

GROWTH RESOURCES

HELL'S BEST KEPT SECRET

INTRODUCTION

- Statistics has shown that 80–90% of people making a decision for Christ are falling away from their faith. 80 – 90 backsliders for every 100 decisions for Christ.
- Gospel proclamations of men like Spurgeon, Moodley, Wesley, Whitfield, Luther used a principle which is being ignored entirely by modern methods of evangelism.
- *(Psalm 19:7) The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.* What converts the soul? The law of the Lord converts the soul.

ILLUSTRATION: THE FUNCTION OF THE LAW

- **Imagine I say:** “I have good news for you. Someone just paid a R300 000 speeding fine on your behalf. You’d probably react: “What do you mean you have good news. It doesn’t make sense. I don’t have a R300 000 speeding fine.”
- My good news wouldn’t be good news to you, it would seem **foolishness**. It would be **offensive** to you because **I initiate you have broken the law when you don’t think you have**.
- **If I put it to you in this way:** “On your way to this meeting you went 88 km an hour through a section set aside for a “blind children’s convention”. There were ten clear signs stating 24 km an hour is the speed, but you went straight through it 88 km an hour. What you did was extremely dangerous. There is a R300 000 fine. The law was about to take its course when someone you don’t even know stepped in and paid the fine for you. You are very fortunate.
- **Can you see telling you exactly what you did wrong first, actually makes the good news making sense.**
- **If I don’t clearly bring in instruction to make you understand you have violated the law then the good news seems foolishness and it will seem offensive. But once you understand you’ve broken the law then that good news will become good news indeed.**

In the same way, if I approach a penitent sinner and say: Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins, it will be foolishness to him and offensive to him.

- **Foolish** because **it won't make sense**. The Bible says that *the preaching of the cross is foolishness to those who perish*.
- And **offensive** because **I am initiating that he is a sinner, when he doesn’t think he is. As far as he is concerned there are a lot of people far worse than him.**

But if I take time to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, it may make more sense.

- **If I take time to open up the divine law, the 10 commandments and**
- **Show the sinner precisely what he has done wrong.**
- **That he has offended God by violating His law,**
- **Then when He becomes as James says, convinced of the law as a transgressor. The good news of the fine being paid for will not be foolishness. It will not be offensive. It will be the power of God unto salvation.**

SO WHAT IS THE FUNCTION OF THE LAW?

- *(Romans 3:19) Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. (Romans 3:20) Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.* So God's law tells us what sin is. It makes us conscious of our sin.
- *(1 John 3:4) Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, **sin is lawlessness**.*
- *(Romans 7:7b) I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. (would have had no consciousness of sin or sense of guilt)*
- *(Galatians 3:24) So the law was our schoolmaster until Christ came that we might be justified by faith.*
- **The law doesn't help us. It just leaves us helpless.**
- **It doesn't justify us. It just leaves us guilty before the judgments by the Holy God.**

THE TRAGEDY OF MODERN EVANGELISM

Around the turn of the century we forsook the law in the capacity to convert the soul, to drive sinners to Christ. Modern evangelism had to therefore find another reason for sinners to respond to the Gospel.

- And the issue that modern evangelism chose to attract sinners was the **issue of life enhancement**.
- The gospel degenerated into Jesus Christ will give you peace, joy, love, fulfilment and everlasting happiness.

ILLUSTRATION: TO CONFIRM THE UNSCRIPTURAL BASIS OF THIS TEACHING

Two men are seated in a plane. The first is given a parachute and told **to put it on as it will improve his flight.**

- He is a little **sceptical** at first as he can't see how wearing a parachute in a plane can possibly improve his flight.
- After time he decides to **experiment** and see if the **claim is true**.
 - As he puts it on he **notices the weight on his shoulders** as he is finding difficulty in sitting up.
 - However he consoles himself with the fact he was told the parachute would improve the flight, so he decides to give the thing a little time.
 - As he waits he **notices that some of the other passengers are laughing** because he is wearing a parachute in the plane.
 - He begins to feel **somewhat humiliated** as they begin to point and laugh at him and he can stand it no longer.
 - **He slings in a seat, unstraps the parachute and throws it to the floor.**
 - **Disillusionment and bitterness** fills his heart for as far as he was concerned **he was told an outright lie.**

The second man is given a parachute but listen to what he is told. He is told to put it on **because at any moment he'd be jumping 8 000 meter.**

- He gratefully puts the parachute on, he doesn't notice the weight on his shoulders nor that he can't sit upright. His mind is consumed with the thought of what would happen to him if he jump without that parachute.

