

We believe discipleship is a direction
not a destination.



Evangelism in a Skeptical World

Week 2

Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- ~~Week 1~~ Introduction
 - ~~What is Evangelism? The Gospel?~~
- **Week 2** *Ch1* Theology of Evangelism
 - Models of Evangelism
- **Week 3** *Ch2* Everyday Evangelism
 - Evangelism Strategies 1-6



Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- **Week 4** *Ch3* How to Craft a Gospel Presentation
 - How to present the Gospel, then and now
- **Week 5** *Ch4* Evangelism to Postmoderns
 - Modernism and Postmodernism
- **Week 6** *Ch5* Contextualization for Evangelism
 - The Gospel and Culture



Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- **Week 7 Ch5** Contextualization for Evangelism
 - How to Interpret Culture, Thoughts, Themes, Story
- **Week 8 Ch6** Gospel-Cultural Hermeneutics
 - Enter, Challenge, Fulfill
- **Week 9 Ch7** Storytelling the Gospel
 - Styles of Learning, Story-telling



Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- **Week 10** Ch8 How to Give Evangelistic Topical Talks
 - What is a Topical Talk and how to give one
- **Week 11** Ch9 How to Give Evangelistic Expository Talks
 - What is an Expository Talks and how to give one
- **Week 12** Ch10 Religious Epistemology, Apologetics
 - Moving People from Hostile to Loyal



Theology of Evangelism

How Does Someone Become a Christian?

Chapter 1b



How Does Someone Become a Christian?

- Which version do you want?
 - My version?
 - Gods version?
- If you ask God, He will say “I regenerated him”
 - Regeneration means “to be born again”
 - God supernaturally gave me a new life
- This is an instantaneous act



I Regeneration Them

- But it is also continuous as we come to salvation
 - Internal call
 - **Regeneration**
 - Progressive sanctification
 - Preservation
 - Glorification
- God does the work of regenerating you



The Power of Words

- But that work starts with the person hearing the gospel
 - This means you and I have a part in this awesome work
- How?
 - God doesn't just tap people on the shoulder and say:
 - "You are saved"
 - God speaks to them through His word, the gospel
 - We get to speak this word to people



The Person's Side "I Converted"

- The big question:
 - "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30)
 - Repent
 - Have Faith
- Repentance has two parts
 - A change (Greek: Metanoia)
 - A turning (Greek: Epistrophe)



Repentance (Metanoia)

- A change (Greek Metanoia)
 - This is a change of heart and character
 - Some translate this to remorse, penance
 - Giving the understanding of fear, sorrow
- But there is a more positive aspect to this
 - Repent the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Matthew 4:17)
 - As in get ready and clean up



Repentance (Epistrophe)

- A turning (Greek Epistrophe)
 - This is the complete turning
 - Positive: Turn toward God and life
 - Negative: Turn away from destruction and filth



The Faith Part

- Three aspects of Faith
 1. Proportional Knowing
 2. Assent
 3. Exercise Trust



Faith (Knowing)

- Propositional knowing
 - Knowledge and understanding of facts
 - I know exercise is good, fact
 - I know Jesus is good, fact
 - Knowing the facts is good
 - But not enough



Faith (Assent)

- Assent
 - I acknowledge the facts are true
 - Exercise *really* is good for me
 - Jesus is the son of God
 - But more is needed for Biblical faith



Faith (Trust)

- Exercise Trust
 - We make our lives consistent with the truths we agree with
 - I commit myself to exercise, trusting it to help me
 - I commit myself to Jesus, trusting he will save me from my sins
- This all together is saving faith



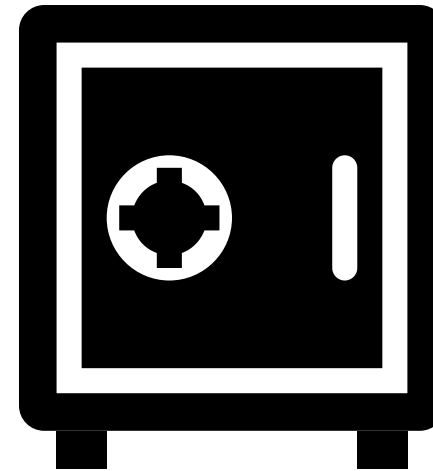
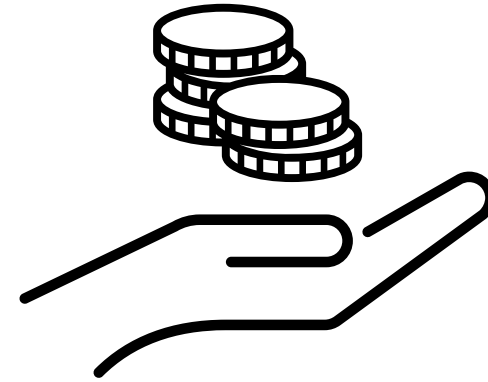
Faith With Action

