

GREAT COMMISSION CHRISTIAN- How to Preach the Gospel

BY ANTONIO BALDOVINOS

“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover... And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.” (Mark 16:15-20)

I. OUR AUTHORITY AND COMMANDMENT

- A. A Great Commission Christian is one who does the Great Commission, a Christian who goes and is committed into going to the world and preaching the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. God has given us authority and commanded us to go. This is a position to proceed, extend, and advance.
- B. These signs will accompany those who believe: They will speak in new tongues, cast out demons, take up deadly serpents and not get hurt, they will pray for the sick and be healed.
- C. A Great Commission Christian is not only one who speaks about Christ, but demonstrates Christ and His power. His Word will be confirmed through the accompanying signs!

II. PREACHING WITH POWER

“And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:4-5)

- A. The preaching of the Gospel has to be two-fold: Show and Tell. We come with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so people’s faith is not established on man’s wisdom or on a personality but on God and God alone.
- B. The Gospel should be preached with power. What kind of power?
 - 1. Healings, Signs and Wonders. (Prophecy, Healing, and Deliverance, etc.)
 - 2. The greatest miracle is the turning of the heart, that is a sign and wonder, but power should be lead by an outside representation of who God is. God desires to heal, restore, redeem, forgive and deliver.
 - 3. God has anointed us to preach the Gospel, to proclaim good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom to captives, and release from darkness for the prisoner. (Isaiah 61)
- C. If the Gospel is not preached with power, then we are not sharing the complete Gospel message. If our message does not go with a demonstration of power, the alarming part is that it can be built or established on human wisdom or persuasiveness of speech and it will not take deep root in the

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heart and life of the new believer.

- D. Here are some examples of Great Commission Christians that preached the Gospel with corresponding power:
1. **JESUS:** *“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.”* (Matthew 4:23)
 2. **APOSTLES:** *“They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.”* (Mark 6:12-13)
 3. **THE 72 OTHERS:** *“Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The Kingdom of God is near you.’”* (Luke 10:9)

III. THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM INCLUDES:

- A. Here are important parts of presenting the Gospel to someone. These are some of the most important keys to go through when sharing. These keys can be intertwined throughout, using your testimony or relevant aspects of the person’s life.
1. **God and His good plan** (*Creator God, Genesis 1, John 1:3*)
 2. **Man’s Rebellion** (*All have sinned, Romans 3:23*)
 3. **Jesus: God’s only answer** (*John 3:16*)
 4. **Our Cost** (*Exchanged Life, Matthew 16:24, Ephesians 2:8-10*)
 5. **Eternal Judgments and Rewards** (*1 John 2:25, 1 John 4:17*)

IV. GOD AND HIS GOOD PLAN

- A. First we must lay the foundation of who God is. We don’t have to go into theology, but they must know we are talking of God, the one and only, who always was, and always will be, who is holy, loving and good. He is the Creator of heaven and earth.
- B. We tend to focus only on one side of the coin; God is good, He loves you. This is true. But as Paul said in Rom 11:22 ***“consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God.”*** We must share the love of God but not at the expense of his other attributes namely His righteousness, holiness and justice.
- C. We have to begin with God the Creator. Elementary school kids begin to be fed the lie of evolution, denying the first verse of the Bible. Evolution destroys trust in God, His word and His authority. It leaves us accountable to no one but ourselves. It places us at the center of the universe, and leaves no way to determine right from wrong. It reduces people to a product of chance, which destroys our sense of purpose and self worth. Without this piece of the Gospel in place we cannot answer man’s greatest questions, *‘who am I?, why am I here? and, where am I*

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going?’

- D. Without understanding Adam and Eve’s rebellion against God there is no way to understand sin, its consequences and the tragedies in the world we live in.

V. MAN’S REBELLION

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

- A. Though God created everything perfect, free from evil, death and sin, the world in which we live shows us that all is not right between us and our Creator. Romans 5 says that through one man, sin entered into the world and with it came death. Adam's one action of disobedience plunged the whole human race into the mess of wars, starvation, broken families, murder, rape and abuse, that we call reality.
- B. No one is perfect. All have sinned against God. Since conception we are born evil and our heart deceptive. All have lived short of the standard that God has placed on us.

