

# A TYPICAL PRESENTATION OF THE GOSPEL

## A. OUTLINE OF THE GOSPEL PRESENTATION

### I. Introduction

- A. Their secular life
- B. Their church life
- C. Our Church
- D. Testimony-Church or Personal
- E. The Two Questions:

1. Have you come to the place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you were to die today you would have eternal life?
2. Suppose that you were to die tonight and when you meet God He were to ask, "Why should you have eternal life in heaven?" What would you say?

### 11. The Gospel

#### A. Grace

1. Eternal life is a gift.
2. We can't earn or deserve it.

#### B. Man

1. We are sinners
2. We cannot save ourselves.

#### C. God

1. Is merciful-does not want to punish us
2. Is just, therefore must punish sin.

#### D. Christ

1. The Infinite God-Man
2. God's punishment for sin was placed on Him.

#### E. Faith

1. By faith that trusts Christ alone.
2. Distinguish from intellectual, temporal faith.

#### F. Acceptance

1. Receiving the gift of Eternal Life.
2. Our Covenant (agreement) with God.

### 11I. The New Life

- A. Sins forgiven;      B. New Creation;      C. Sons and daughters of God;
- D. Winning Life;      E. Eternal Life

### IV. The Commitment

A. Qualifying Question-Do you see what Christ wants to do for you?

B. Commitment Question-Do you want to receive the gift of Eternal life that Christ left heaven and died on the cross to give you?

1. Transferring trust from self to Christ.
2. Christ must be Lord as well as Saviour.

#### D. Prayer of Commitment

If this is really what you want, we can go to the Lord in prayer. I can lead us in prayer and we will tell Him what you have told me just now. Pray for, Pray with, Pray for.

#### E. Assurance

1. If you were to die tonight, do you know for certain you would . . .
2. When you meet God . . . if He were to ask, "Why should you have Eternal Life in heaven?" What would you say?

**Welcome to the family of God!**

## B. SAMPLE PRESENTATION OF THE GOSPEL

(Ray Dixon answers my knock on his door.)>

Hello.

Good morning. Ray Dixon, right? I am Eiden Walter and with me here are Diane Clark and Bob Hall from the Adventist church. Do you have a few moments? May we come in?

### I. Introduction

Yes, do come in.

Thank you.

I would offer to shake your hand, but I just came in from the garage from working on my car. Just a moment and I will wash up. . .

Is working on the car a hobby you enjoy, Ray, or is it just the money you save that motivates you?

### A. His secular life

It is a hobby. I really get a kick out of it. In fact, the car I am working on is not the one I drive. I bought two Volkswagens that were damaged and I am repairing one and challenging the other, hoping that my spare time hobby will bring a few dollars for my labor when I get it finished.

Sincere  
compliment

That is real interesting. I admire someone who enjoys repairing things. I get a real satisfaction myself out of fixing something that doesn't work, I enjoy working on my car whenever I can find time to do it, and I need to save the money too! Do you particularly enjoy foreign cars - Volkswagens, or does this just happen to be what you ran onto.

It's just what I happened to find. I haven't worked on Volkswagens before, but I am enjoying it. They are different.

Well, you are ahead of me, Ray, I have never gotten into a Volkswagen. That would be a new experience . . . I am so glad we found you home this evening.

I feel honored at your visit.

Oh, not at all. We just appreciate so much the opportunity to get better acquainted with you and we want you to know how happy we are that you came out to visit our special church service 0 week ago. We hope you will come back again. (and we are so happy to find people interested in our Bible study program, or whatever gave rise to your visit.)

No doubt I will. I enjoyed the service. A friend I work with at the shop has been inviting me for 0 long time. I am afraid he thought I never would get around to coming.

We are so glad you did. I am sure you feel as we do that the spiritual side of life is the most important, and to find real spiritual fulfillment and peace in these difficult days is top-priority.

Yes, I guess that is so. I really haven't spent much time with religious things. My folks went to church quite regularly, but I didn't go much after I was very young. Not very much of what was said seemed to have meaning for me. I will say that there seemed to be 0 note of conviction and certainty at your service that I had never noticed before at any other.

