

# Gospel Presentation Class - 2010

## SECTION ONE -- Preparing to Share

### **I. Preparing to Share**

- A. Witnessing = Sharing Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results up to God.
- B. Ephesians 6:15 - Put on your shoes
- C. 2 Timothy 2:15 - Become proficient with your tools
- D. 1 Peter 3:15
  - 1. Commitment - *Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts*
  - 2. Preparation - *Always be ready to give a defense*
  - 3. Situation - *To everyone who asks you*
  - 4. Focus - *A reason for the hope that is in you*
  - 5. Attitude - *With meekness and fear*
- E. How to give “a” Gospel Presentation
  - 1. Course Outline
    - a. The Product - TWO interrelated Bible studies
      - 1) Grace - The product God offers
      - 2) Faith - How to acquire the product - and keep it for life
    - b. The Opening - How to turn a conversation into an opportunity to share
  - 2. Learn exactly as presented in class
  - 3. Then make it your own
  - 4. Trust God to personalize and empower each sharing opportunity

**SECTION TWO -- "Grace" -- Gospel Presentation Bible Study #1****I. Gift and Wage** - Salvation is a FREE gift

- A. 1 John 5:11,12 \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Ephesians 2:8,9 \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Romans 6:23a \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Illustration: Contrast a wage, a bargain, and a free gift.
- E. Romans 6:23b \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ due to \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 14:23)

**II. Sin and Law**

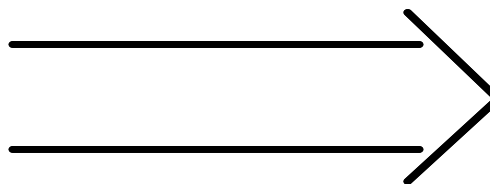
- A. Romans 3:23 - \_\_\_\_\_ have sinned
- B. What is SIN? - 1 John 3:4 - Sin = \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Illustration: Stop sign, murder, tall building. Demonstrate TWO DEMANDS of the Law - Fill in below

## D. LAW Demands: (conclusions drawn from previous illustration)

- 1.
- 2.

## E. God's Law = The Laws of Life

1. Intrinsic
2. Imposed



## F. Key Phrases

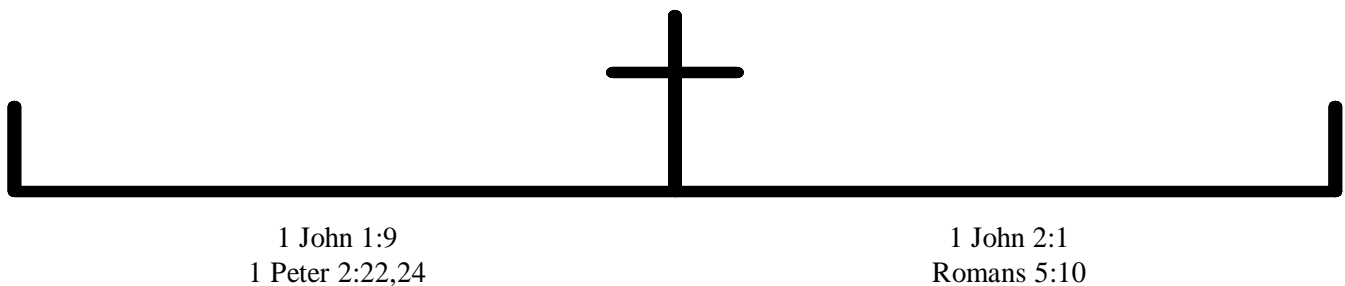
1. God does not kill sinners. Sin is killing us.  
Jesus came to rescue us from sin (what sin is doing to us), not from God (what God will do to sinners).
2. God does not say, "Serve me or die." He says, "You are dying. Serve me and live."

