

# Evangelism Seminar 1: God, the Good Creator and Ruler

## Introduction

Welcome to our seminar on Evangelism, particularly Two Ways to Live.

Let's pray, and then get into it.

Our God and our Father, Our Creator - we begin by praising you and thanking You, for indeed you did create us, and you rule over all things perfectly, justly, in righteousness. We thank you, that You, in your grace, moved to draw us back to you, because our sin had alienated us from You. And this is the worst thing possible - to be apart from You, our good, good King.

You did this by giving us Your Son. So grant us, in this seminar, to learn and rejoice more deeply in what you have done, and train us to become more wise, for telling others about this good news. And most of all, by means of this seminar, we pray that You would bring conversions - that You would seek and save the lost, as you did us.

In your name we pray, amen.

## Preliminaries

Some preliminary information for this class. It is six weeks - the next six Sunday's, at 8:45 am. The class materials are

- The Two Ways to Live booklet
- One notecard for each week
- A pen

- Your Bible
- At the end of the class, each class will be available in manuscript form, should you want to refer back to it.

For each class, you will be expected to memorize ONE Bible verse.

There are no scripts to follow, but there is a structure.

And this brings us to

## **Principles and Tactics**

Before we get into Two Ways to Live proper, we need to understand the PRINCIPLES we are basing this class on, and then devise our TACTICS from those principles. Too often Christians think only about tactics, but in any successful military campaign, the army must first devise its war DOCTRINES, which include OBJECTIVES, and what we are willing to do to obtain those objectives, and what we are NOT, according to our culture, our values, and our weapons.

And make no mistake: this is battle. This is war. The war started in a Garden, when there were only two: Adam and Eve. It started with rebellion against God's rule, and the weapon was a LIE, wrapped in the truth. And it has raged ever since, between two armies - the seed of the serpent, and the seed of Eve.

## **Principles and Tactics of Paul and His Team**

If you want to study the principles AND the tactics of God, you can read any gospel, and watch Jesus. But you can also read 2 Corinthians, for the whole letter is Paul giving a defense to the Corinthians about his ministry to them. And in doing so, he gives us an open window into the principles and tactics of himself and his evangelism team.

Thus we are not salesman, peddlers:

2 Corinthians 2:17 (ESV): For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

Note here first the first principles, about how they saw themselves:

- Simple men: nothing special about them
- Sincere. They did not say anything they did not believe. If you do not believe, say, in the resurrection, please go on the missions trip, but do not evangelize. Just use it for tourism.
- Commissioned by God: God sent them, not themselves. Thus while they are ordinary men, they speak with the authority of God Himself. They have His imprimatur. They are commissioned officers of the military of HIS country. But this does not make them arrogant - again, this was all God's doing.

Thus they do not need letters of recommendation from anyone else (3:3). Their recommendation is inscribed on the human hearts of other people that they have led to Christ (3:3). Thus if you have never done this before, perhaps on this/your next missions trip, you will gain this "recommendation."

Thus, as a tactic, they were "confident" men. Not in themselves, but - another principle - in Christ, who is alive, risen from the dead, and who is STILL, this moment, seeking and saving the lost (3:4-6; see Zaccheaus).

Another principle: they are ministers of a NEW covenant - a covenant of GRACE (3:6-11). This covenant is New, not in the sense that God just invented it whole cloth, but it's new, in the sense that Jesus has come, and been risen from the dead, and that NOW the covenant of grace gives LIFE (3:6).

Because of this, Paul and his friends were not only confident but had the tactic of BOLDNESS (3:12), because, principle, they knew the Spirit of God was at work to give life (3:17).

Now we come to the heart of their principles and tactics:

2 Corinthians 4:1–6 (ESV):

**Tenacity** 1 Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.

**Honesty, Forthrightness** 2 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

Because, principle, the base cause of unbelief does not reside in them doing it "wrong", just as the power for salvation does not reside with them either:

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Therefore, their primary tactic was to proclaim NEWS, about Jesus, and Jesus as LORD

5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

Because, principle: the same power that created everything is at work when any person is saved. And God does this in you, not just for you, but also for others:

6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

I could go on. But in this brief section of Scripture, you have much of the "doctrine of war" that all of God's commissioned officers are committed to follow.

## Two Ways to Live

Now, on to the evangelistic method that we are studying.

TWtL is an outline of the gospel, more than a method. And it follows the principles outlined above. It proclaims news about God, us, and Christ, and then challenges the hearer to respond accordingly - in the end, there are only two ways to live. With God as your King, or yourself.

There are six “boxes”, and these boxes are meant to be discussed in a back of the napkin kind of way. This structure is literally meant to help you share the gospel over a beer at the sports bar with a friend.

But it is meant to be elastic enough that, as Paul said elsewhere, we may be all things to all people.

For instance, in the first box today, TWtL uses the word “ruler” to refer to God. In another country, this word might not be the best - King might be better. Or perhaps Lord.

So this is not meant to be shared woodenly.

But the best approach is to learn it cold - inside and out. Such that when you are talking to someone, you can identify which of these six boxes the person in front of you has the biggest problem with. And then you can “camp out” on that box/subject. For instance, many American young people have the biggest problem with the second box, that describes us as sinners.

But people in other cultures or generations may have objections to others. But if you learn them cold, you can go deep into one.

But also remember that learning one method cold does not mean that you stop learning - you can then compare and contrast it more easily to other structures or outlines of the gospel later.

But lastly, learning one method allows you to organize your thinking, when you are in the heat of the moment. (Bad, Good Video.)

## **Box 1: God, the Good Ruler and Creator**

The first box, the first step is the proclamation that we have a God, and He is King. He is the Ruler of all. This is essentially the whole book of Genesis, but this is most concisely put in Revelation 4:11:

Worthy are you, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honor and power  
For you created all things,  
And by Your will they existed and were created.

This is the way that we were all, always supposed to live in relationship to God. Man was created to be God's "under-kings" on the earth, ruling the earth in His stead, under His good and perfect reign.

Because He is our Creator. And He is a good, and perfect Creator. And when You are Creator, you make the rules, and you deserve all the glory and honor for what You created, and you deserve for all power to be wielded according to Your rule.

And that's also because God sustains all life. All life lives TO Him.

So to sum up this box,

- God created everything.
- This makes Him the ruler, the King of all.
- And we were made to rule over His creation, under His rule, all the while giving him all glory and honor and power.

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And this we visually signify by the drawing of a crown, with mankind underneath it, but over the world.