Weil, Ray, your discernment is an encouragement to us, for we do believe that it is the privilege of the Christian to experience real, genuine assurance of eternal life and peace, and we hope that it shines through. I remember only too well what my outlook on life was before I knew Christ as my personal Saviour and Lord. I guess I could best describe my life as 0 mixture of loneliness and fear of the future. Of course, I found 0 lot of happiness in life, too, and I was quite successful in my work and education, but there was definitely something missing and I kept groping for it where the bright lights and bold advertisements said it could be found, but it wasn't there. I finally started looking for the answer back in church and after 0 time, 0 friend there helped me to know what Christ really came to do for me, and

## **B. His church life**

### **c. Our church**

### **D. Testimony**

I have never been the same since. Not only did this experience bring complete fulfillment to me, but I can really say that the greatest joys I have experienced since then have come in telling others where they can find that missing ingredient to life.

I have occasionally heard others say something like that, but I figured it was just words. Is there really something to it?

E. The two questions

Yes there is, Ray, and it all begins by being willing to come up with some candid answers to a couple of searching questions that we all need to ask ourselves sooner or later. Would you mind, Ray, if I asked you these two questions that helped me so much in my thinking?

No, I guess not, go ahead.

1. "do you know for certain that you have eternal life?"

The first one, Ray, is this: Have you come to the place in your spiritual life where, if you were to die tonight, that you would know for certain that you have eternal life?

I guess I didn't really think anyone could know for sure.

Well Ray, I have some good news for you. The Bible says that it was written so we might have that certainty. In I John 5: 13, we read "These things were written that you might know you have eternal life." God wants us to have that assurance and that confidence. And we can have it! Isn't that great?

It surely would be.

Well Ray, the only way one can give a confident answer to that first question is to know something about the answer to the second one. Shall we ask that?

Yes, go ahead.

2. "Why should you have eternal life?"

Suppose you were to die tonight and when you stand before God, if He were to ask you, "WHY, should you have eternal life in heaven?" What would you say?

I don't really know. I never thought of answering 0 question like that.

I am not trying to put you on the spot, Ray, but you see, what we think about the answer to this question is really very important. In fact, I guess we could say that unless we know what the basis of eternal life is we wouldn't know how to find it, would we? So, Ray, what do you think your answer would be? If God were to ask you in the judgment day, IIWhy should you have eternal life?II What do you think you would say?

Weil, I suppose that one would be entitled to eternal life if he does what God says and tries sincerely to live by the Golden Rule and keep God's commandments.

You know, Ray, I think your answer is an accurate reflection of what most Christian's think about the requirements for eternal life. I know it is the same thing that I had said for many years, but I ca me to realize that this very answer was the cause of my anxiety. Let me just say that I believe I have the most wonderful news that you have ever heard. I can't wait to share with you the understanding of Christ that changed my life. May I do that in the next few minutes?

Yes, I would like to know myself.

Ray, the most important realization is this: That no matter how earnest our efforts to do the will of God and keep His commandments, because of our human weakness, those efforts will still be less than perfect. Don't you agree? And even if we lived 0 life that was perfect from this moment on, our life has been stained by disobedience and so there is no hope of our earning or deserving eternal life on the basis of what we are or our good works. Do you see? That is why the Bible teaches that God's grace GIVES to us eternal life and that our works have no part in making it available to us. The Bible says *by grace are ye saved and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, lest we take credit for it.*

How much do you pay for 0 gift? If we paid anything at all, it would cease to be 0 gift, right?

Identify with prospect

11. The gospel

A. Grace

1. Heaven is a gift
2. We can't earn it

Eternal life is 0 gift.