## G. Summary

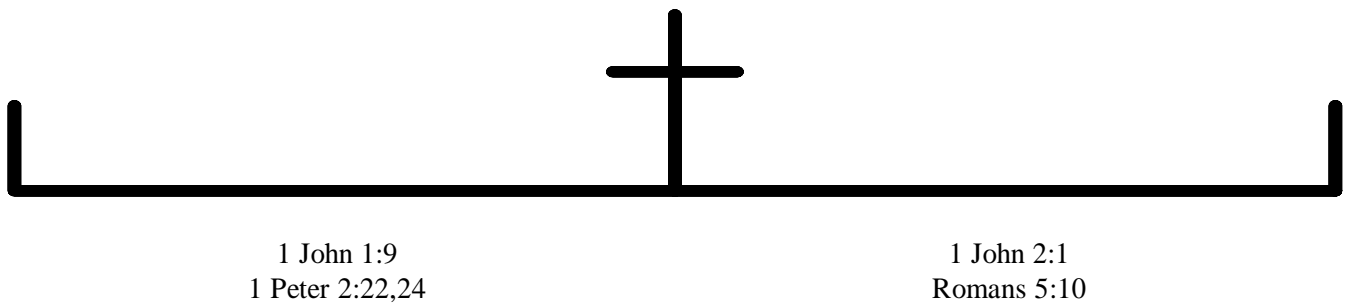
1. BAD NEWS - We are all doomed - to die under the results of sin
2. GOOD NEWS - Jesus made a way for us to survive and live = GRACE - Let me illustrate this with a diagram

III. GRACE Diagram - “Let me illustrate this with a diagram”

A. The Diagram



Confess = \_\_\_\_\_  
Faithful = \_\_\_\_\_  
Just = \_\_\_\_\_



Confess = \_\_\_\_\_  
Faithful = \_\_\_\_\_  
Just = \_\_\_\_\_

## B. STEPS IN FILLING OUT THE DIAGRAM

1. Initial Parameters:
  - a. Left end of line = *This is your "Birth"*
  - b. Right end of line = *This is your "Death"*
  - c. Below Cross - *This is the point at which you "Accept Christ," also known as the "New Birth"*
2. Left of the Cross = PAST Life
  - a. Situation - *Your life has been full of "-----SIN-----" (Refer back to Romans 3:23)*
  - b. Solution - Read 1 John 1:9
    - 1) Define CONFESS = *What does it mean to confess?* - "Plead Guilty"
      - a) Illustrate - Courtroom - Charges are read. *How do you plead?*
      - b) Illustrate - Courtroom - The "nice-guy" Judge with banner over bench which reads, "Plead guilty - Case dismissed." Dismisses traffic ticket, robbery, rape, murder...
    - 2) Define FAITHFUL = "Guaranteed" - *You can count on it 100%*
    - 3) Define JUST = "Legally Right"
      - a) Illustrate - Courtroom - *About to receive maximum fine for running stop signs*  
*I burst into courtroom and declare, "I set the defendant free!" What would the judge say?*  
*What would give me the legal right to set you free?*  
*Payment in full - by one who is **not guilty** and **willing** to give it away.*  
*You must **plead guilty** to open your account and accept the payment*  
*"Confess" does not convince God to forgive - Confess is simply your power of choice*
  - c. Draw Arch from "Birth" to "Cross" - *What did Jesus do that gave Him the legal right to set me free?*
    - 1) Above Arch - "Jesus' Death" - *on Calvary paid the maximum penalty for all sin*
    - 2) Below Arch - "Penalty" - Refer to 2nd Demand of Law above
    - 3) Read 1 Peter 2:22,24 - *Jesus was sinless - He bore my sins in his body on the tree*  
*Body - Literal-physical, not a spiritual metaphor*  
*The Creator God - Who says "Rock" and a rock appears, or "Tree" and a tree appears*  
*Said "Sin" over Jesus - Literally took all sin - And put it into Jesus*  
*From Adam's 1<sup>st</sup> sin to the last sin before Jesus comes*  
 (Extra verse - 2 Corinthians 5:21 - "God made Jesus who knew not sin to be sin for me...")  
*Jesus took the lethal results of sin for every person who ever lived or will live*
  - d. Conclusion - Point to "Sin" - Ask... Referring back to 1 John 1:9
    - 1) *When I confess, God forgives me of how many sins?* - ALL
    - 2) Point to the cross - *Is there any sin in your life NOW?*
    - 3) *If Jesus were to come at this point, is there any reason you would be ineligible for Eternal Life?*
    - 4) *Good news?* YES
  - e. Extra point - Notice in 1 John 1:9 - God does not forgive sins - He forgives US of our sins  
 Jesus bore the intrinsic results of sin - He handles all sin - So he can set US free from the penalty!

