Gospel Conversations

Block 2: 1/10/2024—2/28/2024

Day/Time: Wednesdays, 6:15—7:15pm

Teachers: Noah and Ron Nyberg

Description: Discussion format providing

various gospel conversations with key methods, approaches, main religious viewpoints/opposition (questions encountered), tailored to participants designed to answer questions and practice

dialoguing together to make all participants more comfortable having Gospel Conversations.

TIP

-Pray for opportunities

-Prepare for opportunities

-Use given opportunities

EquipGroup—Tailorable Plan

- 1. Gospel conversation Intro/challenges (w1)
- 2. Key methods Hone proven approaches (W2-4)
- 3. False beliefs/religions/cults ——See by man's works (W5-6)
- 4. True Gospel See by God's grace thru faith (w7)
- 5. Answering tough questions Do Q/A (W8)

What Else Would Strengthen You More?

1. Gospel Conversations—

Intro/Challenges

Introductions (name; spiritual condition; biggest problem with sharing your faith/what hope to get from class)

Toughest challenges

- Prioritizing appropriate time with unsaved
- ☐ Gaining a heart for the lost
- ☐ Fear of ...?
- Starting spiritual conversations
- ☐ Closing spiritual conversations
- ☐ Gaining answers to your tough questions
- **U** ...

Brainstorming Personal/Practical Solutions

1. Gospel Conversations—

Tough Challenge Thoughts

- Prioritizing appropriate time with unsaved
 - Your 3rd Place...Where? When?--Walk, Art classes, baking, neighborhood-hey, baby...
- ☐ Gaining a heart for the lost
 - ☐ Pray for (a heart; specific people; start discussing...)
 - ☐ Study Bible/prophecy/eternity; take risks, say yes to invites
- ☐ Fear of ...? (Process to overcome?)
 - ☐ Public speaking; Strangers; Not knowing...
 - ☐ Rejection, Turn off, Correct answers
- Starting conversations
 - Questions getting to know them

Brainstorming Solutions

1. Gospel Conversations—

Tough Challenge Thoughts-Brainstorming

- ☐ Starting gospel conversations
 - Questions getting to know them
 - ☐ Ask if they go to church? If so, where?
 - ☐ Give away water, gifts (makes them wonder why you care)
 - ☐ Testimony; What do for a living;
- ☐ Closing spiritual conversations
 - Ask if they: have any questions, they want to trust Jesus, if they want to pray, or if they want to pray after you
- ☐ Gaining answers to your tough questions
- **...**

Stories? Assignment1-Your Testimony

2. Key Methods—

Proven Gospel Approaches (Types)

- 1. Gospel tracks/literature distribution.
- 2. Gospel Scripture quoting.
- 3. Recipients belief questioning (spiritual background?).
- 4. Creative Gospel inroad utilization?
- 5. Faith defending (responding with the Gospel, Doctrine, Fundamentals...).
- **6.** ...

Other Gospel Sharing Methods/Types?

2. Key Methods—

Proven Approaches (Specific)

- 1. The Roman's Road.
- 2. The Bridge (of Life).
- 3. The 4 Spiritual Laws.
- 4. The Gospel Hand.
- 5. Evangelism Explosion (EE).
- 6. The 3 Circles.
- 7. The Wordless Book.
- 8. Share Jesus Without Fear.
- 9. Your Testimony or Story.

Other Gospel Sharing Methods? Your Favorite?

1. The Roman's Road (1 of 2)

- 1. 3:23—"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

 (All have sinned, and are < God's glory. I have sinned)
- 2. 6:23—"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Sin produces death/hell. God's gift to me is eternal life through Jesus Christ)
- 3. 5:8—"But God commendeth [demonstrated] his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (God loved us and Christ died for us. Christ died for me)

Ask to read verse & 1-What does it mean (personally)?

2-Where are they on the Roman's Road?

