

*so great  
Salvation*

*gospel helps for  
the worker*



# Introduction

“Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.” - Luke 10:2.

**T**he desire of putting this together is for those who desire to follow their Lord as a laborer in the harvest of souls, for the glory of God, and the furtherance of His Kingdom. We realize that the Creator of heaven and earth has a double claim on us, as our Creator and as our Redeemer, and we are commanded to obey His call. We are called witnesses, but a witness is not just one who repeats what he has seen or shares what has happened in his life. In dealing with spiritual blindness and wrestling against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places, we need the bonafide validation of the message by the Holy Spirit by His supernatural moving. Thus, the inward witness of the Spirit is not only for the life of the believer but also His outward affirmation during the witnessing of the believer about his Christ and God’s word, that it is of truth in what is being said, as from the One true God. “that in all things he might have the preeminence.” - Colossians 1:18b

## **The topics discussed are as follows:**

- Gospel Reminders for Preparing the Worker (*To help understand the magnitude of what true witnessing or sharing the gospel requires*)
- Scriptural Starters for sharing the Gospel (*This addresses the Scriptural illiteracy of our day and the need to ask for the old paths*)
- The Grandeur of Salvation with Focus on Regeneration (*Getting a deeper understanding of the way God has shown in the Scriptures of His dealing with fallen man*)
- The Deity of Jesus Christ (*Some helps for further researching the uniqueness of Christ and His Deity as God in the flesh, upon which the gospel hinges*)
- Exalting Truth Amidst a Boisterous Generation of Lies (*Resources to earnestly contend for the faith, to get to the root of the problem*)

## Gospel Reminders for Preparing the Worker

### **Realize that**

- The Holy Spirit is sovereign in the method He uses (Mark 1:15, Luke 13:3, Acts 2:38, 16:14,31, 19:17-20, Romans 10:13, Ephesians 2:8,9); and the vessel He chooses for the type of task such as sowing, planting, watering (Acts 13:2, 1 Corinthians 3:6-8).



- Certain offices are only given to the Holy Spirit. Conviction of sin (John 16:8-11), work of drawing the sinner by revelation (John 6:44), regeneration (Ephesians 2:1,5), the primary inward witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16).
- Just as a person can accept his guilt when getting pulled over by the police for speeding, thinking that convincing someone that they have broken God's law from the Scriptures does not necessarily mean that they are convicted of sinning against a holy God (Psalm 51:4), and they are sorry towards God for it (2 Corinthians 7:10)
- The gospel's call is a command to be obeyed and not an intellectual decision to be made. (John 1:12,13)
- To reject Christ would be to reject the ONLY way of escaping the wrath that is to come. Narrow is the way to life (John 3:36, Revelation 22:17, Matthew 7:13,14)
- Get to the Person of the word, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the spirit of the Law (why God gave it, revealing the nature of God Himself of His holiness, righteousness, and justice), and don't stay with the words of Christ alone or the Bible text alone (1 John 5:12)
- There are no cookie-cutter methods given in the scripture when dealing with a soul, such as altar calls or "sinners prayer" that we can package and follow blindly (2 Timothy 3:16)
- The general declaration of the gospel is the foundation of what was preached to the Jews and the Greeks. Then there is the "specific" application of the gospel based on the direction of the Holy Spirit's effectual working. You cannot take the specific application and apply it to the general declaration to an audience, for the Spirit is sovereign in the method that He uses
- The need to be led by God and filled with the Spirit (*please see self-preparation for the task ahead*)

### The 3 Core Elements of the gospel

- The Revelation of God by the Spirit as the word is prayerfully shared (2 Corinthians 4:4)
  - o The Holiness of God (Isaiah 40:12-26)
- The Condition of man (Job 15:15-17)
  - o The sinfulness of sin, the conviction of sin by the Spirit (Habakkuk 1:13, 1 John 3:4)
  - o The inability of a man to save himself through good works, keeping the "golden rule," etc.. (Isaiah 64:6)
- The Way of Escape (Acts 20:21)
  - o **Repentance** (Prov 28:13, Matthew 4:17, Mark 6:12, Luke 5:32, John 3:19-21, Acts 3:19, 11:18)
  - § Repentance is not about doing good works for salvation; instead, it shows the response of the revelation of the sinfulness of sin by the