VI. POST CHRISTIAN GOSPEL

- A. Compare Peter’s message to the Jews versus Paul’s to the Gentiles, Acts 2 versus Acts 17. You will notice that the apostles took a totally different approach. Peter jumped right into the message of the cross and called the Jews to repent. Paul on the other hand, first took time to share about God, the giver of life, who created everything, who is Lord and judge of mankind, and then he talked about Jesus.
- B. The reason for these two different approaches was because of the different foundational belief systems of the groups. Compare the Jews foundation to the Athenians in Acts 17:
- C. **Jews Foundation:**
 - 1. They believed in a Creator God.
 - 2. Understood God was the lawgiver, that there were absolutes / they understood right from wrong.
 - 3. They understood Adam’s fall and that all humans were under judgment by their Creator. *(In other words, they realized they needed a Savior.)*
 - 4. They understood that sin’s penalty was death and that blood was needed to provide atonement.
- D. **Athenians Foundation:**
 - 1. Evolutionary based society therefore no accountability to a Creator/ Judge.
 - 2. They had no Jewish Scripture, therefore no law or standard of truth, no right or wrong, no absolutes! *(In addressing issues as adultery, abortion, homosexuality etc,*

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without the Bible they have no framework to understand these sins)

3. They had no concept of Adam's original sin.

VII. THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL

"They will never accept grace till they tremble before a just and holy law." (Charles Spurgeon)

"God, being a perfect God, had to give a perfect law, and the law was given not to save men but to measure them... This then is why God gives us the law-to show us ourselves in our true colors." (Dwight Moody)

- A. True conversion takes place when we see our sin and inability to get to a holy God (this is seen through the mirror of the law) only then, can they understand God's love and provision for us in Christ Jesus.
- B. The problem has been that we have been giving the cure before they are convinced of the disease. But once someone is convinced that he stands guilty before God, they are ready for the Good News of God's love and grace. Now it is time to exalt God's love and the incredible price He paid for each of us. Now it makes sense, now His grace is truly amazing.
- C. Once the law has had the chance to do its work, we get the privilege of sharing the Good News of Jesus, who He is and what He has done. Now His sacrifice makes sense, and it will be received with gratitude and thankfulness. In the same way a drowning man welcomes a life preserver or a dying man a cure, if we take time to show the world their need for Jesus, they will humbly receive the message of the cross.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. (John 3:16-18)

VIII. OUR COST

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it." (Matthew. 16:24-25)

- A. To have the life of God, you have to die to self. We have to lose our old life.
- B. Christianity is a life exchange; I give up mine and I get His.
- C. **It is not asking Christ to be a part of my life, but to be my life.** We are making Him Lord, master and ruler of everything that was our life. And we get His life in exchange. Everything that is His, in exchange for everything that was ours. This is entry level Christianity. This is what it means to be a follower of Christ.

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- D. This is the message we have to present to people, not to just add Jesus as a part of their lives, receiving a set of benefits, but exchanging all of our sin, baggage, hope, dreams, and resources and receive His life, blessings and freedom.

IX. IMPORTANT ASPECTS FOR THE GREAT COMMISSION

“I consider that the chief dangers which confront the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost; Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance; salvation without regeneration; politics without God; and Heaven without Hell.” William Booth

- A. Heaven and hell are real and must be discussed. Heaven was created for the angels and us. It is where God resides. Hell was created for Satan and his demons. Every person that chooses a life without God chooses a life in eternal hell (without hope).
- B. Heaven, the Bible teaches in Revelation 21:3: ***“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.”***
- C. Hell, the Bible teaches in Luke 16:19-31, is a place of memory, regrets and remorse. We will have full memory, without any ability to change or make things right. It will be too late. It also shows us that Hell is a place of thirst, agony and pain. Jesus said there is weeping and gnashing of teeth, it will be a place of frustration, and anger. (Mt 13:42)
- D. **The Cross of Christ:** Jesus died on a cross and paid the ultimate penalty for sins. The cross of Jesus accomplished what we could never do. When we repent and trust in Jesus, God graciously makes us and declares us righteous, forgives us all our sins, and gives us eternal life. ***“He emptied Himself; He took the form of a servant; He humbled Himself, by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:7-8)***
“I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me will live even if he dies.” (John 11:25)
- E. **Repentance means:** Turning away from sin by changing one’s actions to obey the teachings of Jesus Christ. The repentance process consists of feeling sincere regret or sorrow for doing wrong, confessing the sins, asking for forgiveness, making restitution for any damage done, and not to repeat the sin. We must preach repentance. Jesus did: ***“Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” (Mark 1:14-15)***
- F. **The Blood of Jesus:** ***“without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins!” (Hebrews 9:22)***. It’s the blood of Jesus that washes our sins away, redeems, heals, forgives and gives us the right to stand before God.