1. The Roman's Road (2 of 2)

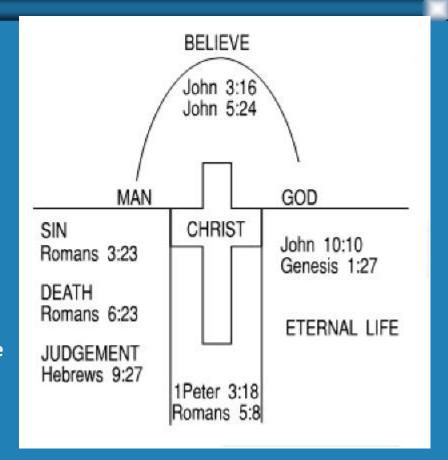
10:8-13—"8-But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9-That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10-For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11-For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. 12- For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him. 13-For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Believe in your heart, and ask God to receive the gift of eternal life and be saved)

What do you believe & have to say about Jesus' death & resurrection?

2. Key Methods—Proven Approaches2. The Bridge (of Life)

- 1. God's Love.
- 2. Man's Problem.
- 3. God's Remedy.
- 4. Man's Response.

4 concepts. Begins with 2 cliffs (A loving God on 1-side, sinful man on the other & separated by sin, shown as a deep chasm that no one can cross leading to death or Hell). God's remedy is Jesus' death on the Cross. If man responds by believing God, he is saved & can get to God by Jesus.



Easy to Visualize & Draw on Anything

3. The 4 Spiritual Laws (1 of 2)

"Just as there are physical laws that govern the physical universe, so are there spiritual laws that govern your relationship with God."

- 1. "Law 1: God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life." (God's Love—*John 3:16*; God's Plan—*John 10:10*). "Why is it that most people do not experience the abundant life? Because..."
- 2. "Law 2: Man is sinful and separated from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life." (Man is Sinful—*Rom. 3:23*; Man is Separated—*Rom. 6:23*). Man tries to reach God and abundant life through his own efforts, but fails...
- 3. "Law 3: Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life." (He Died in Our Place—*Rom. 5:8*; He Rose from the Dead—*100. 15:3-6*; He is the Only Way to God—*John 14:6*). "It is not enough just to know these 3 laws..."

3. The 4 Spiritual Laws (2 of 2)

4. "Law 4: We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives." (We Must Receive Christ—John 1:12. We Receive Christ Through Faith—*Eph. 2:8-9.* When We Receive Christ, We Experience a New Birth—*John 3:1-8.* We Receive Christ Through Personal Invitation—*Rev. 3:20*). It is not just knowledge or an emotional experience, we receive Jesus Christ by faith, as an act of the will. You can ask God to save you and receive Christ now.

An Easy Proven Presentation

(Summary)

1-God loves you & has a great plan for you. 2-Sin separates you from God & His ideal plan. 3-Christ's death, burial, & resurrection paid for your sin & is the only way to experience His love & plan. 4-You must receive Jesus by faith—will you ask Him in faith to save you now?

4. The Gospel Hand

- 1. God loves me (John 3:16).
- 2. I have sinned (Rom. 3:23).
- 3. Christ died for me (Rom. 5:8).
- 4. If I believe (Acts 16:31).
- 5. I will go to heaven (1Jo. 5:13).

Practice Using Fingers (Memorize Verses)



5. Evangelism Explosion (EE) (1 of 4)

- 1. "If you died today, do you know if you'd go to heaven?" {If answer "no," go straight to Gospel Presentation, otherwise continue.}
- 2. "If you were to die today and stand before God, and He was to ask you, 'Why should I let you into my heaven?' What would you tell God?" {Their answer reveals what they believe gets them into heaven. Most answer about their effort, works, or intentions. It is helpful to rephrase back this question and their answer, to make sure you and they understand what they believe, then continue.}

Present the 1-True Gospel (A-E)

A. Grace (Eternal salvation in heaven is a free gift—*Rom. 6:23*. It cannot be earned or deserved—*Eph. 2:8-9*). Transition: This can be seen more deeply when we understand what the Bible says about man.

