

Evangelism Seminar 5

Jesus, the Risen Ruler and Savior

Summary:

- God is our Creator and King
- We have all rebelled against His rule
- The Bible calls this sin, and the punishment for this rebellion is death
- But Jesus, God's only Son, died on a cross for us, taking upon Himself the punishment due to us

And today we see that he did not just die.

God raised him from the dead, three days later.

- Note: we say "God raised him" because the Bible speaks in different places of all three members of the Trinity raising Jesus from the dead - including himself.

Thus Jesus now stands in the place where we should have stood - as God's ruler over the earth. And when he returns, he will come again in judgment for all rebellion against God. He will establish God's kingdom, forever.

That's BAD news. Except, now, before then, he offers us forgiveness, based on the fact that he already died for us. Thus he is both the one we should run FROM, and yet he offers us forgiveness, making him the one we should run TO.

If we come to HIM, in faith, he will forgive us, and we can live no longer as ENEMIES with God, but friends. And we can do what is already happening in heaven - we can give Him all the praise and honor and glory.

The thing that connects to Jesus is His Spirit. When we trust Him, and we gain the Spirit, a new joyful life with Jesus begins, and it will never end. Thus we no longer need to live in FEAR of Jesus' return, but in joyful anticipation.

Again, not because we deserve it, but all by His mercy, by His gift, of love of Himself.

Note here how the "gospel" is not just the cross, but also the resurrection. Note also how the ascension is subtly discussed here. He is risen, AND He is king.

- He is the head of a new race of people, who overcome death, and live new life. THIS is the heart of the gospel - NEW LIFE.
- I'll say this again - THIS is the heart and the goal of the gospel - NEW LIFE, in Christ.

So now that leaves us with one question: a choice, actually, in how we will live.

Practice with a partner . . . Come up front, and do the presentation WITH a partner.

Then, have one person from the audience object to ONE box in the presentation . . . And discuss that AFTER the presentation . . .