

## THE GOSPEL BEYOND JARGON

The **JARGON** (which means *unintelligible, obscure, or meaningless talk; gibberish*)

- A. Expressions used in evangelism...are these scriptural?
  - 1. Give your heart/life to Christ.
    - a. Prov. 23:26...it is speaking to a BELIEVER (SON, give me thine heart)
    - b. Mark 8:34, 35...this is speaking of DISCIPLESHIP, not SALVATION
    - c. Rom. 12:1 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 8:5 also speak of how BELIEVERS are encouraged to give their life to God/Christ.
  - 2. Accept/Ask Jesus into your heart.
    - a. Rev. 3:20...this, too, is speaking to a BELIEVER (vs. 19 with John 14:21, 23)
    - b. Matt. 7:7-11...vs. 11 says, "your Father," so BELIEVERS are in view
    - c. Rom. 10:9...it is "confessing the Lord," not "asking the Lord into your heart"
    - d. Rom. 10:13...the key here is understanding what it means to "CALL upon the Name of the Lord" (see Gen. 4:25, 26 & 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim. 2:22 where BELIEVERS are in view...no doubt WORSHIP and PRAYER are involved)
      - 1. Rom. 10:14...Calling comes...after believing...after hearing.
      - 2. Acts 7:59...Stephen calls upon the Lord (he's already saved)
      - 3. Acts 9:14...Paul has authority to bind "all that call on Your Name" (refers to those already saved)
  - 3. The infamous "Sinner's Prayer" is usually used, especially regarding #2
    - a. Luke 18:30...this is the only "sinner's prayer" recorded in Scripture and he is NOT asking Jesus into his heart; he's asking God for mercy. This was BEFORE the Cross, so God's mercy in salvation had not yet been revealed to him.

The **GOSPEL** (FACTS of the DEATH & RESURRECTION of Christ...1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 15:1-4)

- A. Examples of proclaiming the gospel...preaching CHRIST and telling sinners to BELIEVE:
  - 1. Acts 8:26-39...Philip PREACHED JESUS (vs. 35) and the Eunuch BELIEVED
  - 2. Acts 10:34-44...Peter PREACHED the GOSPEL of CHRIST (vs. 36-40) and told them to BELIEVE to receive remission of sins (vs. 43)

3. Acts 13:26-39...Paul PREACHED the GOSPEL of CHRIST (vs. 26-30) and announced forgiveness and justification to ALL THAT BELIEVE (vs. 38, 39)
4. Acts 16:25-34...Paul PREACHED CHRIST, telling the jailor to BELIEVE (vs. 31, 32)
5. John 3:14-17...Jesus Himself PREACHED the GOSPEL, promising eternal life and salvation to “WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH”

Important things to remember as we proclaim the gospel:

1. We are simply GOD’S MESSENGERS...1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 9:16; 1<sup>st</sup> Thess. 2:4
  - a. It is a PRIVILEGE but also a tremendous RESPONSIBILITY
2. The “PREACHING/MESSAGE of the Cross” (1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 1:18) is the “power of God unto salvation to all who believe” (Rom. 1:16)
  - a. It is NOT our eloquence or power of persuasion or any of our own words that results in salvation. God uses the GOSPEL, the FACTS of His Son’s DEATH and RESURRECTION to bring salvation to believing sinners.
3. God alone REVEALS HIS SON to sinners...1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 3:5-7
  - a. He revealed His Son to Peter...Matt. 16:13-17
  - b. He revealed His Son to Paul...Acts 9:1-5 with Gal. 1:11-16
  - c. He revealed His Son to Lydia...Acts 16:14
  - d. He revealed His Son to us...1<sup>st</sup> John 4:2 with Phil 1:29 & Eph. 2:8
4. God reveals His Son to sinners through:
  - a. The Holy Spirit’s work of CONVICTION (John 16:7, 8) and NEW BIRTH (John 3:5, 6, 8)
  - b. The Word...James 1:18; 1<sup>st</sup> Pet. 1:23
5. If we keep these things in mind, we will NOT resort to using methods such as:
  - a. The SINNER’S PRAYER
  - b. The ALTAR CALL
  - c. Signing a DECISION CARD or the BACK OF A GIDEON’S BIBLE

**“But as many as received Him, to them gave he right to become the children of God, even to them that believe on His Name” John 1:12**

**“These things have I written unto you that believe on the Name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life” 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:13**