2 Intro?s, the Gospel, & 2 Closure?s

5. Evangelism Explosion (EE) (2 of 4)

Present the 1-True Gospel (A-E con't)

- B. Man (Man is a sinner—*Rom. 3:10, 23*. Sin is defined as missing the mark, anything less than perfection—*Mat. 5:48*. Man cannot save himself. Example of an omelet with 1 bad egg, it ruins the whole thing—*Pro. 14:12*. It is like taking comprehensive exams that we must get 100% or we fail. Even 3 sins/day is over 1,000 sins/year times your age equals lots of sin. God says that even our "*good deeds*" are as "*filthy rags*" compared to His holiness—*Isa. 64:6*. Transition: Do you see now why it is impossible to be perfect? This comes into sharper focus when we look at what the Bible says about God.
- C. God (God is loving and merciful and doesn't want to punish us—

 1101111 4:8. God is also just and holy, so He must punish us—

 24:7). Transition: God solved our sin problem in the perfect person, Jesus Christ.

5. Evangelism Explosion (EE) (3 of 4)

Present the 1-True Gospel (A-E con't)

- D. Christ (Is God taking on human flesh, the infinite God-man—John 1:1, 14; 20:28. He died on the cross and rose from the dead to pay the penalty for our sins (as our substitute). He purchased a place in heaven, He offers to us His righteousness, He offers us the gift of eternal life. Jesus' perfect life and death satisfied God's holiness and justice, by God's great love. Jesus said, "It is finished," meaning our sin debt was paid in full—John 19:30. Jesus Christ reveals true GRACE (God's Riches At Christ's Expensive). Transition: This gift is received by faith.
- E. Faith (Faith in Christ is the key to go heaven. It is not mere intellectual assent or an emotional feeling. The devils "believe and tremble"—James 2:19. It is not just a temporary faith. It is an act of the will to trust God's promise that Jesus death, burial, and resurrection is a gift He will give to us by faith. What is eternal saving faith? It is trusting in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life—Acts 16:31. If someone asked if you knew the President; it is one thing to know about him, it is another thing entirely to personally know and have a relationship with him.

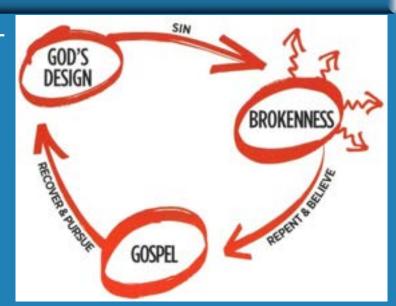
5. Evangelism Explosion (EE) (4 of 4)

- 3. "Do you understand what we've talked about here? Do you have any questions? Is there anything that is not clear?" {If there are questions, answer the questions to make sure everything is clearly understood. Once they have no questions, ask them a final question.}
- 4. "Would you like to receive the free gift of eternal life right now by repenting of your sins and asking Jesus Christ to come into your life as your Lord and Savior?" {If they say yes, pray with them, leading them with a few words at a time, allowing time for the individual to repeat them to God. If they say no, encourage them to think about what you've talked about and let them know you will be praying for them.}

Thorough, Takes Practice

2. Key Methods—Proven Approaches 6. The 3 Circles

- 1. Circle 1: God's Design (Gen. 1:26-31)—
 God's way is best, He created us in
 His "IMAGE," "VETY GOOD," to be in a
 loving relationship with Him.
- 2. Arrow 1: Sin (*Rom. 3:23*; *Isa. 53:6*)—
 All depart God's design to our own
 way separating us forever <u>from God.</u>
- 3. Circle 2: Brokenness (Rom. 6:23)—All our ways & attempts lead to pain, sorrow, sickness, & death/Hell.



- 4. Arrow 2: Repent/Believe (John 3:16)—We must believe that God loves us, sent His only Son to die for our sin, to redeem us from our brokenness.
- 5. Circle 3: Gospel (*Rom. 1:16*; *1Co. 15:3-4*)—We must believe the good news that Christ died, was buried, & rose again so all believers have eternal life.
- 6. Arrow 3: Recover/Pursue (260. 5:17-21; James 4:8; Jer. 29:13-14)—We can be restored without fear, guilt, shame...by trusting and pursuing God/His plan.