B.Man

1. We are sinners
2. We cannot save ourselves

We realize this more clearly when we see what the Bible says about man in general, and we know it is something that is true about us as individuals. God says, "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. There is none righteous, no not one." And in Romans 7, Paul talks about the law of our sinful desires and inclinations. We are born with sinful tendencies and with selfishness in our hearts. I think most of us are only too keenly aware of how true these statements are. If we were to try to add up all of the times we have violated God's will in word or thought or deed, it would be overwhelming, wouldn't it? And Ray, God says the wages of sin is death. We are doomed to die. And we can understand the reason for this, too. If God should condone sin, there would never be any hope of peace and happiness in the universe. If there is ever to be 0 world without selfishness and greed and hatred and war, sin will have to be punished and eradicated.

c. God

1. 15merciful
2. 15just, so must punish sin

But you know, Ray, God loves us so He made us to be like Himself the scripture says, and He wants us with Him forever in wonderful fellowship. "God so loved the world," remember, so He doesn't want to punish us with death. But on the other hand, 0 part of real love is justice and God's justice has to punish sin. The Bible says "He is of purer eyes than to behold evil" and if God should excuse sin or let it go without punishment, He would not be 0 God of justice. What would we think of 0 judge here in our locality who would let criminals go free just because he was soft-hearted? We would demand another judge, wouldn't we? Experience has shown that letting 0 criminal go without punishment doesn't reform his life, it only sets him free to continue his criminal activity and it encourages others to do the same. So 0 God who truly loves, must also be just and must punish sin and "the wages of sin is death." So thus far, what we know about ourselves and God would leave us hopeless, doomed to die. But that is where the good news of the gospel comes in, Ray. That is not the end of the story!

I think it is right here, Ray, that we can really appreciate the best known text in the Bible . . . "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life." The Scripture says that, "while we were yet helpless Christ died for the ungodly." "God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." "While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son." Paul tells us all of these things in Romans the fifth chapter. And you know, it is very important that we understand just who Jesus is Ray, I would be interested in your opinion about Christ. Who do you think He is?

D. Christ

Weil, you quoted 0 text that said He was the Son of God and yet He called Himself the Son of man. I don't really think I ever have understood about Christ.

1. Christ is God

It is important that we realize that when Christ died for us, this was the Infinite God accepting our punishment for sin. If Christ were merely 0 man or even an angel, it would not have paid the price of our sin. The Bible says Jesus is God. In the first chapter of the gospel of John we read, "In the beginning was the Word . . . and the Word was God . . . the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." "And His name shall be called Wonderful . . . the mighty God . . . the Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6. When we realize that One who is God, was willing to bear our punishment and purchase for us eternal life, surely we can see how much God really does love us. The Bible says that God put all of the punishment for our sins on His own Son. "The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all . . . He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree." "And for our sake, God made Christ to be sin for us when He had never sinned, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." That has got to be 0 miracle, hasn't it, Ray? It is hard for us to understand how Christ could become really guilty for our sins when He had no part in committing them. And yet we can believe it was just that real, because although we are guilty of sinning we can actually feel pardoned when we receive

2. God's punishment for sin was placed on Christ

He became guilty that we might be pardoned

He wants to give us the life he purchased

Christ and His forgiveness. When we know He is our Saviour, the burden of guilt rolls away and we come to realize that we are children of God, and we even approach God's throne in prayer with boldness and call Him our Father! That would be presumption, Ray, outside of the miracle of forgiveness. And just as surely as we experience pardon and forgiveness, just so really did Christ experience guilt. This is one of the mysteries of our salvation . . . how we can be guiltless when we are the sinners and Christ was guilty when He had never done wrong. So Christ paid the penalty for our guilt and sin and in doing so, He purchased heaven and eternal life for us. And He wants to give us this life!

E. Faith

The gift of God is eternal life, the Bible says. But how do we receive it? By receiving Christ as our Saviour and Lord. "As many as received Him to them gave the power to become sons of God . . . He who has the Son has life." The eternal life we receive is in Jesus Christ and by receiving Him we have everlasting life. We receive Him, Ray, by faith, by accepting Him because we believe Him and trust Him. "By grace are ye saved through faith." Ephesians 2. Sometimes people ask, Do I have enough faith to be saved? We can all have enough faith. But it takes the right kind of faith.

