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GREATER THAN **GOLD**
BIBLE STUDY SERIES

28 – Personal Evangelism

In cooperation with:



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Written in the United States of America

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

The central theme of the entire Bible is God's plan of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. Scripture makes it obvious that God is preoccupied with salvation. This salvation of fallen man is something of such great importance to God that He gave **all** He had in order to bring about redemption. Jesus Christ became the sacrifice for sin so that all who receive Him could enter into eternal life and have right standing before God.

The Church of Jesus Christ is called to carry on the work that began at the cross of Calvary. In this study you are going to discover not only the need of fallen mankind, but also the responsibility that God has placed in your hands to take the Word of Life to the lost. The principles in this study should be understood and then applied in our lives. By doing this we will fulfill God's great commission to "preach the gospel to every creature."

I. THE CONDITION OF MAN BEFORE AND AFTER SIN ENTERED HIS HEART

In the book of Genesis we can see the condition of man before and after the fall. Read Genesis 2:7-25 and Genesis 3:1-21. Scripture makes it evident that before Adam and Eve partook of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil they were to have eternal life. (See Genesis 2:17.) When Adam and Eve willingly partook of the fruit of that tree, the greatest tragedy of all time occurred and man was separated from God and death set in. All men have been affected by this. Let us look briefly at what God intended for man and his condition before the fall.

1. In what image was man created? Gen. 1:26 _____
 2. What is the one distinct thing that separates man from all the rest of creation? 2:7 _____

 3. According to the Word of God, what was the original life span of man? (* see asterisk)

 4. What was God's view of His creation of man before the fall? 1:31 _____
 5. According to their relationship with God, how do we know that Adam and Eve stood before God unashamed? 2:25 _____
- Review carefully Genesis 3:1-25 and then answer the next four questions.
6. What were the immediate results of man's disobedience? _____

 7. Who came looking for whom? _____
 8. What chastisement was given to Adam and Eve because of their disobedience? _____

* The Word of God makes it clear that God intended man to have eternal life. The Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden indicates that man never would have died had he obeyed God.

9. What did God do to cover their nakedness? _____
10. In your own words, what was God's view of man after the fall? (See Genesis 3:22-24 and 6:6)

11. According to Romans 3:23, did the image of God remain the same in man after the fall? _____
12. What has happened in our lives because this image is changed? Rom. 3:23 _____

The above scripture in Romans makes it obvious that all men were affected by the fall of Adam and Eve. Read Psalm 51:5 and then answer the following true and false questions. **PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR ANSWER.**

13. We become sinners the first time we sin. T F
14. Some people can escape sin. T F
15. Sin is more than actions, it is a condition of heart. T F
16. No man is born perfect. T F
17. Read Romans 3:9,10 and Isaiah 53:6. In your own words, describe the spiritual condition of humanity. _____

II. A VIEW OF HUMANITY THROUGH THE EYES OF GOD

In the Word of God we can clearly see the condition of sinful man. God looks at things differently than we do. Until we see mankind with God's compassion, we will never be able to love them as He loves them. Read Romans 1:18-32, then list 15 characteristics or actions of sinful man.

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 18. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 20. _____ | 21. _____ |
| 22. _____ | 23. _____ |
| 24. _____ | 25. _____ |
| 26. _____ | 27. _____ |
| 28. _____ | 29. _____ |
| 30. _____ | 31. _____ |
| 32. _____ | |

Read Romans 3:9-18. From this passage of scripture answer the following five questions.

33. Are there any righteous men outside of Christ? _____

34. According to these verses, in your own words, what is God's view of mankind? _____

35. In your own words, describe what comes out of the mouth of the sinner. _____

36. What do the feet of the sinner hurry to do? _____
37. Is there any fear of God in the sinner's life? _____

Man's sinful nature is called "the flesh" in the Word of God. The flesh is a very active force in man's life. It has made him become a servant to sin. As God's children, we have the Spirit of God working in our lives. However, the sinner can only be full of the works of his flesh. In the book of Galatians the Bible gives us a list of the works of the flesh. Read Galatians 5:19-21, then list 16 of these works of the flesh in the spaces below.