2. Key Methods—Proven Approaches 7. The Wordless Book

- 1. Black: Sin—All have sinned (*Romans 3:23; 6:23*)—
 Sin is dirty, unholy, and separates us from God, causing pain, suffering, and death in Hell.
- 3. White: Purity—Only Jesus can wash away confessed sin (*Psa. 51:7; 110. 1:9*)—God promises to wash away your sin if you by faith ask Him.
- 4. Gold: Heaven—Believe on Jesus and receive eternal life (*John 14:2; 3:16*).
- 5. Green: Growth—Grow in the knowledge of the Lord (278-218; Eph. 4:18; 19e. 2:2)—God in Christ's grace by the Word.

All have sinned. Romans 3:23

BLOOD

Jesus died for our sins.

1 John 1:7

PURITY

Jesus washes away confessed sin. Psalm 51:7

HIBAVIBN

Believe on Jesus and receive eternal life. John 14:2

GROWTH

Grow in the knowledge of the Lord.
2 Peter 3:18

2. Key Methods—Proven Approaches 8. Share Jesus Without Fear (William Fay)

- 1. Do you have any spiritual beliefs? {Yes or no is ok. People are proud to be spiritual.}
- 2. Ok, if you don't mind me asking, to you, who is Jesus? {If they say God in Flesh, my Savior who died, was buried, & rose again for my sins—then you can slap 5 and ask them to share their testimony as brother/sister. Otherwise, if you are unsure continue.}
- 3. Ok, do you believe in Heaven and Hell? {Yes or no is ok.}
- 4. If you were to die tonight, where would you go? {Usually most say, "I don't know, but hope I will go to heaven." Whatever they say is ok. If they say heaven, some ask how they know. Since they did not get #2 about Jesus, it is not true; so, go to last question.}
- 5. If what you believe were not true or complete, would you want to know it? {Almost no one says no. If say no, you can say you are the 1st person—that shocks me.}

{When the last answer is yes, pull out Bible, point to, & have them read & tell you what the Gospel verses mean to them. The Bible is so clear. They always get it right, unless someone has "brainwashed" them to some non-literal meaning & you can ask again or have them change the actual verse words to what they are trying to "make it say" to show absurdity.}

5 ?s Where the Unsaved Do Most of the Talking

9. Your Testimony (your spiritual story)

Hints: Practice sharing what brought you (personally) from eternal death to eternal life. Clearly share how you knew you were a sinner, in need of a Savior. Share how you have been transformed in Christ...

Ask about their spiritual journey

Assignment2-God Logic-Choose Favorite www.RonNyberg.org

3. False Religions/Cults—(1 of 7)

Overview of Belief Systems

- False Religions & Cults-Man made work-based belief systems
- Atheism-No God
- > Agnosticism-You can't know whether God does or doesn't exist
- **Deism-**God started it all, but is not personally involved in maintaining it
- **Dualism-**Two Gods, one good & one bad, equal in power & persuasion
- > Tritheism-Three Gods
- **Polytheism-**There are many Gods
- **Pantheism-**God is everything
- > Panentheism-God is in everything
- Theism-A personal God (True, unless other than the God of the Bible)
- > Monotheism-One God (True, unless excluding Trinitarianism)

3. False Religions/Cults_(2 of 7)

Arguments against Atheism/Agnosticism

> The Contingency Argument

- Everything that exists in the universe is contingent (can exist or not exist).
- If things can not exist, there must have been a time in which they did not exist.
- If everything in the universe can not exist, there must have been a time when nothing existed.
- Things/beings exist now so there must be a thing/being that all contingent things/beings depend on for existence.
- This necessary thing/being is functionally God.

Common objection(s):

• The universe started from an eternally existing singularity and therefore requires no necessary thing/being beyond such a thing.

Everything ever observed is contingent upon something else for its existence. The universe itself is necessarily contingent.

3. False Religions/Cults_(3 of 7)

Arguments against Atheism/Agnosticism

- > The Kalam Cosmological Argument
 - Everything that begins to exist has a cause.
 - The universe began to exist (it is finite).
 - The universe has a cause.
- > Common objection(s):
 - Everything that begins to exist does not necessarily have a cause.
 - The universe did not begin to exist.