## 3. Right Half = FUTURE

- a. Situation - Draw arch/arrow from cross to "Death" -  
*Now all you have to do is live the rest of your life without sinning, and you are home free.  
 How about that? You think you can do it?*
- b. Solution - Read 1 John 2:1
  - 1) Read first half of verse.
    - a) *We do not have to keep on sinning. We can grow to live above sin. GOOD NEWS?*
    - b) Draw arrow from foot of cross slanting up to the right. Write "GROW" on this line.
    - c) Point out the 2 aspects of grace...
      - (1) *The past no longer condemns us* - Point to left of the cross
      - (2) *We are not condemned to repeat the past* - Point to the "GROW" arrow.
    - d) *But what is the chance you can live the rest of your life without committing another sin?  
 Without thinking even one bad thought?*
      - (1) *How can we know we will end up saved when we are the weak link in the chain?*
      - (2) *Have you ever seen a baby grow up and learn to walk without ever falling down?  
 Or learn to drink without ever spilling its milk?*
      - (3) *So how likely is it that you will grow up in Christ and never make a mistake?*
  - 2) Read second half of verse.
    - a) *What if we do sin in the future?*
    - b) Write "? SIN ?" along bottom line.
    - c) *If we sin in the future, Jesus, our Advocate, is able to successfully handle our case.  
 He is as just as able to handle the "if I sin" problem (point to "? SIN ?" right of the cross)  
 as he is able to handle the "all have sinned" problem (point to SIN left of the cross).  
 How?*
- c. Legal Basis - Read Romans 5:10
  - 1) Look at the first half of this verse
    - a) *What is the tense of the phrase, "When we **were** enemies..." Past, present or future?  
 Past tense - Point left of the cross*
    - b) *What made us enemies towards God?* - Point to "SIN" left of the cross
    - c) *What does it mean to be re-conciled?* - Write "Reconciled" under "Penalty" and above "SIN"
      - (1) *To get back together after you have been separated by something. Like after a fight.*
      - (2) *Sin separated us from God. Jesus took it out of the way and nailed it to the cross.  
 So nothing stands in the way of us getting back together with God.*
  - 2) *What is the next phrase in the verse?* - "...much more..."
    - a) *What does "much more" mean?* - Better yet!
    - b) *If having our sins forgiven and being reconciled to God is good news...  
 The second have of the verse is even better news  
 Getting forgiven and reconciled is the small half of the Gospel*
  - 3) *What is the next phrase in the verse?* - "...having been reconciled..."
 

*We have to begin with "Part A" - having our past forgiven by Jesus' death,  
 before we can receive "Part B" which is "much more" or "better yet"*

- 4) *Now, what does the rest of the verse say? - "...we shall be saved by his life."*
- What is the tense of this phrase? - Future tense - "...shall be..." Point right of the cross*
  - We shall be what? - SAVED. Write "Saved" on right side to balance "Reconciled".*
  - Saved by what? - Jesus' life. Above arch write - "Jesus' Life"*
  - What kind of a life did Jesus live? 100% perfect obedience. He never sinned. -*  
*Point to the 1<sup>st</sup> demand of the law above. Write "100% Obedience" below the arch.*
  - Why did Jesus come and live?*  
*If all Jesus had to do was to die for my sins, He could have come down one Friday afternoon and died, then rose on Sunday morning, and made a weekend out of it.*
    - Why did He go to all the trouble to live a life on earth?*  
*Example? - Yes, Jesus showed me how to live.*  
*But does a good example guarantee my success?*  
*Jesus was more than just a good example. Jesus is a guarantee*
    - What is required in order for me to live eternally? - Point up at "100% Obedience"*  
*A perfect life. I do not have that perfect life. So Jesus came and lived one for me.*
  - So Jesus' perfect life on earth guarantees I am going to make it*  
*Just as His death for sin guarantees my past is wiped clean.*
- 5) *There are really three aspects of GRACE...*
- The past no longer condemns me - Jesus died - bearing the full penalty for all sin*
  - I am not condemned to repeat the past - Jesus lives - now - to empower new life and growth*
  - The future cannot knock me out - Jesus lived - already - the perfect life required for salvation*