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 38. _____ | 39. _____ |
| 40. _____ | 41. _____ |
| 42. _____ | 43. _____ |
| 44. _____ | 45. _____ |
| 46. _____ | 47. _____ |
| 48. _____ | 49. _____ |
| 50. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 52. _____ | 53. _____ |

III. THE HIGH COST OF SIN TO MAN

54. Read I John 5:19. From what you have studied thus far, define "the whole world lies in wickedness" _____

We have seen how powerfully destructive sin is. Fallen man is literally the servant of sin. (Read Romans 6:16). All those who serve sin will be paid for their labors. The sinner's hard life, because of its destitution and ungodliness, would seem to be enough payment for sin; but the Bible teaches that the sinner will receive eternal wages for his life of sin.

55. According to Romans 6:23, what are the wages of sin? _____
56. Memorize Rom. 6:23 and then write it here. _____

Since death is part of sin's paycheck, perhaps man will think he does not have to worry. He thinks that once he's dead his sin is over and gone. But the full payment for sin does not begin until after death. Read Hebrews 9:27, then answer the following two questions.

57. What word does God use to describe payment for sin? _____

58. When does payment for sin begin? _____

We need to realize that our soul will live forever. It is appointed that all men will die a mortal death, but the living soul God breathed into Adam will never die. In spite of the fact that the result of sin is death, the spirit remains eternal. Therefore, the need of humanity for salvation is necessary. Realizing that separation from God has caused all the sorrow, pain and hurt in this life, it is difficult to imagine how terrible the eternal judgment of God must be.

59. Write out Romans 6:23 in your own words. _____

60. In Romans 1:32 God declares men are worthy to receive His judgment. According to this scripture, how has man made himself worthy of death?

61. In Romans 2:1 God says man is inexcusable. Why is man without excuse? Rom. 1:20,21 _____

IV. WHAT HELL IS LIKE

The eternal death penalty is a serious thing. In order to fully understand the horrible reality of the wages of sin, we need to see the existence of the sinner after death. The Word of God describes the eternal home of sinful man as a lake of fire.

62. Read Revelation 20:10-15 and describe this lake of fire. _____

63. Read Matthew 8:12 and describe what eternity is like for the man who dies in sin. _____

In Luke 16:19-31 we see a man who died in sin and was in hell. Carefully read this portion of scripture, and then answer the next four questions.

64. What was this man's condition in hell? 16:23-25 _____

65. How can we tell that he was suffering? _____

66. Why was there no relief for him? _____

67. Why was his concern so great for his family that was still alive? _____

68. According to Revelation 20:15, who will be cast into the lake of fire? _____

69. Read Revelation 20:10. How long will this existence in the lake of fire last? _____

V. GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SINNER

70. According to II Peter 3:9, has God abandoned man? _____
 God's position is clearly stated in the well-known saying, "God loves the sinner, but hates the sin".
 In John 3:16 we see God's act of redemption. From this scripture, answer the next two questions.
71. What did God do to bring redemption to the world? _____

72. What is man's part in receiving redemption? _____
73. Memorize John 3:16 and then write it here. _____

In Galatians 3:13 and I Peter 1:18 and 19 we see what Christ has done to redeem us. From these scriptures, answer the next three questions.

74. What is this curse? _____
75. Who redeemed us from the curse? _____
76. How did He redeem us? _____

Read Isaiah 53:1-12, and then write out six phrases that describe what Christ accomplished on the cross of Calvary.

77. _____
78. _____
79. _____
80. _____
81. _____
82. _____
83. Read Isaiah 59:1 and 2. Since His ear is always open and His hand outstretched, why isn't every one _____ saved?
- _____
- _____
84. According to Romans 10:12,13, who can be saved? _____
- _____
85. Why is it that some have not been given a chance to believe in Jesus? Rom. 10:14 _____
- _____
86. What is it they've never heard? Rom. 10:15 _____
87. What is the description God gives of those who are willing to preach the gospel? Rom. 10:15 _____
- _____
88. What is the message we are to take to the lost and dying world? Acts 2:37,38; I John 1:9 _____
- _____
- _____
89. Who is supposed to preach the gospel? II Tim. 4:1,2; Mark 16:15 _____
- _____
90. According to II Peter 3:9, who is God willing to save? _____
91. Memorize II Peter 3:9 and then write it here. _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

VI. OUR PART IN GOD'S PLAN TO SAVE MANKIND

Often we fail to see the need as it really is. There are thousands of people who pass into eternity daily. The world population now exceeds five billion. Literally millions of people are not reached with the gospel. If we fail to fulfill God's great commission, eternity will hold only torment and misery for the lost.

