

"No Scared"

1 John 3.19-24

Evangelistic Approach

"If you died tonight, would you go to Heaven?"

MANY NOT SURE - HOPEFUL BUT AFRAID - SOME ACCUSE OF ARROGANCE

INITIAL EXCITEMENT OF SALVATION - GREAT CONFIDENCE AND JOY

PASSING FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT / DEATH TO LIFE

LATER - DOUBTS ARISE - SAME OLD PERSON, TEMPTATIONS, EVEN WORSE

OLDER CHRISTIANS - ALL GOING WELL - CONFIDENT IN GOD

WORLD CAVES IN - sickness, lose job, death of loved one
FAITH SOON CAVES IN TOO

SPIRIT OF OUR AGE - UNCERTAINTY - DOUBT - MISTRUST

RESEARCH DEGREES TO DISPUTE ACCEPTED THEORIES

1 John - WRITTEN TO DEAL WITH ISSUE OF DOUBT

MORAL TEST - God is Light - are you walking in the light?

SOCIAL TEST - God is Love - are you walking in love?

DOCTRINAL TEST - God is True - are you walking in the truth?

READERS FEEL GUILTY AND UNSURE - PERHAPS HAVE FAILED

2 Cor 13.5

5.13

1. Command to Obey v. 23

TWO EQUALLY BALANCED ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS

a. God 2.23 John 6.28,29 17.3

"BELIEVE" (Greek Aorist) DEFINITE ACTION AT SPECIFIC POINT IN TIME

DECISIVE ACT

Šb. man 3.17 John 13.34 14.15

"LOVE" (Greek Present) CONSTANTLY EXPRESSED EVIDENCE OF FAITH

CONTINUOUS ATTITUDE

GROUP OF THEOLOGIANs MET AT PRINCETON SEMINARY TO DISCUSS

"THE NEW MORALITY" - MOST WERE IN FAVOR

I.E. - BEING FREE FROM ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS

R.C. PRIEST SAT AND LISTENED - FINALLY ASKED, what do you think?

John 14.15

c. Inseperable BELIEF AND BEHAVIOR MUST BE JOINE TOGETHER

DOCTRINE AND DUTY ARE INSEPERABLE

Matt 22.36 Rom 16.26 Gal 5.6 James 2.17

2. Condemnation: Disobedient Heart

a. Accuser v. 20a Coloss 2.13-15 Rev 12.10

PROBLEM NOT WITH GOD - WITH THEMSELVES

"have I really done my part?"

SOME HAVE RECEIVED CHRIST AS SAVIOR SEVERAL
TIMES!!

THEOLOGICAL IMPOSSIBILITY - SALVATION IS ONCE FOR
ALL!

b. Judge v. 20b Jeremiah 17.10 1 Cor 4.3

1) Terror Hebrews 4.13 Revel 6.15-17

2) Comfort Psalm 139.17 Hebrews 10.22 2 Tim 4.18

3. Confidence: Obedient Heart

a. Basis v. 19 John 18.37

1) Fact 2.5,13,20,21 3.2,14,19,24 4.4,13 5.2,18-20

WE ALL ACCEPT HUMAN TESTIMONY
sign contracts, write checks, buy tickets, give credit card #

WHY SHOULD WE NOT BELIEVE GOD, WHOSE WORD IS ENTIRELY TRUSTWORTHY

FOR SOME IT IS THE SIN OF UNBELIEF

John Stott "Unbelief is not a misfortune to be pitied; it is a •
sin to be deplored. Its sinfulness lies in the fact that it •
contradicts the word of the one true God and thus attributes •
falsehood to him"

2.5
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2.13

2.20

2.21

3.2

3.14

3.19

3.24

4.4

4.13

5.2

5.18-20 "we know...we know...we know"

J.I. PACKER'S "Knowing God"

"What were we made for? To know God. What aim should we set •
ourselves in life? To know God. What is the eternal life that •
Jesus gives? Knowledge of God. What is the best thing in life? •
Knowledge of God. What in man gives God most pleasure? Knowledge •
of Himself."

2) Feeling Romans 5.1, 8.16 1 Thess 1.5

Charles Hodge - Systematic Theology - 1873

"to make assurance of personal salvation essential to faith is •
contrary to Scripture and to the experience of God's people"

Example of William Cowper - (see "His Unfailing Love")

"There is a Fountain Filled with Blood - Drawn from Immanuel's •
Veins - And Sinners plunged beneath that flood - Loose all their •
guilty stains"

3) Fruit v. 24 4.13 Galat 5.16

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Cotton Mather - Congregational minister in Boston - wrote 1716
Four Evidences of Salvation:

- 1) Turning from Idols
- 2) Zeal for Christ's Work
- 3) Fear of God
- 4) Willingness to take up the Cross

b. Benefit v. 22 5.14 John 8.29 Hebrews 5.7

MISTAKE TO MAKE GOD'S ANSWERS CONDITIONED ON OUR OBEDIENCE

I.E. "if you had more faith God would answer your prayer"

OBEY = OUR WILL IS IN HARMONY WITH GOD'S

RATHER - OUR ASKINGS TO BE PATTERNED ON OBEDIENCE

GOD NEVER PROMISED TO GIVE US EVERYTHING WE EVER WANT

NAME FOR SUCH A PERSON - "SPOILED BRAT"

FOR OUR OWN GOOD WE PRAY ACCORDING TO 5.14

BURDEN - OUR OBEDIENCE IS CONDITION OF ANSWERED PRAYER

BENEFIT - WE HAVE A FATHER IN HEAVEN WHO DESIRES OUR BEST

David Jackman "As we seek to live in a way that pleases God, • practicing his truth and love, our desires become moulded to his. • We want his will in our lives, rather than pursuing our own • selfish desires. The more we enjoy and develop this relationship, • as obedient children, the more we shall find ourselves asking and • receiving those things that are pleasing to God."

c. Blessing v. 24 NOT GETTING THINGS FROM GOD - BEING WITH HIM

"ABIDING" - HE IS THE VINE WE ARE THE BRANCHES

1.3 2.24,25,28 John 14.23

IN THE END OUR ASSURANCE COMES FROM GOD

OBJECTIVE - GOD'S SAVING WORK IN JESUS CHRIST

SUBJECTIVE - THE WITNESS OF HIS SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES

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Evangelistic Approach

"If you died tonight, would you go to Heaven?"

ANSWER - YES!

SECOND QUESTION - "If God said, why should I let you into Heaven?"

MEMBER OF HAILI CHURCH - THERE EVERY WEEK AT 8:30
AND/OR 11

SANG IN THE CHOIR

RIGHT ANSWER / ONLY ANSWER - TRUST IN JESUS CHRIST

LIVED - perfect life as my representative

DIED - paid the penalty for my sins

ROSE AGAIN - to give me a new life by His Spirit