#### 4. Conclusions

- Note what Jesus has done...*
  - Jesus came and lived the 100% Obedient life required to live eternally.*
  - Jesus then died the death Penalty that is the intrinsic result of breaking God's laws of life*
  - Is there any demand of the Law that Jesus has not already covered in full? - NO!*
- When Jesus returned to heaven he took His LIFE and DEATH and put them on account there*
  - When I accept Christ - When I "have the Son" - Refer to 1 John 4:11-13 above*  
*Our accounts join. Like community property*  
*My debt of sin become His. His perfect LIFE and DEATH become mine.*
    - His death penalty paid absorbs the "red ink" of all my sin*
    - And remaining on "our" account is all His perfect righteousness*
    - AND even more - He is alive now to provide all the power I need to begin enjoying eternal-quality life now in the present.*  
*Living the new victorious life is not something I do to either get saved or stay saved.*  
*It is part of the gift of being saved - Saved from having to keep on sinning.*
- IF all Jesus' assets are joined to my account, is there any way in the universe that I can be lost? - NO!*  
*Good News?*
- THIS IS GRACE - Draw an arch over the diagram from Birth to Death - Write GRACE above the arch.*
  - Jesus lived for me, He died for me, and He lives for me.*  
*This is the basis upon which He offers you Eternal Life!*
  - Is the gift adequate? Is it complete? Is anything else needed?*
  - This is what Jesus did for you. He has already done it all. He offers it to you totally free.*  
*This is the BUS God built that will take you from death back into life - eternal life.*
  - Would you like to have it? — Let me show you how you can get it!*

### **SECTION THREE -- "Faith" -- Gospel Presentation Bible Study #2**

## I. What is Faith? - A working definition of FAITH that is “tangible” and “practical”

A. You RECEIVE this Gift of Grace through FAITH - Ephesians 2:8 -- Two synonyms for faith...

1. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Illustration: Chair - Show difference between belief and trust

B. TRUST in GOD involves a THREE FOLD COMMITMENT.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ - Refer to left half of Diagram

2. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ - Refer to right end of Diagram past death

3. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ - Refer to right half of Diagram

Illustration: Add umbrella and wheels to chair illustration - Show options

*Is the KEY to the Christian life trying hard to be good and not be bad?  
Or is it trying hard TRUST? - to stay in the chair?*

*How do I work on TRUST? What are the ingredients of TRUST?*

C. A universal truth: YOU CANNOT TRUST SOMEONE YOU DO NOT \_\_\_\_\_ - John 17:3

\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_  
John 6:25-29,48-58                      Focus = To KNOW Jesus

## D. Wrap up

1. So... The practical definition of faith = Choosing to eat a daily spiritual meal  
To take time daily in Bible and Prayer - to get to know Jesus
2. Eat every day - Some days taste good - Others you don't like the Menu -  
Either way - Eat and you will live
3. Eat early in the day - Fill you tank at the beginning of the trip  
A few minutes of Prayer in the morning can preclude an hour of confession in the evening
4. If you take the time every day that it takes to fix and eat a simple meal - Couldn't miss heaven

## II. Commitment

## A. Commitment Question -- MEMORIZE --

*"Wouldn't you like to make this three fold commitment and receive this gift of eternal life RIGHT NOW?"*

B. Commitment Prayer - *All you need to do to receive God's gift of grace is to simply ask for it in Prayer.*

1. Explain what you are going to do -  
*I will lead you through a commitment prayer.  
I will start the prayer, asking God to hear and answer your prayer  
Then, when I say, "Please repeat after me," join in phrase by phase.*
2. Pray for the person - Introduce them to Jesus
3. Pray with the person - Have them repeat short phrases after you.
  - a. A repeated prayer is a MUST.
  - b. Include the three fold commitment and give thanks for gift.
4. Sample Prayer -- MEMORIZE - Pause after each short phrase pause.

