

Do We Need to Know More?

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

John 3:16-17

The other day my son and I were talking, and he reminded me of how he used to tell EVERYONE they needed Jesus. He was correct. He would go to school, first, second, third grade and so on, and tell all those who would listen that if that person wanted to go to heaven, they needed Jesus in their heart. Then he would “lead them to Christ.” He would tell them that God loves them and wanted to know them. He loves them more than anyone and He will always listen to them. He would explain that God loves them deeper than their parents. God will always, ALWAYS forgive you and He will stand by and with you through all of your trials/tribulations in life.

When my son did this, he was in kindergarten, first and second grades. Well, actually, he still does it now. He might use different words, but the verses are the same – the message is the same and when we get to heaven, I can’t wait to see how many people there because of his willingness to always share Jesus.

Now, I’m curious. Do you know this fact: Jesus loves you and died for you – for your sins – took ALL the punishment God could meet out to you for your sins and laid them on the very Son God sent to earth? In fact, that is exactly WHY Jesus came to earth – to reveal the Father to us, demonstrating His love, then dying on our behalf so we can enter Heaven?

If you know these simple facts, you know enough to evangelize the entire world. Why? Because it’s the Gospel, and because it’s all true. Everything else is not fluff but can be added/learned as you walk with the Lord. These are the important truths.

If you don’t believe me then may I encourage you to read Acts 9:1-22. Why? It starts out with Paul (then still called Saul), “*But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord,*” He’s about to encounter the living God. . . Jesus Christ. Do you remember the story? Here – you can read it for yourself:

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he went on his way, he

approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. ⁴ And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” ⁵ And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸ Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹ And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³ But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your Name.” ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of My Name.” ¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹ and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰ **And immediately he proclaimed Jesus** in the synagogues, saying, “**He is the Son of God.**” ²¹ And all who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this Name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?” ²² But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

Yes, Paul had a LOT of training, but Paul also had A LOT of sin. He had been persecuting the Lord's Church. He had them put into prison and beaten. Both men and women. What did Paul learn? That he was forgiven, his punishment had been taken care of and that God loved him in spite of his persecuting God's children. That, my friends, is love. That is also the Gospel. Paul didn't wait for more training. He got up immediately and started sharing the truth about Jesus.

With this thought in mind, I would like to ask you – can you do that? Do you do that? Sometimes we wait for “the right opportunity” and sometimes opportunities are thrust upon us. If you're like most people, if we are aware of where the conversation is going, we get scared and freeze up. That's normal. We need to just relax and allow Christ, through the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart. He will lead the conversation.

When people bring up “all those who have never heard the Gospel” we can tell them one simple thing – God judges people according to the amount of “Gospel” they have been exposed to. If all they know is creation, God has an answer for that. Romans 1:20,

“For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”

Then, remind the person you're talking to that right now, the issue before him/her, is where will this individual spend eternity. You can't do anything about the person who has already passed. You can't do anything about any other person at this moment in time – just the one you're personally speaking to.

This is all you have to know to start sharing Christ. If you feel this isn't enough, you can always buy tracts that lay out the way of Salvation. You can watch Ray Comfort; you can submerge yourself in Scripture. But the bottom line is, you, me, we all need to get out there and tell a dying world they need Jesus.

And, by the way, if you're talking to people in the LGBTQ+ community – God loves them, too. He loves them deeply! In Ephesians 2:1-10 Paul wrote:

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches

of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

And in Romans 5:8

⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

I hope you're encouraged by this and feel confident enough to go tell someone about the love of God. Remember, when you do, the Holy Spirit is there helping you every step of the way. Just something to keep in mind. . . Some of the best evangelists are new believers, who simply know this one truth – God loves them and He forgave them ALL their sins. God bless!



Serving for the month of **September:**

	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Usher</u>
1	Chuck Gray & Carol Gray	
8	Joe Glass & Sue Wackerly	
15	Bill Heierding & Joan Heierding	
22	Michelle Brennan & Carol Gray	
29	Sue Wackerly & Jim Wackerly	

Communion Deacon:
Chuck Gray



Serving for the month of **October**

	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Usher</u>
6	Bill Heierding & Joan Heierding	
13	Michelle Brennan & Joe Glass	
20	Gary Jo & Penny Lee	
27	Sue Wackerly & Jim Wackerly	

Communion Deacon:
Bill Heierding



Bible Reading for **September:**

(Read only one chapter per day, please)

Sept. 1-2 2 Corinthians 12-13

Sept. 3-6 Ruth 1-4

Sept. 8 -28 Judges

Sept. 29-30 James 1-2



Bible Reading for **October:**

(Read only one chapter per day, please)

October 1-3 James 3-5

October 4-13 Ezra

October 14-23 Esther

October 24-31 Nehemiah



Points to Ponder:

Rooting out sin in our lives is business as usual for God.

As horrible as it was that the elders were bringing idols into the temple – it was even worse for the exiles who brought idols into their hearts.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 8: Breakfast Potluck – sign-up sheet is by the office.

September 15: Council Meeting 8:30 a.m.