Everything ever observed has had a cause for existence and the universe is no exception.

3. False Religions/Cults—(4 of 7)

Arguments against Atheism/Agnosticism

> The Fine Tuning Argument

- The number of finely-tuned parameters and universal constants is seemingly infinite.
- These parameters and constants must exist within a miniscule and finite range to allow for the existence of life as we know it.
- The probability of such constants and parameters existing in the capacity that they do is near zero (in practical terms, it is zero).
- The best explanation is an intelligent designer (God) with a goal in mind for such constants and parameters.

Common objection(s):

• There is an infinite number of universes and, because we exist, the parameters and constants are necessarily this way.

The universe is so finely tuned that it is intensely unreasonable to attribute its existence to anything other than God.

Assignment 3—Word Logic https://RonNyberg.org

3. False Religions/Cults—(5 of 7)

Arguments against Atheism/Agnosticism

> The Moral Argument

- If God does not exist, then objective moral values do not exist.
- Objective moral values do exist.
- Therefore, God exists.

> Common objection(s):

- Objective moral values do not exist.
- Euthyphro's Dilemma "Is something moral because God commands it, or does God command it because it is moral?"
- I don't need God to be moral.
- Your God is evil.

Objective Moral Values Indicate a Personal Moral God, and His Intentional Loving Care for Man

3. False Religions/Cults—(6 of 7)

Arguments against Atheism/Agnosticism

Pascal's Wager

• "If God does not exist, one will lose nothing by believing in him, while if he does exist, one will lose everything by not believing."

> Common objection(s):

- I am not losing nothing by belief; I have to live in accordance with Christianity (and give up my preferred lifestyle).
- Belief in a particular religion solely out of fear of punishment is not a genuine or sincere belief.
- One cannot simply choose to believe something.
- How do I know I've chosen the right God/gods?
- Pascal's anti-wager

Are you Willing to Wager your Eternal Destiny for the Possibility of a Preferable 70-80 years? Belief in God Unbelief in God

God exists	God does not exist
Infinite gain/ Heaven	Finite loss
Infinite loss/ Hell	Finite gain

3.5. Why Christianity?—(7 of 7)

Minimal Facts argument

- 1. Jesus died by crucifixion.
- 2. The disciples had experiences that they believed were appearances of a risen Jesus.
- 3. The disciples were willing to die for this belief.
- 4. The resurrection was proclaimed very early (immediately after the cross).
- 5. James, brother of Jesus, became a Christian.
- 6. The apostle Paul became a Christian.

What is the Reasonable Conclusion for the Crucifixion & Resurrection?-Assignment 4

4. The True Gospel—(1 of 8)

By God's grace thru man's faith, not of any works

- >John 3:16—"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
- >Eph. 2:8-9—"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast."
- >Titus 3:5—"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us..."
- >Rom. 4:4—"Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt."

Believe & Receive By Grace Alone, No Works

4. The True Gospel—(2 of 8)

By God's grace thru man's faith, not of any works

- >John 3:15—"That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."
- >John 3:18—"He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."
- >John 6:40—"And this is the will of Him that sent Me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."
- >John 6:47—"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life."

Believe & Receive By Grace Alone, No Works

4. The True Gospel—(3 of 8)

By God's grace thru man's faith, not of any works

➤Rom. 11:6—"And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."

► Acts 16:31—"And they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus' Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Simple Good News—Jesus Saves
By Faith Alone In His Work, Not Yours

4. The True Gospel—(4 of 8)

All False Religions/Cults: By man's works

- 1. Catholicism—Faith + Works (7 Sacraments)
- 2. Islam—Works (5 Pillars of Islam or Jihad)
- 3. Hinduism—Works (Karma, Knowledge, Devotion)
- 4. Buddhism—Works (8-Fold Path, Reincarnation)
- Mormonism/Jehovah's Witnesses/Church of Christ...
 —Faith + Works (Water Baptism, Obedience...)
- 6. Judaism—Faith + Works (Law + Sacrifice)