How shall they believe unless they hear? How shall they hear unless there is someone to tell them the good news?

We waste years waiting for God to send us to the mission field so that we can begin preaching the gospel, or we leave the job to our pastors. However, God has commissioned, “Go **Ye**”. Think about your daily acquaintances: your neighbors, your newsboy, a man or woman at work, the people in your class, or your entire city. Are these people prepared to stand before God? Has anyone ever really taught them the scriptures so that they can believe in Jesus? If not, they are perishing. What is your part in God’s plan of salvation? Exactly what can you do?

92. In Acts 1:8, Jesus is speaking of the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses...” What does the word “witness” mean? (You may use a dictionary.)

93. According to Acts 1:8, where were the disciples to witness? _____

94. Read Mark 16:15 and describe God’s commission to us. _____

95. Memorize Mark 16:15 and then write it here. _____

Read John 4:35 and answer the next two questions.

96. What must we do to see the need (or the harvest)? _____

97. Why shouldn’t we put off preaching the gospel for “four months”? _____

98. According to Luke 10:2, what is great, what is few, and what are we to pray for? _____

God spoke to Ezekiel about his responsibility toward mankind. Read Ezekiel 3:17-19. Using this passage of scripture, answer the next three questions.

99. What is the warning we are to give the lost? _____

100. What will happen to the wicked if we fail to warn them? _____

101. For what does God hold us accountable if we fail to warn the wicked? _____

102. In Psalm 51:14 we see David praying for God to deliver him from “blood guiltiness”. David was speaking about a murder he had committed; however, according to Ezekiel 3:17-19, blood guiltiness deals with souls also. In your own words **define** blood guiltiness.

103. Since God requires the blood of the sinner at our hand, how should we pray for ourselves? Psm. 51:14 _____

Read II Corinthians 5:17-19 and then answer the following two questions.

104. What does the word “reconcile” mean? (You may use a dictionary.) _____

105. Who has God entrusted with this ministry of reconciliation? _____

The following true and false questions are based on what you have studied in this section. Please circle your answer.

106. God has called only a few “special” Christians to minister the word of reconciliation. T F

107. God will literally hold us accountable if we do not do our part in this ministry. T F

108. If we are really shy, God will excuse us from telling others of the gospel T F

109. God makes it clear in His word that we are to go to **all** men with the gospel. Many times we wait for a perfect situation to arise, or for a friendly person to talk to; but God’s plan for personal evangelism was never meant to be based on these things. We are to go and tell regardless of personal preference or reaction. In Ezekiel 3:11, God instructed His prophet to go and tell them regardless of their reaction.

Rewrite Ezekiel 3:11 using your own words.

110. Jesus taught in a parable an example that we can follow as we witness. Read Matthew 22:2-10. After the chosen guests refused to come to the banquet, where and to whom did the king send his servants? _____

111. Where are we as Christ's servants to go to witness? _____

112. How many should we bid to the marriage? Matt. 22:9 _____
113. Read Matt. 28:19 and Mark 16:15. In your own words, paraphrase the words **all nations** and **every creature**. _____

114. From what you have studied so far, **who** does God command to go and preach the gospel? _____

VII. NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES OF PERSONAL EVANGELISM

God has always had a people who would respond to His great commission to go and tell every creature of the judgment of sin and the forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ.

Our great example is Jesus Himself. He was involved in personal evangelism. In John 4:3-30, 39-42, we see an example of this part of Christ's earthly ministry.

The following seven questions are taken from the passage in John 4. As you answer these questions, be sure to refer to this passage of scripture.