Let's analyse the motive and result of each passenger's experience

- The first man's motive for putting the parachute on was solely to improve his flight. The result of his experience was that he was humiliated by the passengers. He was dissolution and somewhat embittered against those who gave him the parachute. As far as he is concerned it will be long time before he gets one of those things on his back again.
- The second man put's the parachute on solely to escape the jump to come and because of his knowledge of what would happen to him without it, he has a deep rooted joy and peace in his heart knowing that he is save from sure death. This knowledge gives him the ability to withstand the mockery the other passengers. His attitudes towards the ones who gave him the parachute is heartfelt gratitude.

NOW LISTEN TO WHAT THE MODERN EVANGELISM SAYS

- Put on the Lord Jesus Christ.
- He will give you love, joy, peace, fulfilment and lasting happiness. In other words Jesus will improve your flight.
- So the sinner response and in an experimental fashion, puts on the Saviour to see if the claims are true.
- What does he get? Problems, temptation, tribulation, persecution. The other passengers mocks him.
- So what does he do? He takes off the Lord Jesus Christ. He is offended, disillusioned, and somewhat embedded and quite rightly so. He was promised peace, joy, love, fulfilment and lasting happiness and all he got was trials, humiliation.
- His bitterness is directed to those who gave him the so-called good news.
- His latter-end becomes worse than the first. Another bitter backslider.

So instead of preaching that Jesus improves the flight, we should be warning the passengers they are going to have to jump out of the plain.

- *(Heb 9:27) It is appointed for [all] men once to die, and after that the [certain] judgment."*
- And when the sinner understand the horrific consequences of breaking God's law then he will flee to the Saviour solely to escape the wrath that is to come.
- And if we are true and faithful witnesses that's what we'll be preaching, that there is wrath to come.
- God commands all men everywhere to repent. Why? Because He has appointed a day in which He'll judge the world in righteousness.
- See it isn't one of happiness, but one of righteousness. It doesn't matter how happy a sinner is, how much he is enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season. Without the righteousness of Christ he will perish on the day of wrath.
- Riches profit not on the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.
- Peace and joy are legitimate fruits of salvation but it's not legitimate to use these fruits as a draw card for salvation. If we continue to do so sinners will respond with a pure motive, lacking repentance.

Can you remember why the second passenger had joy and peace in his heart? It was because he knew that that parachute was going to save him from sure death. And as a believer I have as Paul says joy and peace in believing because I know that the righteousness of Christ is going to deliver me from the wrath that is to come.

NOW WITH THAT THOUGHT IN MIND, LET'S LOOK CLOSER AT AN INCIDENT ON PLANE

- We have a brand new stewardess. She is carrying a tray of boiling hot coffee. It is her first day. She wants to leave an impression on the passengers and she certainly does. Because as she is walking down the aisle she trips over someone's foot and slops that boiling hot coffee all over the lap of our second passenger.
- Now what's his reaction as that boiling coffee hits his tender flesh? What does he do? Man that hurts. Hmh. He feels the pain. *But then does he rip the parachute from his shoulders throw it on the floor and say stupid parachute? No, why should he?* He didn't put the parachute on for a better flight. He put it on to save him from the jump to come. If anything the hot coffee incident causes him to cling tighter to the parachute and even look forward to the jump.

Now if you and I put on the Lord Jesus Christ for the right motive, to flee from the wrath that is to come, when tribulation strikes and the flight gets bumpy, we won't get angry at God.

- We won't lose our joy and peace. Why should we? We didn't come to Jesus for a happy lifestyle. We came to flee from the wrath that is to come.
- And if anything tribulation drives the true believer closer to the Saviour and sadly we have multitudes of profession Christians losing their joy and peace when the flight gets bumpy. Why? Because they are the product of a man-centred gospel. They came lacking repentance without which you cannot be saved.
- When David sinned with Bathsheba. When he coveted his neighbour's wife. Stole his neighbour's wife. Committed adultery, committed murder, dishonour his parents and thus dishonoured God He didn't say I sinned against man. He said I sinned against God. He said against You and only You have I sinned and done this evil in Your sight.
- When Joseph was tempted sexually he said, how can I do this thing and sin against God?
- The prodigal son said, I have sinned against heaven.
- Paul preach repentance towards God and the Bible says godly sorrow works repentance. And when a man doesn't understand that sin is primarily vertical he will merely become an exercise of superficial experimental horizontal repentance and fall away when tribulation, temptation and persecution comes.