Spirit, of why Jesus came for - to save us from our sin (Matthew 1:21). Not just the penalty of sin (John 1:29, Colossians 1:14). Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel? (Ezekiel 33:11)

- § True repentance is always toward God, without which there is no regeneration.
- § See if there is godly sorrow, that he has offended God (2 Corinthians 7:10)
- § See if the sinner is willing to turn from sin, willing to forsake it, in thought and action (Isaiah 55:7, Acts 26:20); be willing to submit to the authority of Christ (Acts 2:36)
- o **Believe** by faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:16, Romans 1:17, 10:4, Galatians 3:11)
- § Not agreement to facts but the spontaneous response of the will to believe based on the merits of the revealed Person of Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31, Romans 10:9)
- § Just like asking and receiving, the assurance that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Romans 10:13) are for the convicted sinner to ask until God responds in regeneration. So the sinner is given encouragement and the assurance to keep on calling until He saves them.

## Assurance

- Regeneration is where the Spirit takes the heart of stone and replaces it with a heart of flesh, giving a new desire for holiness, continuing to see things in his life that are sinful that he needs to forsake because the seed of God is in him. (Ezekiel 36:26, 1 John 3:9)
- The primary assurance (inward witness) is by the Spirit (Romans 8:16, Galatians 4:6, 1 John 5:6). This is crucial before any secondary witness can be given.
- Wait to see the changed life before you give assurance by the secondary witness of the word of God (1 John 5:6), even if it needs to be a few weeks before you are moved to give that assurance.
- Assure him that there is victory from sin and freedom from the bondage of sin through Christ. (John 8:36, Romans 6:11-14, Jude 1:24)
- The believer's identity in Christ (Colossians 3:3, Philippians 3:10)

## Self-Preparation for the task ahead

- Be humble, right with God, a vessel that is meet for the Master's use (James 4:3,4,6, Ephesians 5:18)

- Get familiar with scripture and the God of the Word (1 Peter 3:15, 2 Timothy 2:15, 1 Thessalonians 1:5)
- Being a witness must be by being filled with the Holy Spirit (who can convince the hearer) that the witness shared by the believer is faithful and true (Acts 1:8)
- Pray for conviction of sin, repentance to be evident, discernment in the next step when dealing with the lost, and to be led by the Spirit (2 Thessalonians 3:1). Since these offices, such as conviction of sin, regeneration, are works of the Holy Spirit, pray to ask Him to intervene, for there is no hope without His intervening in that effort.
- Ask God to give you a love and burden for souls and to see them come to Christ (Psalm 126:6, Jude 1:22, 2 Cor. 5:14). For boldness (Acts 4:31)
- Realize that true salvation is God-centered, for it reveals the initiative taken by God to love us when we were yet in our sins (Luke 19:10, Romans 3:11, 5:8, 1 John 4:19). Love towards God before love toward others (Rev. 2:4)

## Scriptural Starters for sharing the Gospel

These are given as pointers to establish the core foundational elements of the gospel while facing the Biblical illiteracy that we have today in our generation.

### The Holiness of God

- **Creator of all things:** All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. - John 1:3, In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. - Genesis 1:1
- Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he? - Habakkuk 1:13
- Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight. - Job 15:15

### The State of man

- To me belongeth vengeance and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste. - Deuteronomy 32:35
- The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. - Psalm 9:17
- And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled - Colossians 1:21
- He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy. - Proverbs 29:1

- God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.  
- Psalm 7:11

### The Condition of man

- Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. - Mark 10:19
- For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. - James 2:10
- Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. - 1 John 3:4
- As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; - Romans 3:10-11,23
- Romans 1:20-25
- **We crucified Christ:** Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified. - Matthew 27:22,23

### The Way of Escape

- **God hates sin:** He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. - Proverbs 28:13, Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. - Isaiah 55:7
- From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. - Matthew 4:17
- And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. - Mark 1:15
- I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. - Luke 5:32
- I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. - Luke 13:3
- He, that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy. - Proverbs 29:1
- Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; - Titus 3:5
- For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. - Ephesians 2:8,9
- For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. - Romans 10:4
- That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