- Examples of faith
 - Friends lower a paralyzed man through the roof in front of Jesus
 - A centurion asks Jesus to heal his servant with a word
 - A bleeding woman fights through a crowd to touch Jesus' cloak
 - The man healed from leprosy comes back to thank Jesus



Compare Faith

- In Luke we have
 - Zacchaeus (19:1–9)
 - Rich young ruler (18:18)
- How do their faiths compare?



Who is Responsible for Faith?

- Is faith a gift or something we must find? Let's look.
- God?
 - For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift (Ephesians 2:8)
- The Convert?
 - For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)



Who is Responsible for Faith?

- The Evangelist?
 - So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ (Romans 10:17)
- We all have a responsibility for our Faith
 - But we are not alone in our faith



Conversion and Discipleship

- This draws out a question in the relationship between
 - Conversion and Discipleship
- Are we always responding with repentance and faith to the gospel?
- If so, does that mean we're always converting to Jesus?
 - This is a definite no
- So, when does conversion end and discipleship begin?



Gods Actions

1. Internal call of the gospel
2. Regeneration
3. Progressive sanctification
4. Preservation

The Person's Actions

1. Hears the external call of the gospel
2. Conversion (faith and repentance)
3. Discipleship (faith and obedience)
4. Perseverance
5. Glorification



Speaking of Conversion

- Conversion is a one-time action
- Discipleship is a repeated activity, a daily activity
- But they both are tied together
 - We must trust and obey Jesus Christ (Faith)
 - And the Holy Spirit is acting in both actions
 - Through the gospel, shared by the evangelist's
- We are all on a journey to our final destination



Theology of Evangelism

Is there a Single Model of Conversion? For Evangelism?

Chapter 1b



Three Models of Conversion

- There are at least three models of conversion
 - The Prodigal Son
 - The Conversion of Paul
 - The Conversion of Timothy



The Prodigal Son

- The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32)
 - What defines the prodigal son?
 - Rebellion
 - Knowing what is right
 - Living a life of disobedience
 - Repenting and returning to the Father
 - The Rebel



The Conversion of Saul

- Saul (Acts 9:1–30; 22:1–21; 26:1–23; Gal. 1:11–24)
 - What defines Saul's conversion?
 - Religious Zealot
 - Perfect in all things, as he sees it
 - But Saul finds his actions, his righteousness is not enough
 - The zealot



The Conversion of Timothy

- Timothy (2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15)
 - What defines Timothy
 - Born and raised in a believing family
 - Sincere faith
 - Raised to know God
 - Timothy may not remember not knowing Jesus
 - Believer since infancy



Learning From These Models

- The Rebel:
 - Needs to hear that they have transgressed God's laws
- The Zealot:
 - Needs to hear that they fall short of God's holiness
- The Believer Since Infancy:
 - Needs to hear that they remain in Christ
- All of this suggests that the experience of conversion is not one size fits all



Models of Evangelism

- Acts 16 illustrates three models of evangelism
 - Lydia (Acts 16:13–15)
 - Slave Girl (Acts 16:16–21)
 - The Jailer (Acts 16:22–34)



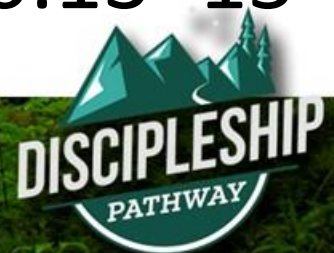
Reasoned Discussion

- Lydia (Acts 16:13–15)



¹³ On the Sabbath day we went outside the city gate by the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and spoke to the women gathered there. ¹⁴ A God-fearing woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, was listening. The Lord opened her heart to respond to what Paul was saying. ¹⁵ After she and her household were baptized, she urged us, “If you consider me a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us.