The law of God has a prominent place in leading men to Christ. They must see themselves lost before they will cry for mercy. They will not escape danger until they see it. You try to rescue a man from drowning when he doesn't think he is drowning he will not be happy with you. You see a man swimming in the lake and think he is drowning. You dive into the lake, pull him to shore without telling him anything. He's not going to be very happy with you. He doesn't want to get saved until he sees he is in danger. They will not escape danger until they see it.

If you came to me and say this is a cure to deadly disease. I sold my house to raise the money to get this cure. I am giving it to you as a free gift. I will probably react to you like this: What? You did what? You sold your house to raise money to buy this cure? You giving it to me as a free gift? Why thanks a lot. Buy. This guy is a nut. If you sell the money, to raise the money to buy the cure for a disease I have never heard of, and you giving it to me as a free gift I will think you are rather strange. But instead of you came to me and say Tania you have a deadly disease. I can see ten clear symptoms on your flesh. You are going to be dead in two weeks. And I am becoming convinced and said: ha, what shall I do. And then you said: Don't worry, this is a cure to this deadly disease. I sold my house to raise the money to buy this cure. I am giving it to you as a free gift. I am not going to despise your sacrifice. I am going to appreciate it and I am going to appropriate it. Why? Because I've seen the disease and might appreciate the cure.

And what has happened in the western world is as follows: We have preached the cure without convincing of the disease. We have preached the gospel of grace without first convincing men of the law that their transgressions and most consequently almost everyone we try to witness to has been born again 6 or 7 times. So you need to give your life to Jesus Christ. I did that when I was 7, 11, 19, 23, 35, and 22. You know the guy is not a Christian. He is a fornicator, a blasphemer, but he think he is saved because he has been born again.

What is happening? He is using the grace of our God for the fornication of the flesh. He doesn't esteem the sacrifice. For him it is not a bad thing to trample the blood of the Lamb on the ground. Why? Because he has never been convinced of the disease that he might appreciate the cure.

BIBLICAL EVANGELISM IS ALWAYS WITHOUT EXCEPTION LAW TO THE PROUD AND GRACE TO THE HUMBLE

- Never will you see Jesus giving the gospel, the good news, the cross, the grace of our God to a proud arrogant self-righteous person.
- No. With the law he breaks the hard heart and with the gospel He heals the broken heart.
- Why? Because He always did those things that pleased the father.
- God resist the proud and gives grace to the humble.
- Everyone that is proud of heart, scripture says, is an abomination to the Lord.

Jesus told as in the Gospel that the Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, the broken-hearted, the captives, and the blind.

They are spiritual statements:

- **the poor in spirit, the broken-hearted are the contrite ones,**
- **the captives are those of whom Satan has taken captive to do his will and**
- **The blind of whom the god of this world has blinded.**

The light of the gospel should shine on them. And only those who are convinced of the disease will appreciate and appropriate the cure.

EXAMPLES OF LAW TO THE PROUD AND GRACE TO THE HUMBLE

THE LAW OF THE PROUD

(Read Luke 10:25-37)

- A certain lawyer stood up tempting Jesus. This is not an attorney but a professing expert in God's law.
- He stood up and said to Jesus: "How can I get everlasting life".
- What did Jesus do? He gave Him the law.
- Why?
- Because He was proud, arrogant, self-righteous.
- Here we have a professing expert in God's law, tempting the Son of God.
- And the question was: And what do you think we should do to get everlasting life?
- Then Jesus gave him law: What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?
- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and strength and your neighbour as yourself.
- Jesus said, you do this and you shall live.
- But he willing to justify himself said: who's my neighbour? The man wanted to justify his lack of love for some people so he asked: which neighbours. He didn't mind Jews, but he didn't like Samaritans. So Jesus told him the story of the Good Samaritan who was not good at all. He merely obeyed the basic requirements of God's law.
- And the effect of the law, spirituality of the law, what the law demands in truth was that that man's mouth was stopped. See he didn't love his neighbour to that degree.

(Read Luke 18:18-23)

- A certain rich young ruler asked how he can get everlasting life.
- How would most of us react if someone came up to us and asked us: how can I get everlasting life?
- We will say: quickly say this prayer before you change your mind.
- But what did Jesus do with this convert?
- He pointed him to the law. He gave him 5 horizontal commandments: *Do not commit adultery, do not kill, do not steal, do not witness falsely, honour your father and your mother. (v.20)* Commandments to do with his fellowmen.
- He said, ah, I did those from my youth. Jesus said, one thing you lack – and He uses the essence of the first 10 commandments: I am the Lord your God you shall have no other God's before me. *(Luke 18:22)*
- He showed this man that his God is his money and you cannot serve God and mammon.