- Romans 10:9-10,12,13

- And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. - John 3:14-17
- For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. - Romans 1:17
- Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. - Hebrews 7:25
- For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. - Romans 6:23
- Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. - 1 John 4:10
- And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. - Acts 16:31

## The Grandeur of Salvation with Focus on Regeneration

**Foundation for Salvation:** Ephesians 2:8,9, Matthew 1:21, John 1:12,13, Colossians 1:27

*(All of grace, by the sovereignty of the Holy Spirit on the method He chooses)*

We must realize that the work of seeing sinners born of God must bring us to our knees, to have that high view of God, and the absolute impossibility of man to be able to produce it, but the great possibility with God to intervene. To realize the need to be clean vessels that God can take and use it. For some to water, some to plant, but God alone to give the increase, that He alone might be glorified.

*Though we realize that God uses various methods to draw men and women to Himself, and the steps themselves may be combined in some instances as the Holy Spirit works, this table given below hopes to shine some light into the depth and beauty of regeneration.*

*(see next page for the table)*

Condition	Symptoms	Outcome
DEAD IN SIN	<p>Man covers his sin with anything but God. <a href="#">Genesis 3:7</a>, <a href="#">Deuteronomy 32:35</a></p> <p>- Does not seek God: <a href="#">Psalm 14:2-3</a></p> <p>- Rejects light: <a href="#">1 Corinthians 2:14</a></p>	<p>God preserves him with prevenient grace. <a href="#">Genesis 20:6</a>, <a href="#">Galatians 3:24</a>.</p> <p><i>(God delights in costly prayers that are offered unceasingly by believers for Divine intervention)</i></p>
REVELATION	<a href="#">John 16:8-11</a> , <a href="#">1 Timothy 3:16</a> , <a href="#">Matthew 1:23</a>	Divine illumination. <a href="#">John 3:27</a> , <a href="#">6:44</a> , <a href="#">Matthew 16:17</a> . Person of Christ re-
CONVICTION OF SIN	The holiness of God, The law of God. <a href="#">Romans 7:7-8</a> , <a href="#">11</a> , <a href="#">13</a>	Conscience awakened by the Spirit. <a href="#">John 8:9</a> , <a href="#">16:8-11</a>
REPENTANCE	The sinfulness of sin. It produces a response of the heart which has been affected by the mind (godly sorrow) and makes them willing to action (an act of the will to turn from sin). <a href="#">Acts 11:18</a> , <a href="#">2 Timothy 2:25</a> , <a href="#">Luke 13:3</a> , <a href="#">5</a>	<p>Turn from sin. <a href="#">Isaiah 55:7</a>, <a href="#">2 Corinthians 7:10</a>, <a href="#">Acts 20:21</a>.</p> <p>Toward God: <a href="#">Matthew 3:8</a></p> <p>Lordship of Christ (Authority, submission to Him, surrender to God's terms) <a href="#">Matthew 6:24</a>, <a href="#">Acts 2:36</a>, <a href="#">16:31</a>, <a href="#">John 13:13</a>, <a href="#">Acts 9:6</a>, <a href="#">Philippians 2:9-11</a></p>
FAITH TO BELIEVE	Responsibility of man. <a href="#">Titus 1:1</a>	<p><a href="#">John 6:29</a>, <a href="#">Romans 10:17</a>.</p> <p>God be merciful to me, a sinner, <a href="#">Luke 18:13-14</a>. Faith being the channel</p>
REGENERATION	<a href="#">Justification. New creation. 2 Corinthians 5:17</a>	<p><a href="#">Romans 4:6-8</a>, From death to life. Evident change: <a href="#">Ephesians 2:1</a>, <a href="#">Ezekiel 11:19</a>.</p> <p>A new heart and a new Spirit: <a href="#">Ezekiel 36:25-27</a></p>
ADOPTION	Sonship. <a href="#">Galatians 4:6</a> , Abba, Father	<p>- The primary witness of the Spirit: <a href="#">Job 32:8</a>, <a href="#">Romans 8:15-16</a>, <a href="#">1 Corinthians 2:11</a>, <a href="#">2 Corinthians 5:5</a>, <a href="#">Galatians 4:5-6</a>, <a href="#">1 John 3:24</a>, 5:6</p> <p>- The secondary witness of the word: <a href="#">1 John 5:13</a>, <a href="#">2 Timothy 3:14-17</a></p>
SANCTIFICATION	Ongoing work of God in conforming us to the image of His Son. <a href="#">Romans 8:35-39</a> .	<p>- Mind of Christ: <a href="#">Philippians 2:5-6</a></p> <p>- Correction when needed: <a href="#">Hebrews 12:8</a></p> <p>- Spiritual maturity: <a href="#">Romans 12:1-2</a></p> <p>- Looking unto Jesus: <a href="#">Hebrews 12:2</a></p>