115. When Jesus went through Samaria, He was concerned about the spiritual needs there. His attitude towards this journey makes this obvious. What does the scripture say about His attitude concerning His decision to go to Samaria? John 4:4

116. How did Jesus open the conversation with the Samaritan woman? v. 7 _____

117. Jesus allowed this Samaritan woman to express her ideas, fears, doubts and spiritual needs. From their conversation, write one instance where she did this. _____

118. How can we see that God is no respecter of persons? (What was the Samaritan's reaction to Jesus as a Jew?) v. 9 _____

119. When the Samaritan woman confessed she believed that one day Christ would come, in what way did Jesus use this confession? v. 26 _____

120. Jesus dealt with this woman about her spiritual need, about her false doctrine and about her sin. The end result was an open heart. What statement does she make that indicates her interest in receiving more from Jesus? v. 15 _____

121. What impact did her salvation have on her city? vv. 39,42 _____

From this woman's conversion we see God's will for the entire Church put into action. After she had been saved, she went out and told others what had happened to her. Perhaps she didn't know many scriptures, but she had met the Lord and wanted others to know Him also. She was faithful to witness to her friends and neighbors, and as a result many from her town were saved.

122. In the New Testament we see that not only Jesus ministered in personal evangelism, but He sent His disciples out also. Read Matthew 10:1-8. What was the basic message they were to preach? v.7 _____

123. This "sending out" was not merely for the twelve, but later Jesus sent out seventy disciples. Read Luke 10:1-20. Check the box when you have done this. []

In the Book of Acts, God has given us a pattern that He meant to be used for the entire church age. It was never God's intention that the church become a social organization. We were never meant to "settle down" and just receive blessings.

Read Acts 1:1-8 and then answer the next four questions.

124. What were Jesus' instructions to them concerning their immediate future? _____

125. What is the promise of the Father? v. 5 _____

126. What would they become after the Holy Spirit came upon them? _____

127. Were they to remain in Jerusalem after they had received the Holy Spirit? _____

128. What were they to do? Mark 16:15 _____

129. How are Acts 1:8 and Mark 16:15 similar? _____

130. How did the unsaved respond to God as a result of the powerful witness that took place at Pentecost? Acts 2:41, 43 _____

131. From what you have studied thus far, it is obvious that the central message of the early church was repentance and forgiveness of sin. Memorize Acts 2:38 and then write it here. _____

132. Before you proceed further, read Acts chapters 3; 10; 13; 16:25-40; 17:15-34 and 26. Check the box when you have finished reading these scriptures. []

The early church believed in “Highway and Byway” evangelism. From the scriptures you have just read, list six places (cities, homes, etc.) where the early church shared the gospel. Be sure to include the scripture reference with each answer.

133. _____

134. _____

135. _____

136. _____

137. _____

138. _____

139. The Apostle Paul was a partaker in the ministry of personal evangelism. Read Acts 20:20 and describe Paul’s method of evangelism. _____

VIII. WHAT MORE CAN WE DO?

The Word of God makes it obvious that we are to preach the gospel to all men and teach them about Jesus. God has commanded us to do this and will hold us accountable if we fail to do our part. Many think this means all we have to do is tell someone and then the job is over. But this attitude will make us fall short of God’s high calling to evangelize every creature. The death of our Lord Jesus proves that mere words are not enough.

We need to let God touch our lives so that we feel the afflictions of the lost. We need to grieve over them and travail in prayer until they are saved. Only as we do this will we truly fulfill God’s commission.

Read Psalm 126:5,6 and answer the following three questions.

140. Who shall reap in joy? _____

141. Does going forth with precious seeds alone get the work done and guarantee sheaves? _____

142. What more must we do? _____

143. What does the word “weeping” signify? (You may use a dictionary.) _____

144. The prophet Jeremiah experienced this kind of anguish over the lost sheep in Judah. Rewrite Jeremiah 13:17 in your own words. _____

145. In Isaiah 58 we see what is known as God’s chosen fast. Verse 6 reveals the main purpose of this fast. Impersonal evangelism, what should be our attitude and goals when we fast? v. 6 _____

When we allow God to put His love and concern within us, there is no limit to how far we will go or how much anguish we will bear to see souls saved. The Lord is seeking men and women who will enter into this type of commitment.

146. Read Ezekiel 22:30. According to what you have learned so far, what is this gap that God is desiring to fill? _____

147. Read II Timothy 2:15. According to this scripture, what must we do in order to become effective workers for God? _____

148. In your own words, define “rightly dividing the word of truth”. _____

This does not mean that we must have a degree in theology before we can share our faith. The Samaritan woman had only her testimony, but also, a knowledge of the Word of God is important. The following scriptures describe what the Word of God can do. Rewrite each one in your own words.

