

# **Reformed University Fellowship**

## **How to Share Your Faith Conference**

### *Session 2: The Message from the King*

- I. Importance of the right message.
- A. Didn't you find the story of the Kingdom last night exciting?
- Did you get caught up in the drama of the great historical battle for the earth? I always do. Just remembering the story of our salvation gets me excited again.
- B. What three motives for evangelism did you discover in your devotions this morning?
- C. These three motives really urge us to share the gospel. But there is another factor – the greatness of the message itself.
- D. The gospel is inherently exciting. Therefore it:
1. Encourages us.
  2. Attracts and saves others.
- E. Many conferences focus on the motives and methods of evangelism but do not emphasize the message.
- The result is that many tracts and much preaching today is deficient. Many are preaching a truncated, watered down gospel.
- F. This is a tragedy.
1. Some people see through a shallow gospel message. It (rightfully) doesn't make sense or attract them, so they reject Christ.
  2. Many people in churches believe they are Christians but are deceived. These people often hurt the reputation of Christianity.
  3. Many who are true Christians never go on to become Kingdom warriors.
    - a. Some come to a nice, safe Jesus and they live safe, boring lives away from the action of the Kingdom.
    - b. Some embrace a biblical ideology instead of a personal Jesus, and never join Jesus in His Kingdom work.
  4. Those who do share the gospel end up doing so out of guilt or duty. They measure their success by the number of conversions, so they trim and package their message so it is ineffective. As a result it is un motivating.
- G. This is dangerous. God holds us responsible for the message we proclaim.
- H. Two important Scriptures.
1. Romans 1:16.
  2. Galatians 1:9.
- II. The Incomplete Gospel.
- A. Reasons for incomplete gospels.
1. Superficial understanding.
    - a. We do not have a mature understanding of the gospel.
    - b. Many Christians are not students of the word. This is to our shame. (2 Timothy 2:15)
    - c. When we evangelize, we sometimes try to present a concise summary of the gospel. If we do not have a deep knowledge, then our summaries will be unbalanced and unbiblical.

- d. There are many excellent books on the gospel:
  - Tell the Truth*, by Will Metzger
  - The Cross*, by John Stott
  - Basic Christianity*, by John Stott
- 2. Conformity to the world.
  - a. We live in a man-centered world.
  - b. The Bible says that man is a selfish, sinful creature.
  - c. This can be clearly seen in our western culture.
    - i. The “me” generation.
    - ii. TV says that fulfillment comes through money and sex.
    - iii. Books tell us to look out for #1.
    - iv. Commercials tell us to grab for all the gusto.
  - d. Our culture has its own gospel.
    - i. Men and women are gods.
    - ii. The law is what you decide it is, as long as you tolerate all other “laws”.
    - iii. Heaven is happiness on earth.
    - iv. Salvation is whatever makes us feel good.
    - v. Salvation comes by your own efforts.
  - e. Unfortunately, Christians have often adapted their gospel message to make it more appealing to sinful man.
  - f. But the gospel is God-centered.
    - i. It starts with a holy, loving, awesome God who has chosen to create man and set His love upon him.
    - ii. This God is worthy of our total love and commitment.
    - iii. But man has rejected God, rebelled against Him, and committed cosmic treason. We have dishonored and offended the Lord.
    - iv. God, however has continued to love His creation and sent His Son to die for it.
    - v. When a person hears this message and is convicted by the Holy Spirit, he should respond like the Jews in Acts 2:37-38.
    - vi. One's motivation for becoming a Christian should be that he is sorry for offending a holy God and desires to love Him in return for what He has done for us.
  - g. Christians are often afraid to proclaim this message.
    - i. We are afraid to turn people off.
    - ii. We are afraid to offend people.
    - iii. We don't believe that people will become a Christian unless we tone down the bad parts.
    - iv. But our responsibility is to be faithful to presenting the Biblical gospel.
    - v. We need to trust that God will use it to draw people to Himself.
- B. Today's Gospel: The Missing Parts.

Here are some Biblical concepts that are missing from many modern gospel presentations:

- 1. The Creator/creature distinction.
- 2. The holiness of God along with His love.
  - Without these concepts, sin doesn't make sense.
- 3. The Law:
  - a. Reveals God's holiness and our sinfulness.
  - b. Leads us to repentance.
  - c. Points to the new kingdom.