**Step-1** is the state of the natural man

**Step-2** is the means of grace

- Preaching: 1 Corinthians 1:18,21
- Praying: 2 Thessalonians 3:1,2
- Empowered word by the Spirit: 1 Thessalonians 1:5, 1 Corinthians 2:4,5
- Divine Providence: Acts 8:26, 9:3-5

**Steps-3 to Step-7** are the spontaneous action and response in the mind, heart, and will of man by the working of the Holy Spirit. (John 3:8)

## The Deity of Jesus Christ

- Creator of all things: Isa. 40:21-31, John 1:1-3, Col. 1:16-18, Heb 1:1-2, Revelation 1:8
- Power to save: John 5:21, 10:30-31,33,38
- Equal with God: Philippians 2:6, John 1:1, John 5:18, Heb. 1:8
- Knew the future: Matthew 17:9, Luke 22:10-12, 19:30
- Fullness of God: Colossians 1:15,19, 2:9, Revelation 19:6-16
- Lamb of God: John 1:29, John 17:5, Genesis 22:8, Isaiah 40:21-31, Isaiah 53
- Without sin: Luke 23:4,41, Hebrews 4:15
- Unchanging God: Hebrews 13:8, Malachi 3:6
- Son of God: Before the incarnation of Jesus: Daniel 3:25, Isaiah 9:6, 7:14, Josh. 5:13-15, Psalm 110:1, Matt 22:41-46, Genesis 1:1-31, Exodus 3:1-6, 33:11, Deuteronomy 34:10
- Son of God: After the incarnation of Jesus: Matt. 8:29, 1:23, 14:33, 16:16, Mark 3:11, 1:1, 1 John 2:22, 23, Luke 1:32, Matt 1:20-29, Luke 4:41, John 4:25,26, John 1:15-18, 1 John 5:20, Revelation 1:8
- Begotten of the Father: John 1:18, 3:16, Hebrews 1:5-8, Romans 5:11
- Part of the Trinity: Genesis 1:26, 1 John 1:1-3, 5:7, Isa. 6:3, John 14:9-11, 10:30-38, John 8:58,59, Micah 5:2, 1 Timothy 3:16, Ephesians 1:22,23, John 14:23, 17:11,21-24,12:45,17:5
- Bodily resurrection: Luke 24:36-43, Matt 28:5-10, 1 Corinthians 15:12-15, Revelation 1:7,8, Acts 1:3,10, 1 Timothy 3:16, Acts 9:5
- God the Father raised Jesus from the dead: Galatians 1:1, 1 Thess. 1:10, Hebrews 9:28
- Jesus raised Himself from the dead (God the Son): John 2:19-22
- God the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead: Romans 8:11
- The surety of His resurrection: Confirmed by the Pharisees and Sadducees: Matthew 27:62-66, 28:11-15. In their desire to disprove the deity of Christ, the chief priests, Pharisees, Sadducees did more to prove the deity of Jesus Christ by their very disputations that they raised against the Holy One.