1<sup>st</sup> Step - Heavenly Father... I am a sinner...I confess my sins...  
Thank you for forgiving me...Of ALL my sins.

2<sup>nd</sup> Step - I accept Jesus as my Savior... Please give me the gift of eternal life...  
Thank you for that guarantee.

3<sup>rd</sup> Step - I choose to trust you as Lord... I give you the right... To call the shots in my life...  
I choose to take time... To get to know you... To eat spiritual food...  
Through Bible reading and Prayer... So that I can know and trust you more...

Closing - Thank you for the gift... And the assurance... Of eternal life... Because you have promised it...  
In Jesus name... Amen.

C. After the prayer - Look at them and ask - *So what happened? Did you feel any bolts of lightning?*

1. *What day is it? - Today is (Friday). Wether you feel good or lousy, are rich or poor, are happy or sad.  
Due to circumstances beyond your control...  
Regardless of how you are feeling...*
2. *If the Bible is true? - If Jesus is real? - Then you asked - and you received*



**III. Establish Assurance of Salvation****A. Assurance Texts - *Let me share three verses to help clarify what just happened.***

1. John 1:12 - Welcome to the Family of God. Security in the family!
  - a. The Chair illustration is designed to teach just one point - Our focus is on trust, not on behavior. But be careful - the Chair illustration could lead one to think that every time you sin, you are out of the chair and out of salvation. The chair illustration teaches focus, but not "assurance."
  - b. For assurance, we must go to the "family" metaphor.  
How secure is a child in a family - the way a family is supposed to be?  
Even when they are naughty?  
Naughty children get discipline and guidance, but they are still part of the family.  
If you have accepted Jesus, you are part of the family - Welcome to the family!  
*How secure are you in God's family?*
2. John 6:37 - God will NEVER throw you out of the family - No matter what you do!
  - a. Is it possible for you to sin long enough or bad enough for GOD to throw you out of the family?
  - b. There are TWO WAYS out of the family
    - 1) Consciously choose to leave - The door is not locked
    - 2) Stop eating (spiritually) - Fail to come down for dinner - You will weaken and die  
Get so busy up in your room - Cleaning - Education - Entertainment - Sleeping
3. Revelation 3:20 - One final verse
  - a. Every day Jesus knocks on the door of your heart - "I have breakfast. Do you have time to eat?"
  - b. KEY TO SURVIVAL = Choice to keep eating
    - 1) Jesus provides the food, but He will not force you to eat.
    - 2) If you "dine daily with Dad" you will neither choose to leave the family nor starve to death.

**B. Verbalize Assurance - Help them verbalize their assurance of salvation - by asking -**

1. Now if I were to ask you..
  - If Jesus were to come again - right now... do you know...?
  - If you were to die tonight... are you certain...?
2. Look at them and nod your head up and down as you finish the question and wait for their answer.

**C. I want to leave this outline with you so you can review what I have just shared with you.**

## **SECTION FOUR -- Additional information**

### **I. Commitment Question - How to handle a "NO" answer...**

*This is extremely rare. If you get through the presentation to the final question, most will accept.*

#### **A. Speak softly, gently and slowly. Take long pauses after appeals for commitment.**

Wait for an answer, even if you have to wait several minutes. *Shut up and let the Holy Spirit do the talking.*

#### **B. What to Say -- Three Steps**

##### **1. 1st Step -- Work through any problems.**

##### **a. Ask: "Is there any problem keeping you from making this commitment?"**

1) If "NO" - "Then wouldn't you like to make this commitment?"

2) If "YES" - "Is this something we could talk/pray about together?"

