

You Can Tell It!

A Seminar in Personal Evangelism



student workbook

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A Seminar in Personal Evangelism

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What Do We Tell the Non-Christian?

session 1

If we're going to tell people how to get to heaven, we must explain it clearly. In order to do so, we must have a clear understanding of what the gospel is.

The Gospel is:

The presentation of the gospel

1 Corinthians 15:1-8. This is the one place in the New Testament where the historical elements of the gospel are clearly defined.

1. What did Paul do?

I preached (v. 1)
that which I also _____ (v. 3).

2. How did the people respond?

- a. You received it (v. 1);
i.e. you embraced it as being true.
- b. You stand in it (v. 1);
i.e. here's where you are and you're convinced of it.
- c. You were _____ by it (v. 2).

The four verbs Paul used in defining the gospel

Christ _____ (v. 3)
for our sins
according to the Scriptures.

He was _____ (v. 4a).

He _____ (v. 4b)
the third day
according to the Scriptures.

He was _____ (v. 5).

1 Corinthians 15:1~8

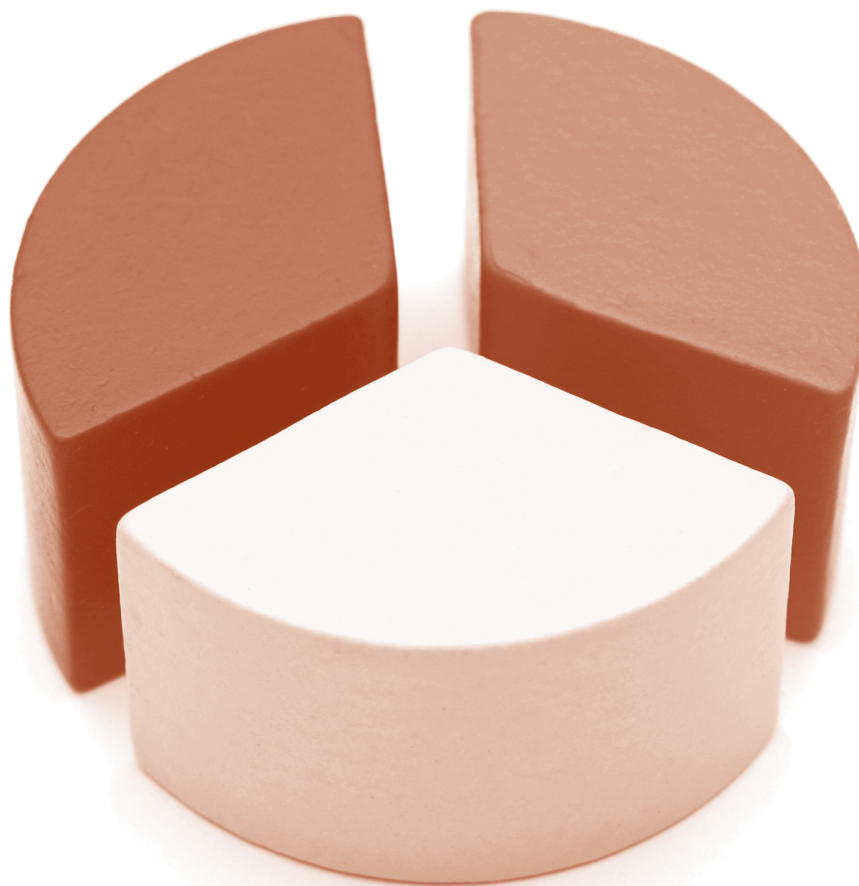
1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,
2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.
3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,
5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.
6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.
7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.
8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

Conclusion: The gospel by which we are saved is . . .

What is God Asking the Non-Christian to Do?

When you share the good news of Christ with lost people, they sometimes respond, “Oh yes, I believe that. In fact, I’ve always believed that.” But for one reason or another, you somehow sense that they really don’t know Christ. They don’t seem to understand saving faith. So to be effective in evangelism, we must answer the question, “What is saving faith?”

To communicate the concept of saving faith, the Bible uses two words: *believe*, which is a verb, and *faith*, which is a noun. These two words are used hundreds of times. When these words are studied as they relate to salvation, it becomes clear that the object of saving faith is Jesus Christ. It also becomes clear that saving faith in Christ involves three elements.

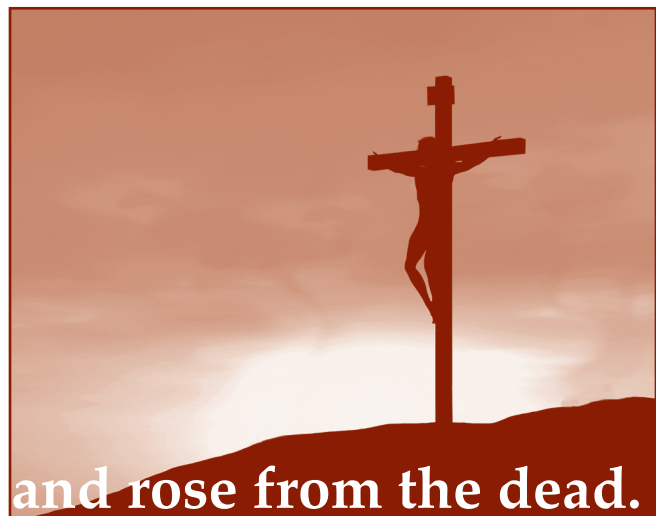


1. Saving faith involves _____ of who Christ is.**a. The proof:**

- The Bible sometimes puts hearing before believing.
 - 1) John 5:24 — “He who *hears* My word and believes in Him who sent Me”
 - 2) Romans 10:14 — “How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not *heard?*”
- It is obvious that to believe in a person, you must know about that person.

b. The content:

- The lost person must know about *the* Christ!
 - 1) His humanity —
“Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God”
(1 John 4:2).
 - 2) His deity —
“That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God”
(John 20:31).
 - 3) His death —
“Christ died for our sins”
(1 Corinthians 15:3).
 - 4) His resurrection —
“He rose again”
(1 Corinthians 15:4).



Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead.

2. Saving faith involves _____ of His person and work.

a. The proof:

The most basic meaning of the Greek words translated *believe* and *faith* is to “accept something as being true” or to “be convinced of something.”

b. The reason:

A person can understand something and yet not accept it as being true.

Illustration: If I say, “I live in Dallas, Texas,” you may know where that is. However, that doesn’t mean you believe me. In a similar manner, you can understand the facts about Christ and yet not accept them as being true.

3. Saving faith involves _____ in Christ alone to save.

a. The proof:

- The two Greek words translated *believe* and *faith* include the idea of “trust.” This means “reliance on” or “dependence on.”
- The New Testament emphasizes this many times by putting a preposition after *believe*.
 - 1) John 3:16 — “Whoever believes *in* Him should not perish.”
 - 2) John 3:36 — “He who believes *in* the Son has everlasting life.”

b. The point:

A person can understand the good news of Christ and even accept it as being true and yet not be *trusting in Christ* to save him.

Conclusion: Saving faith involves:

1. _____ of who Christ is.
2. _____ of His person and work.
3. _____ in Christ *alone* to save.