- Coming again: Acts 1:11, Revelation 19:13-17, 1:7,8, John 14:3
- His power over nature: Matthew 8:27, 14:25
- Testimony of Old Testament prophecy:
  - o His birth: Micah 5:2, 2 Samuel 7:12-16, Isaiah 9:6-7, 7:14
  - o His works: Isa. 61:1-2, Zech. 9:9, Psalm 110:1-4, Isa 35:5-6, 42:1-6
  - o His redemptive work: Genesis 22: 8, Exo. 12:1-27, Numbers 21:6-9
  - o His sufferings: Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 69
  - o His death: Psalm 22:1-31, Zechariah 12:10, 11:12,13
  - o His resurrection: Psalm 16:8-11, Numbers 21:6-9
  - o His everlasting kingdom: Daniel 2:44
  - o His coming again: Jude 1:14 (by Enoch)
- Born of a virgin: Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 7:14, Luke 1:34,35
- Raised the dead & performed miracles: Matt. 11:4,5, Mark 10:52, Luke 7:15, John 11:43,44
- The only way: John 14:6, Galatians 4:9, Hebrews 7:25, Acts 4:12
- Able to forgive sin: Luke 5:20,21, 7:48,49, Jude 1:25, Matthew 9:2, Mark 2:5-7, Colossians 1:13-15, Ephesians 1:7, Acts 4:12
- Testimony of demons: Matthew 8:29, Mark 3:11, Luke 4:41
- Testimony of the Spirit: John 16:13-15

## Exalting Truth Amidst a Boisterous Generation of Lies

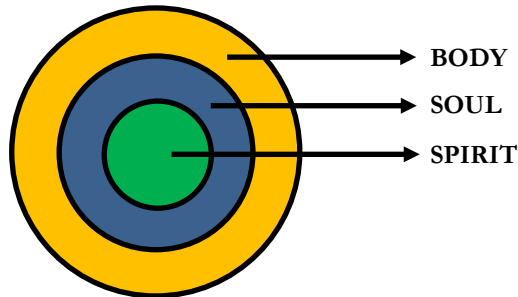
### Purpose (John 17:3)

- Equip those led by God to earnestly contend for the truth
- Understand the challenges and the methods for speaking the truth in a generation that embraces lies
- Reaching the heart of the person with opposing views by the Spirit through the word.
- Be a beacon of hope to others who may be timid in their stand for Christ or watching (Matthew 5:16)

## Topics

- **Laying the Foundation**
  - o Understanding the Landscape (Moral Relativism, no concept of God or a skewed version of God, led by emotions and feelings, live for the here and now, social & group identity, lives in a secular worldview that utopia is possible, non-judgmental, inclusion per their way of thinking)
  - o Discerning the times (the world's indoctrination in education, entertainment, media, and big tech outlets; acceptance to compromise in the name of security and fear; charity to help others for social justice and other causes)

- o Man is made in the image of God with triune characteristics. With body, soul, and spirit. His spirit is dead by sin (tries to cover his void from God-consciousness with religion, philosophies, atheism, evolution, material possession, etc.); this is where conscience exists; his soul is bent to believe a lie (builds on what he deems as truth from his bent on holding the truth in unrighteousness, reasoning) this is where mind, emotion, and will exists; his body does what his five senses dictates (reacts to the response from the other two entities) this is where the shell of the human physical body lives.



- o Understand the heart of the matter (original sin, man's desire to cover himself with lies) and get to the spirit by peeling off the layers and excuses.

#### - **Understanding your allies**

- o God, as our Creator, knows precisely what is needed and what each person is going through (everything begins with Him)
- o Truth never changes, for the giver is God (Understanding the unity of the Godhead)
- o Absolute truth and that there is a standard by which we are to be governed, word of God (2 Timothy 3:16,17)
- o Awaking the conscience (By the Spirit through the word).

#### - **Having the correct starting point**

- o The existence of God
- o Fall of man and his behavior from Genesis 3
- o We do not need to accept the other viewpoint when we have the truth. (ex. You don't need to accept gravity could be anything else though the other person does not believe in it)
- o Foundation is the word of God which is seen as one book and many scribes given by one God with one message (2 Timothy 3:16), Prayer (2 Thess. 3:2), walking in the Spirit (Acts 6:10)
- o Do not assume that just because someone says they are "saved," "Christian," "believer," etc., it means the same thing as being born of God.

- o Understanding the person's motive if they genuinely want to find the Truth or it will be as pearls thrown to the swine.

