

## GOOD NEWS

John 3:16

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Years ago there was a pamphlet that was distributed among Southern Baptist Churches which was used in witnessing and it clearly showed how one could come to have eternal life in the Lord Jesus Christ. This is an outline of how one would witness using that little pamphlet.

### I. TWO QUESTIONS

1. "Have you come to a place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you were to die today that you would go to heaven?"
  - Some say it is impossible to know.
  - The Bible says you can know for **"...these things are written..."**
2. "Suppose you were to die tonight and stand before God and He were to say to you, "Why should I let you into My heaven?" What would you say?"
  - Your good works?, etc.
3. Here is some good news for you:

### II. THE GOSPEL

1. "GRACE" - try to earn it but can't.
  - Heaven is a free gift.
  - Unearned, unworked for, unstriven for, undeserved and unmerited - IT IS FREE
    - It seems only right to pay for what one gets.
  - Man's ways are NOT God's ways (***...there is a way that seemeth right...***)
  - God's way is a GIFT, GRACE - **Romans 6:23**
2. "MAN"
  - A sinner (**Romans 3:23; 3:10-12** - a big mess, a man of war, riot, crime, hate, etc.
  - Sin in the world in thought and deed and each is as bad as the other.
  - Sin by omission, commission, not living by the Golden Rule, not done one's best, failed to do some things but pray, read the Bible, love neighbors, attend Church, yet all sin thousands of sins in lifetime.
  - Cannot save self - ***"...Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us..."*** ***"Not of works lest any man should boast..."***
  - PERFECTION is the only passing grade. Offend in any one way, one is outside of God.
  - None are good enough, ONLY perfection is acceptable.
  - Salvation is impossible by works, neither is a half-good life and half sinful life acceptable to God.
  - It is an entirely different way to heaven.
3. "GOD"
  - God is loving and merciful (God is love), how measureless His love to us.
    - God says ***"...I am holy and just and righteous. I am of pure eyes than to behold iniquity. The soul that sinneth, it shall die..."***
  - God will certainly punish ALL sin.
  - God is both holy and loving, although He must punish sin, He loves us and therefore doesn't want to punish us.
  - God devised a solution!

#### 4. "JESUS CHRIST"

- WHO He is - He is the infinite God-Man, the best man, wonderful teacher, worker of miracles, etc.
  - **John 1:1; Isaiah 9:6** - Jesus Christ is God almighty HIMSELF.
- WHAT He did - He became a man, paid for our sins and purchased heaven for us which He offers as a gift. (The reason for the whole Bible)
- BOOK OF OUR LIVES - There is a hidden but opened book and a record of each person's life with our 10,000 thoughts a day, 3, 500,000 a year which will give an account of every idle word, all remembered by God which is a big problem for every person.
- Jesus performed the great transaction in which God laid all our sins on Jesus and Jesus bore them in our place. he suffered and endured God's wrath.
- Jesus "finished it."
- Heaven is now a GIFT through GRACE: G=God, R= riches, At, Christ's, Expense.
  - "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe..."
- Who receives this GIFT? Everybody? NO! The how can one have this GIFT?

#### 5. "FAITH"

- What "faith" isn't: It is not mere intellectual assent, similar to keys, non will work except the RIGHT one.
  - The right "key" to heaven is FAITH. Not intellectual assent to historical facts, nor belief in God, for Satan believes in God, nor temporary faith such as praying to God, trusting God for some things, sick children, finances low, business bad, etc., all the desires one has had, a safe journey on a long trip, an upcoming operation, all these are good, but THIS IS NOT SAVING FAITH!
- What "faith" is: It is trusting in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.
  - Trust Him for this and that, but for eternal life we have the tendency to trust only in ourselves. It is always me, me, me, mine, mine, mine, I, I, I.
- Saving faith is trusting Jesus Christ ALONE for our salvation. Resting upon Jesus Christ and what He has done to get us to heaven.
- (point to an empty chair) - "See this Chair? Believe it exists? Believe it will hold you up? But it isn't holding you up is it? Simple reason, you're not sitting in it. That's the way people are with Jesus Christ. They believe He exists, is divine and trust Him for their health, finances, etc., but SAVING FAITH is trusting yourself into His hands eternally, totally.
  - Some won't put out the cat at night without trusting Jesus to care for it, but they are trusting their OWN efforts for their eternity home.
- Saving faith is putting one's trust in Jesus Christ for eternal life.
  - "On Christ the solid rock I stand..."
- Depending on yourself is actually a selfish motive for getting eternal life. YOU CAN NEVER EARN ETERNAL LIFE...nobody deserves it and nobody ever will.

#### CONCLUSION:

1. Do YOU want this eternal life?
2. Will you transfer your trust? Will you receive Christ's righteousness? Will you receive the living Christ?  
Will you repent of your sins? Will you receive Jesus Christ as Lord of your life?
3. Then TELL JESUS right now!