

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH IN THE TOWN OF TONAWANDA, NY
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“ENGAGING THE CULTURE WITH THE GOSPEL” (part 1)

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL AND WHY SHARE IT?

I. Study Overview

<u>Date/Study</u>	<u>Topic</u>
9/27 #1	Gospel Motivation – What is the gospel & why share it?
10/04 #2	Sharing Your Own Faith Story
10/11 #3	Building Gospel-centered Relationships
10/18 #4	Building Bridges to the Gospel
10/25 #5	Defending the Faith (part 1)
11/01 #6	Defending the Faith (part 2)

II. What is the Good News?

A. The God of the Covenants

1. **Gen. 12:1-3 – Blessed to be a blessing!** *“Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

2. The fulfillment of God’s covenant with Abraham is found in the coming of Christ who is not only a descendant of Eve (Gen. 3:15) but a son of Abraham! God blesses us in Christ and we in turn are to bless others with the knowledge and love of Christ.

B. The Coming of Jesus Christ

1. **The New Covenant – Lk. 22:19-21:** *“And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.”* The New Covenant that God established with the world for all time is through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ! It is the death and resurrection of Christ that reverses the curse of sin, death, and the devil.

2. **John 3:16 –** *“For God so love the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”* **Jn. 10:10:** *“Jesus said, the thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy, but I came that you may have life and have it abundantly.”*

C. The Gospel is the good news of what Jesus has accomplished, his victory over death and Satan and how we can have forgiveness and life in him.

III. Sharing the Good News

A. What is evangelism?

1. NT Greek word εὐαγγέλιον - which means good tidings, or a message of good news
2. *“preach the gospel at all times, use words if necessary”*
3. evangelism is always a verbal proclamation

B. Why evangelize?

1. **Jesus is the only way - Acts 4:12:** *“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”*

2. **It’s an act of love.**

3. **It is a command of Christ and the mission of the Church - Mt. 28:18-20:** *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

C. The fear factor

1. the fear of rejection – damage our relationships
2. the fear of being weird
3. the fear of peer pressure
4. the fear of not knowing what to say

D. Effective evangelism has three components

1. relational
2. experiential
3. intellectual

IV. Our Responsibility for Evangelism

A. Jesus gives us all that we need!

1. Authority (**Matthew 28:18-20**)
2. Power (**Acts 1:8** - *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*) the Holy Spirit empowers, convicts, and converts, we won’t be successful in the flesh!

B. Our responsibility: obedience to share

C. Our motivation for evangelism

1. Love not guilt!
2. The right motivation
 - a. **Romans 9:1-3:** *“I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.”*
 - b. Paul’s motivation
 - c. How to grow our love for others
 - d. Understanding the goodness of the gospel

V. The Heart of the Gospel

- A. Creation - Genesis 1-2:** God made man, male and female in His image and placed them in a garden to work and to enjoy God, His creation and each other in perfect fellowship. He provided a perfect environment that provided all they needed. **1. God loves us, life and creation are good!**
- B. The Fall - Genesis 3:** Man rebelled against God when he chose to ignore God's command and believe that his way is better. The Bible calls this rebellion and passive indifference sin. Thus, death (physical & spiritual separation from God) entered the human experience. **cf. Rom. 3:23; 6:23.**
2. Man is sinful (self-centered and directed) and therefore separated from God.
- C. Redemption – God loves so much that He sent His Son to show us the way of life and eternal life. Jesus is both the perfect means of God's justice and the perfect example of God's love. However, we cannot experience forgiveness and restoration unless we put our trust in Christ. Romans 5:6-11: *“For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. Eph. 2:8-9: *“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”****
- D. The Consummation – the fullness of life is found in a perfect relationship with Christ which will occur for all the saints at the return of Christ and the end of the present age. This is the goal of human history. Revelation 21:1-8: *“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. 2And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. 3And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, 4and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”5And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.” 6Then He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. 7“He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. 8“But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”***
- E. Summary: Titus 3:4-8: *“But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 8This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds.”***

VI. Practice going over the four main points of sharing the gospel – we will do so the last 15 minutes of our study!