1. Not intellectual or temporal faith

You see, there are those who believe all about Jesus. They believe that He lived and died, that He worked miracles and that He taught what the New Testament says,-but this is more or less an intellectual faith that doesn't really establish a personal relationship with Christ. And then there are those who have a temporal faith,- that is they believe that God will answer their prayers for protection and for their daily needs and they have experienced this many times and so they trust what God will do for them in the material things of life. But neither intellectual faith nor temporal faith is necessarily saving faith. Saving faith is a faith that accepts the gift of eternal life, trusting Jesus alone for salvation.

2. Saving faith that trusts Christ alone for Salvation

Let me say it this way, If I hold here in my hand an ordinary dollar bill and you look at it and are



convinced that it is a good dollar bill, it has been used many times, it is genuine, you would have intellectual faith in that dollar bill. That is you believe in its existence and its reality and its worth. Further, you know what the dollar bill will buy. You have temporal faith in what it will accomplish. And then I tell you that I am willing to give it to you, and you believe what I say. You have faith in everything about that dollar bill and in my offer to make it a gift to you, but does simply extending my hand to you with this dollar bill, with the offer to give it to you, does that make it yours?

## F. Acceptance

No, not really. Not unless I take it and put it in my pocket.

Right you are! You could believe everything about the dollar bill, but unless you actually reach out and take it and make it your own it never becomes yours. Ray, there are so many who believe everything about Christ, but they have never believed in Him. That is they have never received Him as their Saviour. They have never reached out to accept the gift of life and tell Him that they accept Him and the eternal life He offers, giving themselves to Him for eternity, and you see this can make all the difference in the world in what kind of assurance we have. If you have reached out and taken the dollar bill and put in your pocket and someone asks you, "Do you have it?" You would say, "Yes I do." But if it is still in my hand, even though you believed that I am willing to give it to you, you could never be certain that it was yours. Ray, until your acceptance of Christ is as real as this and you have that kind of confidence that you have eternal life, there will always be missing in your life that most essential ingredient of all . . . what the Bible calls, "Christ in you the hope of glory". If we are to know real peace, we must have this this kind of assurance.

### 1. Receiving the gift

Let me mention some of the things that Christ promises to do for you when you become His. He will forgive your sins, the guilt will be gone. He will give you a new spiritual (He that is some-

## 111. The New Life

### A. Sins forgiven

- thing entirely new. A life that appreciates spiritual truths and fellowship with God's people. A life that makes worldly pleasures seem strangely unimportant. The Bible puts it this way, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation, old things are past away, all things become new." You become a child of God. "To as many as received Him gave He power to become sons of God."
- B. Spiritual creation
  - C. Victorious life
  - D. Eternal life
- IV. The Commitment
- A. Qualifying question
  - B. Commitment question
- Yes, I do.
- Do you want to receive this gift of eternal life that Christ left heaven and died on the cross to give you?
- I guess a man would be foolish to reject it, wouldn't he? Yes, I do.
- C. Clarification of commitment
- 1. Transferring trust from self to Christ
- Before we do that, Ray, let us be certain that we understand that assurance can only come if we trust Christ alone for eternal life. In other words, if you are trusting in any degree what you are or what you do to bring you eternal life, you can never be confident that you have it, because of course, what you are and what you do will not be perfect. The realization of that imperfection would always leave you in doubt about your salvation. So you see it is only when we realize that Jesus paid the whole price and that our salvation rests solely in this perfect gift from Him that we can have confidence that it is ours. His sacrifice was perfect. His atonement on Calvary had no fault at all. Therefore, if we trust this alone, then, and only then can we have confident assurance that we have eternal life. Then as the text says "we can know we have eternal life."/I

And there is another thing, Roy, about which we should be very honest with ourselves. Christ comes into our lives not only as Saviour, but as Lord. That means that He is on the throne of our lives, when we receive Him as our Saviour. We will always put His will first in our lives. This means we will purpose to live according to His will, turning from the ways of our past life that are not pleasing to Him. Does receiving Christ into your life mean all of this to you, Roy?

Yes, it does.

Taking Christ into our life is more like taking a wife in marriage than anything else. In Romans 7, Paul used the comparison. A man can court a girl. They can talk of their love for each other. They can finally talk of a home and marriage and even promise that they will marry one another, but are they married yet?

No.