- **Purpose of the engagement**

- o See the other as a person, reach the person and not play into their emotions.
- o Take the attack as from the god of this world and do not follow rabbit trails, strawman attacks.
- o Know when to stop and let the truth do its perfect work, walk away
- o Love, but do not accept sin as "love" (1 Corinthians 13:6)
- o Use common knowledge for helping build facts used for driving a point (Ex. There is absolute human truth like a traffic signal, and everyone obeys it or knows what it is. If they don't, there is chaos and accidents; People lock doors because there is a threat of evil; there is a desire for man to be curious and reason and build buildings, etc. which shows that he is more than an evolved intelligent animal; we are made with purpose like eyes to see, ears to hear, etc. using a language called DNA which comes from intelligence for everything we see around us; death)
- o Listen but not to agree, using the word of God is crucial since that is your standard, there is no neutral ground, all are bent towards something. The Bible is why we know the revelation of who God is, made alive by the Spirit of God.

- **What Not to do**

- o Become emotional and lose the purpose of the engagement
- o Use terms for finding common ground (ex. The Bible is a scientific book – according to the listener science means evolution; while true science (laws of nature, creation, etc.) validates the Bible and there are many scientific truths in the scripture that have been proven centuries later, the primary purpose of the Bible is not to prove secular science, which constantly changes)
- o Stand your ground by just stating your viewpoint without engaging the flow of truth
- o Shout over the other and come up with fictional arguments that cannot hold water, just to prove you are correct. (Not knowing your sources)
- o Engage without the leading of God / learn when and when not to engage / incorrectly dealing with One-on-One vs. Mob situations



## - **Crucial Goals to keep in Focus**

- o Prayer, Prayer, Prayer (Learn to pray)
  - § That God will enable the truth to penetrate the conscience
  - § That God will be glorified
  - § That Christ will be lifted up so He can draw all men to Himself, for God to open their understanding
  - § Pray against the forces of darkness that can distract/bring doubt and confusion
- o Purity of the mind, to be prepared for meeting the need, being consistently right with God every day
  - § Avoid things that are doubtful which can be a hindrance in your spiritual life
- o Study to shew thyself approved (2 Timothy 2:15)
  - § Bible, Christian Biographies, Christian scientific organizations like Answers in Genesis, Institute for Creation Research, etc.
- o See them as God's creation who are not giving their rightful ownership to God who made them but is in rebellion against Him as an enemy of God. Their need of regeneration. Genuine love for the other (Acts 26:18) and supreme love for God (Matthew 22:37)
- o You don't go to win the argument but rather proclaim the truth and expose the error, desiring for God to give the increase (Psalm 126:6), some plant/water, but God gives the increase. Impossible with men but possible with God.
- o Humility is the key to usefulness and glorifying God (James 4:6)

## - **Examples from the Scriptures**

- o Jesus and the Pharisees (Kingdom of Light in conflict with the kingdom of darkness)
- o Peter / Stephen before the Jewish leaders in the early Church
- o Paul before Agrippa, Division with the sects in Acts 23:6,7
- o Lessons from the book of Jude
- o Letters to the Seven Churches
- o Other Passages: Esther and the pagan king, Daniel in the courts, Naaman, Jonah and Nineveh

## - **A Note about the Sinner's Conscience**

The light of the conscience can never lead anyone to Christ for it only condemns his condition as guilty, and the text of itself is not sufficient, but the light of the Spirit draws, and bears witness since that is His exclusive office. The conscience is the moral compass and the Spirit is supernatural illumination. The conscience approves good works and condemns sinful behavior,

the Spirit awakens the sinner through the Law and exposes that his good works are as filthy rags and are not sufficient for having peace with God.