4. Sin as rebellion.
  - a. Some presentations don't even mention sin.
  - b. Others present sin as bad habits.
5. The person of Jesus – the gospel is not just a plan of salvation.
6. The resurrection.
  - a. God accepted Jesus' sacrifice.
  - b. Jesus is alive.
7. The ascension and session of Jesus.
  - a. Jesus is enthroned in heaven.
  - b. Jesus is ruling the earth now.
8. Jesus offers forgiveness and demands our repentance.
  - a. Repentance is necessary for salvation.
  - b. Repentance is not a good work, it is part of true faith. (See Mark 1:4,15; Acts 2:38; 2 Corinthians 5:15.)
  - c. Jesus does not “offer” salvation; He demands our submission.
9. The Holy Spirit.
  - a. Acts 2:38, every passage in Acts.
  - b. He gives the ability to repent.

C. The False Gospel.

1. “Things go better with Jesus.”
2. “God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.”

III. The Complete Gospel.

A. God is creator and ruler.

1. Eternal, All-powerful, Good. (Psalm 90:2; 100:5)
2. Created the whole universe. (Genesis 1:1, 31)
  - Everything was good: beautiful, orderly, happy.
3. He governs the universe. (Psalm 9:8)
  - Not an absentee landlord.
4. Gave the Law for us to obey. (Deuteronomy 30:11-14)
5. He loves his creation. (John 3:16)

B. Man was created in the image of God.

1. Not God, but much like God. (Genesis 1:27)
2. In charge of carrying out God's rule over the earth. (Romans 14:12)
3. Obligated to obey the Law.
4. Enjoyed God's love and presence.

C. Man rebelled against God.

1. Adam did first – ate the fruit. (Genesis 3:6)
2. We all do, by breaking the Law. (Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23)
  - This is called Sin.
3. Man is building his own rebel kingdom instead of God's kingdom.
4. All mankind is plunged into misery as a result.
  - Selfish. (Philippians 2:21)
  - No one is righteous (Romans 3:10-12)

D. God punishes us with death.

1. This is the Law. (Genesis 2:17)
2. God is angry with us for rejecting Him as ruler. (Romans 3:18)
3. We are all “dead” in that we are separated from God. (Isaiah 59:2; Ephesians 2:5)
4. All our bodies shall die and go to eternal punishment in hell.

- E. Christ lived for us.
  - 1. Jesus is the Son of God. (Luke 1:35; John 20:31)
  - 2. He lived a life of perfect obedience to God's Law. (Hebrews 4:15; 5:8-9; Romans 5:19)
  - 3. He was the perfect prophet, priest, and king. (Hebrews 1:1-3)
  
- F. Christ died in our place.
  - 1. He died an innocent sacrifice for us. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
  - 2. God expended His pent-up anger against us on Christ when he hung on the cross. (Isaiah 53:10)
  - 3. He destroyed the work of the devil. (Colossians 2:15)
  
- G. Christ rose again and rules from heaven.
  - 1. Death could not hold God in its grip. Life overcame death.
  - 2. Jesus now lives in heaven. (Hebrews 3:14, 8:1)
  - 3. He rules – saves and protects those who trust and obey Him. (1 Peter 1:5)
    - He is building his Kingdom. (Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 15:24-25)
    - He is destroying the wicked.
  - 4. Intercedes for his people. (Hebrews 7:25)
  - 5. Teaches us through scripture and the Holy Spirit. (1 Timothy 3:16; John 16:13)
  
- H. We may escape God's anger.
  - 1. Believe that Christ is Son of God. (Romans 10:6-11)
  - 2. Admit your sinfulness; that God's anger against you is justified.
  - 3. Accept his death as a substitute for the punishment you deserve.
  - 4. Repent – turn from your old ways. (Mark 1:15)
  - 5. Be baptized.
  - 6. Obey Christ's commands.
  
- I. Christ will deliver all his people safe to his Father.
  - 1. We are safe with Christ. He will never leave us. (John 1:12)
  - 2. He will give us the Holy Spirit to guide us, encourage us, and give us the power to obey Him. (John 16:7, 13)
  - 3. He gives us meaningful lives now. (John 10:10)
  - 4. He will take us to Heaven to live with Him when we die.