

A BASIC GUIDE TO EVANGELISM

Last week I did a study called “Bibliography”. We saw many aspects that make our Bible unique. Today I want to spend some time dealing with how to evangelize a person in this day of apostasy and confusion. Most people do not even think about their eternal souls and if they do, they have the wrong idea about where they’re going and why. In this study, I want to show you 7 steps that deal with the most misunderstood aspects of God and salvation. We begin with:

1. **What do you believe? Luke 1:1 -.** A great way to start a conversation about salvation is to simply ask the person what they believe will happen to them when they die. It does matter what a person believes. When Luke began his book which he addressed to Theophilus, his desire was to present “those things which are most surely believed”. He does this based on verse 4 -. It is important to stress the 2 aspects of belief – “belief that and belief in”. Believing “that” something is true is based on facts. Once facts are grasped, then we can “believe in” – **John 20:31 -.** If a person espouses a belief that is contrary to the Bible, you want to go on to your next question:
2. **What do base that belief on? Matt. 21:23-25 -.** Notice that Jesus asked these religious leaders not about what they believed but what their authority was in believing. When it came to John the Baptist, did they believe that he was heaven sent or just a movement of the people? It is clear that if a belief had its foundation in heaven or more specifically God, then that belief was genuine and should be accepted. Most people will lean to believing what they have been taught or what they feel is right. The only authority that matters when it comes to our beliefs is God. Stress this truth to people.
3. **There are no good people – Rom. 3:10-12 -.** Most people believe the lie that simply states that going to heaven is based on being a good person. Most people believe that they are good people. That belief has to be diffused. Show people these verses and get them to understand that from God’s perspective (the only perspective that counts) there are no good people. Goodness is not judged horizontally (man to man) but vertically (man to God).
4. **People choose their own eternity – Acts 13:44-46 -.** Notice several things that happened in these verses. The Word of God was preached, it was put away or rejected and as a result, the people who rejected the Word of God judged themselves “unworthy of everlasting life”.

Paul made it pretty clear that a personal decision to reject the Gospel determined where they would spend eternity. Most people believe that God will decide where they go; He doesn't. Each individual chooses their own eternity based upon not their sincerity but what they have done with Gospel – **1 Peter 4:17** -.

5. **There is only one way – John 3:3, 7, Acts 4:12** -. Most people believe that there are many roads to Heaven. They ignorantly believe that all faiths get to God just on different paths. That can't be true since all religions contradict each other; except when it comes to works. Stress to people that God only ever made one way. Jesus stated that as did Peter in Acts 4:12. The philosophy behind other ways opens the door for all ways. If that is the case, you can never say that any way is a wrong way. That is the slippery slope that we are on now concerning marriage.
6. **God wouldn't be good if He wasn't just – Gen. 18:25** -. Most people believe that God is too good to send people to hell. That is a contradiction. God wouldn't be good if He wasn't just. God wouldn't be just if He didn't punish the unsaved for their sins and their rejection of His salvation. In this verse, Abraham states a truth – “Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right”. Since God is the Judge of all the earth, He would not be a good Judge if He wasn't just. People need to understand that God shows His goodness by being a just and fair judge. An earthly judge who decided to let a murderer go free because that murderer stated in court that the judge was too good a person to sentence him, would not be a good judge.
7. **You can't have your own religion – Acts 16:30-31** -. Most people believe that they can have their own religion and beliefs and that those beliefs will get them to Heaven. When the Philippian jailer asked Paul what he must do to be saved, Paul narrowed it down to one way and one person – the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul didn't say that as long as you are sincere in what you believe, you will be saved; he said that trust in Christ is the only religion that God recognizes. If a person clings to their beliefs, ask them how they “know” that those beliefs are true. If they can't produce facts outside of themselves then they have a blind faith and beliefs without a basis.