

Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church Sunday School

Evangelism Week 2 – the Gospel Reduced

I. God Centered Evangelism, not Man Centered

a. Our theology shapes our methodology

b. Examples and chart (see last page)

II. Message centered, not method centered

a. Two differing priorities:

b. Common approach to evangelism: simple plan of salvation with three of four basic facts

c. Mat 28:19-20 *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

d. Extensive, not minimal instruction is the goal

e. *Key is not the method of our evangelism but the message of our evangelism*

III. Discussion of Persuasions:

a. **Bill** What distortion of the gospel had Bill embraced? Why is it a contagious sort of lie? What was evangelist's tactic?

b. **Jim and Sarah** What lies were they living under? How did Evangelist address it? What was Evangelist's tactic?

c. Cornelius Van Til responding to Dr. Howe

Dear Dr. Howe:

You are certainly right in saying that I did not, [[in the discussion among Mr. White, Mr. Grey, and Mr. Black,]] make any sharp distinction between witnessing to and defending the Christian faith. I am not convinced by the evidence from Scripture which you cite that any sharp distinction between them is required or even justified. My defense of the truth of Christianity is, as I think of it, always, at the same time, a witness to Christ as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. We do not really witness to Christ adequately unless we set forth the significance of his person and work for all men and for the whole of their culture. But if we witness to him thus then men are bound to respond to him either in belief or disbelief. If they respond in disbelief they will do so by setting forth as truth some "system of reality" that is based on the presupposition of man as autonomous. I must then plead with them to accept Christ as their Savior from the sin of autonomy, and therewith, at the same time, to discover that they have been given, in Christ, the only foundation for intelligent predication. (REASON)

Man Centered	God Centered
<p>View of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point of contact with non-Christians is love (God loves you). Therefore, God's authority is secondary • Love is God's chief attribute • God is impotent before the sinner's will. • The persons of the Trinity have different goals in accomplishing and applying salvation • God is a friend who will help you. 	<p>View of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point of contact with non-Christians is creation (God made you). Therefore, God has authority over your destiny. • Holiness and love are equally important attributes of God. • God is able to empower the sinner's will. • The persons of the Trinity work in harmony- salvation accomplished for and applied to the same people. • God is a king who will save you
<p>View of Humanity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fallen, yet has the ability (or potential) to choose the good. • Seeks truth but lacks correct facts. • Needs love, help, friendship. • Makes mistakes, is imperfect, needs forgiveness. • Needs salvation from the consequences of sin – unhappiness, hell. • Humanity is sick and ignorant 	<p>View of Humanity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fallen, and will not come to God by own will power • Mind at enmity with God; none seek God. • Needs new nature (mind, heart, will), regeneration • Rebels against God, has a sinful nature, needs reconciliation. • Needs salvation from guilt and the power of sin. • Humanity is dead and lost
<p>View of Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savior from selfishness, mistakes, hell. • He exists for our benefit • His death was more important than his life. • Emphasizes his priestly office – Savior • An attitude of submission to Christ's lordship is optional for salvation. 	<p>View of Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savior from sin and sinful nature • He exists to gather a kingdom and receive honor and glory. • His death and his life of obedience equally important. • Emphasizes his priestly, kingly, and prophetic offices. • An attitude of submission to Christ's lordship is necessary for salvation.
<p>View of Response to Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation waiting to be accepted now. • Our choice is the basis for salvation – God responds to our decision. • We give mental assent to truths of gospel – decision. • Appeal is made to the desires of the sinner. • Saved by faith alone – repentance omitted for it is thought of as "works." • Assurance of salvation comes from a counselor using the promises of God and pronouncing the new believer saved • Sinner have the key in their hands 	<p>View of Response to Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loving command to be obeyed now • God's choice is the basis for salvation – we respond to God's initiative. • We respond with our whole person (mind, heart, will) – conversion • Truths are driven home into the conscience of the sinner. • Saved by faith alone – saving faith always accompanied by repentance. • Assurance of salvation comes from the Holy Spirit applying biblical promises to the conscience and effecting a changed life. • God has the key in his hand.

Will Metzger, *Tell the Truth*. Chart from page 32