Acts 16:13–15



Reasoned Discussion

- Lydia (Acts 16:13–15)
 - Lydia, a rich, successful business woman
 - Today she might be a well off business woman selling the latest fashions
 - Dining at nice restaurants with other well off people
- Lydia is a cognitive thinker
 - Relating to, being, or involving conscious intellectual activity (such as thinking, reasoning, or remembering)

Reasoned Discussion

- Notice she believes in God, and fears Him
- She wants to be good and does good things
- She is religiously “curious”
 - But she has developed wealth, power, and status on her own
- It might be said her idol is her wealth
 - Without it she would be a nobody
 - She is trapped as the rich lady

Reasoned Discussion

- How do we evangelize Lydia?
 - Through reason and proof
 - What are the facts and reasons I should follow Christ
- Notice in vs 14 “The Lord opened her heart to respond to what Paul was saying.”
 - Paul shared the Word
 - God opened her heart



Power Encounter

- Slave Girl (Acts 16:16–21)



¹⁶ Once, as we were on our way to prayer, a slave girl met us who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She made a large profit for her owners by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ As she followed Paul and us she cried out, “These men, who are proclaiming to you a way of salvation, are the servants of the Most High God.” ¹⁸ She did this for many days.

Paul was greatly annoyed. Turning to the spirit, he said, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!” And it came out right away.

Acts 16:16–18



Power Encounter

- Slave Girl (Acts 16:16–21)
 - She is a slave, not in control of her life
 - She was taken advantage of
- Today she might be a sex worker
 - Controlled by men, drugs, her situation
- She is an Intuitive Thinker
 - Using or based on what one feels to be true even without conscious reasoning; instinctive



Power Encounter

- Spiritually she is demon possessed
 - She experiments with the occult, witchcraft, tarot cards
 - Her life is out of control, she is in despair
 - Her idols are living ones, her owners
 - She hates them but can't live without them
 - The owners create her world, her structure

Power Encounter

- How can we evangelize her?
 - Through a power encounter
 - Through the power of Jesus Christ Himself
 - She has an experience that transcends anything she has had before
 - This is an act of God
- Paul makes an appeal to her heart



Example of Your Life

- The Jailer (Acts 16:22–34)



²² The crowd joined in the attack against them, and the chief magistrates stripped off their clothes and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³ After they had severely flogged them, they threw them in jail, ordering the jailer to guard them carefully. ²⁴ Receiving such an order, he put them into the inner prison and secured their feet in the stocks.

Acts 16:22–24



²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the jail were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains came loose.

²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the doors of the prison standing open, he drew his sword and was going to kill himself, since he thought the prisoners had escaped.

Acts 16:25–27

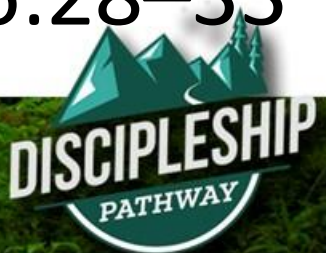


²⁸ But Paul called out in a loud voice, “Don’t harm yourself, because we’re all here!”

²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He escorted them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

³¹ They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him along with everyone in his house. ³³ He took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds. Right away he and all his family were baptized.

Acts 16:28–33



Example of Your Life

- The Jailer (Acts 16:22–34)
- Honest and good man of the working class
 - In today's world he might be a low level government worker
 - He is not rich but not poor
- He doesn't care about all that feeling stuff
- He also doesn't care about all that book stuff either



Example of Your Life

- He is a concrete-relational thinker
 - He wants to discuss practical things
 - He likes stories about real life
- Spiritually he is not looking for God
 - God is around but if I don't mess with Him, he won't mess with me
 - His idol is his reputation, I'm honorable and good



Example of Your Life

- How do we evangelize him?
 - By showing the jailer the life of a Christian
- I haven't run away
 - My honor is not mine but God's
 - Follow me as I follow Christ
 - He is what you are missing



Summary

- Cognitive thinkers are persuaded by a reasoned discussion
 - They need to think about the gospel
 - We reach them with a logical presentation of ideas
- Intuitive thinkers are persuaded by emotions
 - They need to sense the awe of the gospel
 - We reach them with events and transcendental experiences



Summary

- Concrete-relational thinkers are persuaded by stories
 - They need to see how the gospel works
 - We reach them with the example of our lives



Theology of Evangelism

Conclusion

Chapter 1b



Conclusions

- Evangelism is
 - The message, the gospel of Jesus Christ
- Evangelism is not defined by its:
 - Message, method, medium, or audience
- Different models of evangelism in the Bible:
 - Logical presentation of ideas
 - An event with emotional impact
 - Through stories



Conclusions

- There are also different models of conversion:
 - Different people have different experiences of God's regenerating work
 - People will be persuaded in different ways:
 - Through logic
 - Experiences
 - Personal examples



Our Challenge

- We need to be open to different ways of evangelizing
 - We don't have to evangelize the same way we were evangelized too
- We are called to communicate Gods word, the gospel of Jesus Christ
 - Don't get discouraged when people reject the word
 - They are rejecting God not us
- God can and will use our words to move people



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