149. Isaiah 55:10,11 _____

150. Hebrews 4:12 _____

151. II Timothy 3:16 _____

152. Read Ephesians 5:15-17. In this scripture we are exhorted to redeem the time and to understand what the will of the Lord is. In view of Mark 16:15, what is the will of the Lord for every believer? _____

The following questions are based on what you have learned thus far. Please circle your answer.

153. By making use of every opportunity to share the gospel, we are redeeming the time. T F
154. We should wait until we are mature Christians before we attempt to witness. T F
155. Witnessing was meant to be a normal part of life for every Christian. T F
156. If we are not sharing in our part of God’s burden for the lost, we have failed to fulfill His principal commission for our lives. T F
157. Failing to obey God in this area of Christian witness is a sin. T F

IX. THE REWARDS OF PERSONAL EVANGELISM

When a Christian enters into this glorious ministry of personal evangelism, all the benefits of soul winning are discovered. There is a fullness of joy that comes into our heart as we begin leading others to Christ. In Psalm 126 we read that those who go forth weeping, will come again with **rejoicing**, bringing their sheaves with them.

158. In Luke 15:7-10 we see that heaven responds when a sinner repents. Write these verses, using your own words, in the space provided. _____

159. In Luke 15:11-32 we are given a story about a prodigal son. Read this and then describe who the “they” were in verse 24. _____

160. What did Paul acknowledge to be his hope, joy, and rejoicing? I Thess.2:19, 20 _____

When we begin fulfilling the ministry of personal evangelism, we receive much more than joy and earthly benefits. We receive God’s approval and an eternal reward as well.

161. According to Proverbs 11:30, how does God classify the person who is a soul winner? _____

162. According to I Corinthians 9:16-27, Paul states that not all who run in a race win a prize. What does it take to win the prize? _____

163. Define the word incorruptible. (You may use a dictionary.) _____

Throughout eternity we will be blessed to see all the souls who are in heaven because of our witnessing, weeping and prayers. What a wonderful reality this is. However, think about the ones we failed to go to and what eternity holds for them. Jeremiah describes the hopelessness of eternity in this phrase, **“Summer is over, harvest is ended and we are not saved”**. (Jeremiah 8:20). We need to put every effort we can into winning souls for the Lord. May He guide and direct you as you obey Him in personal evangelism.

I have answered all questions and completed all memory work to the best of my ability.

Name _____ Address _____

Date _____

Please indicate the version of the Bible you used to complete this study. _____

For some practical guidelines for personal evangelism, please read the suggestions on the following page.

X. PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR PERSONAL EVANGELISM

In this study you have learned the reason for God’s command to “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel”. Perhaps now you are ready to obey this command but don’t know exactly how to begin. In this section we want to share some helpful guidelines and also give you some practical advice which will help you get started.

1. Be sure to start with prayer. We need God to prepare the way and speak to people even before we witness to them.
2. No two witnessing experiences will be the same, so the best teacher in personal evangelism is experience. A good place to begin is in your own neighborhood. Also, you can talk to your daily acquaintances about salvation - perhaps someone you know from work or an unsaved relative. Make a prayerful decision and then follow through by sharing the gospel with them.
3. You may be asking, “How do I start a conversation with someone I want to witness to?”
 - A. Ask God to open a door of opportunity, then begin to talk about the Lord as the subject of religion or church, etc. comes up.
 - B. Look for spiritual lessons in everyday life situations, i.e., drinking water, John 4:7-42.
 - C. Give the person a tract and ask him to read it, and tell him you would like to talk with him after he is finished reading it. A few days is usually enough time to wait before further discussion.
 - D. Ask them if they’ve ever heard of being “born again”. This usually opens a good opportunity to discuss John chapter 3.

- E. Share your testimony (Tell your story.) - tell them what God has done for you.
4. After you have witnessed to a person, ask him if he would like to receive Jesus. If so, don't wait. Pray with him right there. Ask him to repeat a simple prayer of confessing his sin, asking forgiveness and then asking Jesus into his life. If he is ready, be sure to pray with him, because you don't know if you will see him again.
 5. If they will receive it, give them an Introductory Study from the Christian Worker Bible Study Series and get them to fill in the registration form with name, address and phone number. Be sure and contact them the next day to see how they are doing.
 6. Always pray for your new converts each day.
 7. Help them get established in a local church.

Note: add witnessing forms?