Man's Best Works are "As Filthy Rags" (Isa. 64:6)
Salvation is "Not of works" (Eph. 2:9; Rom. 9:11)

4. The True Gospel—(5 of 8)

By God's grace thru man's faith, not of any works

- > False Religions/Cults Add Man's Words & Works to Be Saved
- > Salvation is by Grace thru Faith in Christ's Finished Work
- > Saved by Grace thru Faith, NOT thru WORKS
- >"He that believeth on Me has everlasting life." PERIOD. NO COMMAS, NO ADDITIONS, NO WORKS!
- >Unsaved rejectors judged by evil works. Saved receivers rewarded for good works
- >Saved by Faith Alone, But Saving Faith by Works is Shown
- >Salvation is Not Obtained by Man's Work, but Christ's Alone

100s Verses Proving by Faith Alone

4. The True Gospel—(6 of 8)

Minimum Belief

- > Joh. 3:16; Heb. 11:6—{God exists & loves you & desires an eternal relationship with you.}
- > Rom. 3:23; 5:12; 6:23—{All sin, separating from God, causing death & hell.}
- > Col. 2:9; 1Ti. 2:5; 2Co. 5:21; 1Co. 15:3-4; Heb. 10:10-14—{Jesus Christ is fully God, took on flesh, lived a sinless life (as the God-man), died (in our place), was buried, & rose again to give us His perfect righteousness.}
- > Joh. 1:12; Rom. 4:5—{Believe & receive Jesus Christ.}

Please receive by faith & don't reject by unbelief (don't delay, put off, or blatantly reject. "... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved, and your house" [Acts 16:31]

Child-like faith in Jesus' Death, Burial, & Resurrection Don't Trust in Your Own Works to be Eternally Saved

4. The True Gospel—(7 of 8)

5 Fundamentals of the Christian Faith

- 1. Inerrancy of Scripture (Complete Inspiration & Authority)-"faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17).
- 2. Christ's Deity (Eternally)-Had to be God to defeat sin, Satan, & save us...
- 3. Christ's Virgin Birth (the God-man in flesh)-required to be God & man...
- 4. Christ's **Substitutionary Blood Atonement** on the Cross (Death/Burial/Salvation by Grace through Faith alone)-"without shedding of blood, is no remission" of sin (Heb. 9:22).
- 5. Christ's **Bodily Resurrection** & Return (will also Bodily Resurrect us)-required to prove Jesus conquered sin & will return & resurrect us...

Key Fundamentals Liberals Attack (Interdenominationally)

4. The True Gospel—(8 of 8)

Justification/Eternal Security/Small Works?

- 1. **Justification**—Legally declared righteous at salvation (*Just-if-I'd Never Sinned; Just-if-I'd Always Been Perfect*)—**Rom. 3:22-26; 5:1, 9**.
- Eternally Secure—"Eternal Life" means eternal life. God provided, God keeps. God says believers will "never perish." Jesus said, "It is finished." Believers were "Predestined," "Elected." Your eternal life inheritance is "reserved in heaven." 18 irreversible things happen to believers the point of salvation ("indwelt," "born again," "a new creature," "adopted," "saints," etc.)—1Jo. 5:13; Joh. 10:28-299; 2Ti. 1:9, 12/1Pe. 1:2-5; Joh. 19:30; Rom. 8:28-29; 8:9-11, 15; John 3:3-6; 2Co. 5:17; Col. 1:2...
- 3. Add Small Works to Faith?—Repentance, Confession, Water Baptism, Communion, Church Membership, Lordship Salvation, others?—Gal. 1:8-9; Acts 15:19; Rom. 9-11; Acts 10:44-48/1Co. 1:14-17/Luk. 23:39-43; 1Co. 10:16/11:20/2Co. 6:14/13:14; Heb. 10:25; Rom. 12:1-2...

Justified Eternally. God Secured You in Christ. NO Works!

Assignment 5—Bring Questions

5. Answering Tough Questions—

Questions/Answers (Q/A)

What Questions challenge you?