great Exchange as one way to start or continue a conversation; another approach could be to talk about the 7 C's – Creation (Gen 1), Corruption (Gen 3), Catastrophe (Gen 6), Confusion (Gen 11), Christ (Lk 2) Cross (Mt 26), Consummation (Mt 24).

As we are having a conversation with someone about the Bible/faith matters, it is a good idea to listen for

What is the stated objection or problem

What may be the real issue lying behind it

What is the mood: angry, defiant, hurt, confused, frustrated, sincere

(C Driesbach – pastor admit sinner)

Grant the person his/her opinion ... does not mean you agree with it but for conversation sake you go with it

As you catch the key word or phrase in the objection, use that to get to Law / Gospel talk

Have some key words ready which you would like to branch off of in either starting or continuing a conversation

Upon meeting someone for the first time, will the first words out of your mouth be something to the effect “Do you know Jesus?”

Agree or Disagree. Inability to answer an objection is a disadvantage.

You have to answer every question or objection.

I do not believe in a God. Response: Would you mind telling me how you arrived at that opinion? ... Let me tell you what I believe about...

When someone say “I do not need to go to church,” you say...

“I am not a sinner”

“There are too many hypocrites who pretend to be such good church members”

“If there is a God in heaven, why does He allow people to suffer and have so many troubles”

“I do not believe in hell”

“I do not want to be a part of a church that is against everything”

1 Corinthians 12:3

Extra: “Lutheran church drops support of Scouting and takes heat...”