**Christian Apologetics Lesson 3: Accurately Presenting of the Gospel**

A significant aspect of the apologetic task is presenting the Gospel message to unsaved people with the goal that they would convert to Christ. We commonly call this evangelism. It is critical that we are able to make an accurate presentation of the Gospel. Today the Gospel message is often watered down, misunderstood and misspoken. In our evangelistic efforts we must make sure that we are communicating the true Gospel in an appropriate way. We must strive to present the message of the Gospel clearly and accurately. This lesson will examine what information you must include as you tell others of their need for salvation through Christ.

When you present the gospel, there are certain topics that your audience must understand. You should thoroughly understand each topic yourself and you should be able to discuss the content of each topic with any age group.

**1. Who is God? The Creator and sovereign Lord**

It’s important that you start here because much error and confusion regarding the person of God abounds in our culture and around the world. People need to know who God is and where they stand in relation to Him. (Genesis 1:1, 1 Peter 1:15-16, John 3:16, Romans 5:8, 2 Peter 3:9, Ephesians 1:11 and Revelation 4:11).

**2. What is man? Utterly sinful and unable to save himself.**

People are basically sinful. People do bad things because they are sinful. Each person has sinned against a holy God. (Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 5:12 & 3:10-23)

Man is dead in trespasses and sin. He has no fellowship with God. (Ephesians 2:1 & 4:17-19)

Sinners are separated from and under the wrath of God. This is man’s primary problem, and he cannot solve it by himself. (John 3:18 & 36)

Sin deserves to be punished. That punishment is eternal separation from God and from everything good. (Romans 6:23, Isaiah 59:1-2 & 64:6)

Those who remain in their sin will spend eternity in hell. (Revelation 20:14-15)

It’s critical that your audience understands the nature and severity of their sin and alienation from God. Francis Schaeffer said that, given one hour, he would take 45-50 minutes to show how one has sinned against and offended a holy God, and then 10-15 minutes to preach the gospel. A person must acknowledge his disease before he’s ready to take the cure. So make sure your student understands the full meaning and ramifications of his or her sin.

**3. Who is Christ? The sacrifice, Savior and Lord**

Again, it’s critical to take the time to explain exactly what the Bible says about the person and work of Christ. There’s much false information floating around about Jesus—don’t assume that the student knows who He is and what He did.

A. He is the Son of God, God in the flesh, and lived a perfect, sinless life. Jesus is the Savior. He came to save us from our sin. (Matthew 1:21, Luke 19:10, John 1:1 and 1 Peter 2:22)

B. Christ died for our sins, was buried, and arose the third day. (1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

C. Christ took the punishment for our sins. He suffered instead of us. He was our substitute. (2 Corinthians 5:21, Isaiah 53:4-7)

D. He is the only way of salvation. There is no other means. (John 14:6, Acts 4:12)

E. Jesus is both Lord and Savior. We must recognize His Lordship. (Matthew 7:21-23, Luke 6:46 and Romans 10:9)

**4. How should I respond to the Gospel? Repent of my sins and trust in Christ.**

The gospel message demands a response. Just knowing the facts of the gospel does not mean that one is saved. One must make a personal decision regarding the facts.

A. Salvation occurs when one repents of his sin and believes in the person and work of Christ. (John 3:16 & Acts 20:21).

B. Repentance is turning away from and rejecting sin and turning to God. It is being sorry for sin and wanting to be forgiven. (1 Thess. 1:9, Acts 20:21 & 26:20)

C. Faith is trusting in Christ to forgive you. It is a trust in and commitment to Him. It is trusting Christ alone to be saved. Belief consists of knowledge, assent, and whole-hearted trust. (John 3:16, 36, 5:24 and Ephesians 2:8-9)

D. Discipleship is costly. Following Christ may require a major change in your lifestyle. (Luke 14:33)

**Conclusion:** An accurate, clear presentation of the Gospel message is an important aspect of the apologetic task. Make sure you can tell others why they need to be saved and what they must do to be saved.

Questions for Thought/Reflection

1. Should we first convince people that God exists before launching into a Gospel presentation?

2. Shouldn’t we first convince our audience that the Bible is trustworthy before telling them what the Bible says?

3. What if the person you are talking to tells you that he doesn’t believe in God or the Bible?

4. Why do we need to stress the importance of accuracy and clarity in a Gospel presentation?