##### **b. The problem, which will likely fall into one of three categories:**

##### **1) Inability to grasp full and complete pardon – “God could never forgive me”**

a) Show that the greater the sin, the more RIGHT the sinner has to come to the cross.

Jesus came to save SINNERS. While we were sinners he died for us.

b) Isaiah 53:6 - God laid on Jesus the iniquity of us ALL. When? 2000 years ago at the cross.

Jesus owns your sin, now. Why not let him have it?

##### **2) Fear of future failure -- “I am afraid to make a commitment I may not be able to keep”**

a) You cannot finish what you do not start.

b) They cannot fail if they follow the KEY FOR SUCCESS = Daily time seeking to know Jesus - Daily spiritual food.

c) Jesus guarantees success - Philippians 1:6.

##### **3) Fear of specific doctrinal or lifestyle issue -- “I smoke. I drink. I am living with my girlfriend.”**

a) "Did I say anything about... (keeping Sabbath, stopping smoking, etc.)."

b) You are worried about walking when you are not even born yet. I am inviting you to get started; get born. Then Jesus will show you if these other things are important. Until you are spiritually born, you have no capacity to evaluate spiritual truths - 1 Corinthians 2:14.

##### **2. 2nd Step -- Revelation 3:20 - Have them read it... Then ask:**

a. "Who is speaking to you here?"

b. "What door is He knocking on?"

c. "Jesus is asking to come into your heart. Wouldn't you like to open the door of your heart and let Him come in?"

##### **3. 3rd Step -- Get Yourself out of the Picture**

a. Jesus is the one speaking to you. So in saying "NO" you are not saying NO" to me, but to Jesus.

So this does not really effect our relationship since this decision is really between you and the Lord.

b. You don't need me here to make this commitment. I would love to help you pray a commitment prayer now, but it is your choice. Jesus will hear you when you pray - anytime - any place.

c. When you do make this commitment, be sure to let me know. Just tap me on the shoulder and say, "I did it." I'll know what you mean.

d. Close the conversation by pray for the person as a friend. End the conversation in a spirit of warmth and friendship.

## II. Diagnostic Questions -

## A. Two questions to ask to launch into the Gospel Presentation

- Q1. Have you come to the place in your spiritual experience where you know for certain that you have eternal life?
- Anything less than a clear YES is a NO.
  - May need to rephrase the question - to fit the person
    - "I you were to die tonight..."
    - "If Jesus were to come right now..."
  - If they hesitate or seem unable to come up with an answer, say something like...
    - "That is a tough question. What do you think you would say?"
    - "Many people have problems with this question. What is the first thing that comes to your mind?"
  - If they seem unable to answer, give them an out by saying in an approving tone of voice, "I can see that you really do not know what you would say. Let me share something with you..."
  - 1 John 5:13 - You can know... - Let me ask you another question
- Q2. If God were to ask you, "Why should I let you into my kingdom," what would you say?
- Listen for clues on their current understanding - or misunderstanding - of salvation.
  - Most answers will include some level of human works
 

*I trust Jesus, go to church, and read the Bible and try to follow what it says.*
  - Can I share something with you?

## III. Turning the conversation -

## A. If someone asks a spiritually related question, such as...

*Why are you a Christian?*

*What do you believe? - What do Adventists believe?*

*Why do you keep the Sabbath? - Why do you not do this or that?*

## B. With the Gospel Presentation in your mind...

- Deliberately seek to answer in a way that steers the conversation to asking the Diagnostic Questions, instead of discussing doctrines or rules.
- Trust God to give you words on the spot to make that transition. Having the goal in mind will help direct your way to it.

## IV. Starting a Conversation - F.O.R.T.

- Family - Everyone likes to talk about their kids, grand kids, etc.
- Occupation - Move on to discuss what they do for a living - or things they enjoy doing.
- Religion - Ask about their religious background and current viewpoints.
- Testimony - Share a simple 1-2 minutes testimony about what Jesus has done for you.
  - Prepare this carefully ahead of time, so it can be brief, pertinent, clear, direct.
  - Prepare this deliberately with an ending that paves the way for the Diagnostic Questions.