## Miscellaneous Topics

### Who is a Christian?

- o A Christian is one who has been regenerated by the Holy Spirit of God (John 1:12,13, 3:5-8, Ephesians 2:1,8-9). \* This is the foundational element; without this, none of the below matters, but with this, the below does matter.
- o A Christian has in himself that inner witness produced by the Holy Spirit and is further assured by the word of God and not the other way around (Romans 8:16, 1 John 5:6,13).
- o A follower of Christ adheres to the foundational fundamentals of the faith of Christendom (2 Timothy 3:16,17, 2 John 9).
- o A follower of Christ realizes the need for living a holy life, set apart for the One who saved him and indwells in him (1 Peter 1:15,16, Hebrews 12:14).
- o A follower of Christ realizes that the foundational fundamentals of the Christian faith cannot be reduced further, at which point it is not “Christian” anymore.
  - o Deity of Jesus Christ (Luke 5:20-24, John 5:17,18, 8:57,58)
  - o The Eternal Godhead of one God in three persons (Genesis 1:26,27, Malachi 3:6, John 1:1-4,14)
  - o The Person and work of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19, John 16:8,13)
  - o Christ’s Virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:34,35)
  - o Christ’s sacrifice and blood Atonement (Genesis 22:8, Isaiah 53, Hebrews 9:12, 22)
  - o Christ’s bodily resurrection from the dead (Luke 24:5,6,36-43, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8)
  - o The inspiration (God-breathed), infallibility (without error or fault in all its teachings), and inerrancy (is truthful in all it says) of the Holy Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16,17, 2 Peter 1:20,21)

### Marks of a True Believer

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? - 2 Corinthians 13:5

- **The inward witness:** A true believer has the primary witness of the Spirit (Rom. 8:15,16, Job 32:8, Galatians 4:6, 1 Cor. 2:11, 1 John 5:6) and the secondary witness of the word (1 John 5:13)
- **Desires holiness while rejoicing in his newfound love:** A true believer has the seed of God in him and will desire after the new nature of holiness (Matt. 22: 37-40, 1 Corinthians 6:9, 1 John 1:5-7, 1 John 4:19, 2 John 1:9, Hebrews 12:14, Galatians 5:24)
- **Victory over sin:** A true believer will see immediate change and enjoy ongoing victory over habitual sin. He is a new creature with a new heart in Christ, and there will be credible proof of regeneration by the Spirit (Ezekiel 36:26, 2 Cor. 5:17, 1 John 3:9, Romans 6:14)
- **Life of repentance:** A true believer realizes the struggle of sin in continuously trying to bring him under bondage and resists sin at all cost. At times of faltering, he rises again. (Proverbs 24:16, 1 John 1:6-10, 2:15, Jude 1:23)
- **Is corrected:** When a child of God strays away from God, God as a loving Father brings him back by, putting thorns in his path (Proverbs 13:15), and correction that brings him to himself (Luke 15:17, Romans 2:4, Hebrews 12:5-8)
- **Produces fruit unto good works:** A true believer produces good works because of salvation and not for salvation. (Matthew 7:18,19, Romans 8:14, Galatians 5:19-23, 1 John 2:4)
- **Love for the brethren:** A Christian has a genuine love for those who are of the faith knowing the common bond in Christ and witnessed by the Spirit's assurance (1 John 2:9-11, 3:14)

## A Call to Discipleship

**God's part (Sovereignty of God):** Able to keep you (Acts 15:11, Jude 24-25, Romans 8:38-39, Philippians 1:6,2:13, Hebrews 4:14-16, 12:6-8), cannot be plucked (John 6:37, 10:27-29), calleth will also do it (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

**Our part (Responsibility of man):** Stand fast (1 Corinthians 16:13, Galatians 5:1, Philippians 1:27,29, 4:1, 1 Thessalonians 3:8), hold fast (Hebrews 4:14, Revelation 2:10,25, 3:11), endureth to the end (Matthew 10:22,32-33, Matthew 25, Luke 9:62, James 1:12, 2:18,26), endure hardness (2 Timothy 2:3,4), work out your salvation (1 Corinthians 3:16-17, Philippians 2:12-13, 1 Peter 1:13-16), punishment of the branch that was natural (Matthew 7:21-23, Romans 11:18-22), call to persevere (Luke 13:24-27, Hebrews 2:1-3, 3:12-15, 4:1,11, 6:11,15, 10:26, 38-39, 12:15,25,28, 1 John 5:13), call to warfare (1 Timothy 6:12, James 4:7, Ephesians 6:11-13), desire sound doctrine (2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17, Titus 1:9, 2:1, 2 Peter 1:4-8).



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