You see, they may believe in each other's love. They may talk of love. They may want to get married. But none of this actually brings them to a married state. It is only when two people who love one another come before God and witnesses and make an agreement, which we might call a covenant, (that is the word the Bible uses), that they are married. They make this agreement with each other for life. They promise with just a few simple words that they will love one another and give themselves to each other as long as they live. When this is done, the minister says, "I now pronounce you husband and wife." At the reception I have often heard a young married couple say, "Are we really married now? I don't feel any different than I did a couple of hours ago!" But the fact is they are married. It is the agreement they made with one another and with God that makes them married. Interestingly, I have never seen a newly married couple worry about "not feeling like" they are married. They always take off on their honeymoon knowing that they really are married. Likewise, Roy, when we know that we have received Jesus by making our covenant with Him,

2. Christ must be Lord as well as Saviour

The meaning of "Covenant"

The necessity of knowing we have made our covenant for eternal life.  
The basis of assurance

then there is no uncertainty about our relationship. We have accepted His gift of eternal life. We have given ourselves to Him and it is real. Jesus put it this way: "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him." This language implies an act on our part of opening our lives to the Lord and inviting Him in and then knowing that we have established our relationship with Him. Would you like to open the door and let Him come into your life now, Ray?

**D. Prayer of  
Commitment**

Yes, I would.

Ray, the Lord says that wherever two or three are gathered together in His name, there will He be in their midst. He is here with us now and we can talk to Him in prayer. I can lead us in prayer and we can tell Him what you have just told me now. Shall we pray?

Dear Heavenly Father, We come to you just now so thankful for what Jesus has done for us on Calvary's cross and thankful that we can share this good news with others. We are so happy that your love has reached Ray's heart and mind and we pray just now that his acceptance of Jesus Christ as Saviour may be deeply sincere, and real to him. We pray for the presence of your Holy Spirit as He makes this covenant and may the angels be the joyful witnesses to this acceptance.

And now, Ray, as we remain in prayer, I will read a prayer for you phrase by phrase that you can say after me, if this is really the expression of your heart. Remember that God is looking at your heart more than He is listening to your lips and He understands your sincere desire. So Ray, repeat these words after me if this is the prayer of your heart:

Lord Jesus, (he repeats each phrase) I want you to come into my life right now  
I am a sinner . . . I realize that I cannot save myself . . . I cannot be good enough to deserve heaven or eternal life . . . so now I put my trust in you . . . : I accept you as my

personal Saviour . . . I believe you died for me . . . I receive you as Lord and Master over my life . . . Help me as I turn from my sins and follow you . . . I accept your gift of eternal life . . . I am not worthy of it . . . but I thank you for it . . . Amen.

Dear Heavenly Father, You have heard Ray's prayer and your promise is "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out, and whosoever will may *come*." Your word tells us that you are able to save to the uttermost all who come to God through Jesus Christ. We claim these promises just now. Ray has received Jesus as his Lord and your word says that *He* who has the Son has everlasting life. We believe that Ray has become your child just now, because your word says that, *As* many as received Him to them gave He power to become sons of *God*. We thank you for these precious promises and we claim them through Jesus Christ.

Now Ray, I would like to ask you to read this text from John 6:47.

E. Assurance

Truly, I tell YOU, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.

Did you just believe in Jesus for salvation?

Yes, I did.

Now, Ray, let us ask that first question that we started with: Have you come to the place in your spiritual life where if you died tonight that you would know that you have eternal life?

1. **Do** you know  
YOU have  
eternal life?

Yes, that is what the Bible says, doesn't it?

Do you claim that promise?

Yes.

Now Ray, would you read this other text in John 1:12?

*As* many as received Him, to them gave He power to become sons of *God*.

Did you just now receive Jesus, Ray?

Yes, I did.

Are you a child of God?

Yes, I am according to the promise of God's word.

**2. Do you know  
you are a child  
of God?**

Now Ray, let us ask that other question, too. If you were to stand before God and He were to ask you, "Why should you have eternal life?" What would you say?

I would say, because of what Christ did for me on Calvary. I trust Him alone for my salvation.

**Welcome to  
the family!**

Ray, take my hand, Welcome to the family of God!