X. PRINCIPLES FOR BEING A WITNESS

“Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach,

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not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.” (II Timothy 2:23-26)

- A. As a witness for Jesus Christ we should do it with the utmost honor for God, our motive should be to glorify God. How much harm has been done to Christ’s cause through ignorant and unloving attempts at witnessing.
- B. Be kind and able to teach, gently instruct. As we witness it is also our responsibility to teach the Gospel not just preach. The difference between the seed that went on with God and the seed that failed to produce in Matthew 13 was that in the first one there was understanding. We need to make sure there is an understanding of sin, the law, God’s holiness, etc.
- C. We need to, above all else, look for God given repentance. Without it there is no real conversion.
- D. Everything we do needs to be done with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience.

XI. SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY

“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony, loving not their lives unto death.” (Revelation 12:11)

- A. **Testify:** *“To bare witness or give evidence.”* Your testimony gives evidence to the existence of a real living God who rewards those who diligently seek Him. Great anointing comes when you share your personal testimony in connection with the blood of Jesus.
- B. A testimony does several things:
 - 1. It disarms people’s defense.
 - 2. It creates relate-ability.
 - 3. It gives them hope and builds faith, that if God did something like that for you. He can and will do it for them. **IT SHOWS THEM THIS REALLY WORKS.**

XII. FORGIVEN

“Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits- who forgives all your sins.” (Psalm 103:2-3)

- A. Forgiveness literally means: *‘a release from bondage or imprisonment with the added quality of canceling out all judgment, punishment, obligation or debt.’* God purchased our freedom and forgiveness with the blood of Jesus. Because according to *Heb 9:22* without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.
- B. To be forgiven of all your sins means God will never judge, punish or condemn you for your sin. In the court of law there is the law of double jeopardy, which states “a crime can only be paid for

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once” what Jesus paid for, you and I will never have to pay for again. God forgave you once for all time.

XIII. ETERNAL LIFE

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

- A. The Father’s plan from the creation of the world was to have a family, sons and daughters he could give love to and receive love from.
- B. The reason Jesus went to the cross was not just to forgive our sins; it was to give us eternal life! The sin was what stood in the way; Jesus dealt with it, and broke open the way to eternal life.
- C. What is eternal life? Contrary to what you may have been taught, eternal life does not start when you die and go to be with Jesus in heaven. Eternal life starts the moment you are born again.

XIV. LEADING SOMEONE TO PRAYER

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (Romans 10:9-10)

- A. Leading someone to declare with his or her mouth that Jesus is Lord is the culmination. Salvation or the exchange of lives occurs when the confession of their mouth happens.
- B. As God breathed the Life of God on us at our creation, so the life of God is imparted to us **as we declare with our mouth that we believe the wonderful truth of Jesus becoming our Lord.** Also, it is very important in leading someone, to ask for forgiveness, confessing they have sinned against Him and His standards and inviting God to wash them clean. This is one of the most powerful times in a new believer’s life.

The following is a sample prayer – It should go something like this:

“Heavenly Father, Creator of everything, I come before you today and I confess that I have sinned against you. I have fallen short of the standard you have set. Thank you for sending your son Jesus to die on the cross and pay the penalty I deserved. I ask you that you would forgive me today and wash me clean by the blood of Jesus. I give you my life today and I lay my life down, in exchange for yours. I make you Lord of my life. I will follow you all the days of my life. I invite you Holy Spirit to live inside of me and help me. I thank you Lord Jesus, for all that you have done for me. Thank you father for forgiving me, redeeming me, and allowing me to have a relationship with you. I love you. In Jesus name; amen.”

XV. HOLY SPIRIT

“When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The

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promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:37-39)

- A. When Peter preached the Gospel on the day of Pentecost, the heart of his message was that Jesus died, rose, ascended to God, received from his Father the gift of the Holy Spirit and then poured it out on those who will receive the message.
- B. God's heart has always been to not just live with us, but also live in us by the Holy Spirit. By what Jesus did on the cross, forgiving us and making us righteous, God made that possible. Isaiah 66:1 makes it clear that God has always wanted to make his home in us.
- C. The Holy Spirit fills us, Acts 2; empowers us, Acts 1:8; teaches and consoles us, John 14:26; guides us into all truth, John 16:13; reveals Jesus, John 16:14; opens the Word of God to us, Luke 24:31-32; and He shows us how to pray, Romans 8:26. Without the Spirit's help the Christian life is not only hard but impossible.