NOW WE SEE THE CASE OF GRACE GIVEN TO THE HUMBLE IN NIKODEMEUS

(Read John 3:1-21)

- Nicodemeus was a Jew. He was a teacher in Israel. Therefore he was thoroughly versed in God's law.
- He was humble of heart, because He came to Jesus and acknowledged the deity of the Son of God.

- A leader in Israel. We know you came from God because no man can do these miracles unless God is with him.
- So Jesus gave him the sincere secret of truth and with a humble heart and knowledge of sin via the law, the good news of the fine being paid for and God so loved the world that He gave His begotten Son. And it was not foolishness to Nicodemus but the power of God to salvation.
- Similar in the case of Nathaniel. Nathaniel was an Israelite brought up under the law in deed not just in the Word. In him there was no guile. There was no deceit in his heart. Obviously the law was a schoolmaster to bring this godly Jew to Christ.

Similar with the Jews on the day of Pentecost. They were devout Jews. Godly Jews. Therefore ate, drank and slept God's law.

- Matthew Henry the Bible Commentator says the reason they were gathered together on the day of Pentecost was to celebrate the giving of God's law from Mount Sinai.
- So when Peter stood up to preach to these godly Jews. He didn't preach wrath, the law works wrath he knew that. He didn't preach righteousness or judgment. No, no.
- He just told them the good news of the fine that has been paid for them and they were pretty overwhelmed and cried, men of God what must we do.
- The law was a schoolmaster to bring them to Christ that they might be justified through faith in His blood.

THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S LAW

(1 Tim 1:8) Now we recognize and know that the Law is good if anyone uses it lawfully [for the purpose for which it was designed].

- God's law is good, if it is used lawfully, for the purpose it has been designed.
- What was the law designed for? The following verse tells us: *(1 Tim 1:9) Knowing and understanding this: that the Law is not enacted for the righteous (the upright and just, who are in right standing with God), but for the lawless and unruly, for the ungodly and sinful, for the irreverent and profane, for those who strike and beat and [even] murder fathers and strike and beat and [even] murder mothers, for manslayers. (v.10) [For] impure and immoral persons, those who abuse themselves with men, kidnapers, liars, perjurers – and whatever else is opposed to wholesome teaching and sound doctrine.*
- The law was not made for righteous man but was made for sinners. He even list the sinners: homosexuals, fornicators – give them the Ten Commandments.
 - If you want to lead a homosexual to the Lord don't get involved in an argument with him over his perversion. NO give him the Ten Commandments. Show him he is lost despite his perversion.
 - The Jew – lay the way of the law, prepare his heart for grace.
 - The Muslim – give them the Law of Moses. They accept Moses as a prophet. And strip them of their self-righteousness and bring them to the foot of the cross.
 - The woman caught in the act of adultery was in violation of the 7th commandment. The law calls for her blood. She found herself between a rock and a hard place. She had no way to flee but she flung herself at the feet of the Son of God for mercy and that is the function of God's law.

The law condemn sinners. You say you cannot condemn sinners since they are already condemn. John 3:17 – he that believes not is condemned already. All that the law does is shows himself in his true state.

ILLUSTRATION

Your table needs dusting in your living room so you dust it clean. All the dust is gone. Then you draw back the curtains and lay on the oil in the morning sunlight. What do you see on the table? Dust. What do you see in the air? Dust. Did the light create the dust? No the light merely exposed the dust.

- And when you and I take time to draw back the curtains of the holy of holies and let the light of God's law shine upon the sinner's heart all that happens is that he sees himself in truth.
- The commandment is the lamp and the law is light.
- That is why Paul says by the law is the knowledge of sin. That is why he said: *by the commandment sin became exceedingly sinful in other words the law showed him sin in its true light.*

HOW TO WITNESS FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

Advice from Ray Comfort in witnessing souls:

- Ray says never will he approach somebody and says: Jesus loves you.
- It is totally unbiblical. There is no president for that in Scriptures
- Neither go up to someone and say I would like to talk to you about Jesus Christ.
- Why?
- Because if I want to awake you from a deep sleep I would not use a flashlight in your eye.
- That will offend you.
- I will put on the light dimmer very gently
- First the natural then the spiritual
- Why? *Because the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God neither can he know them.*
- It is foolishness to him because they are spiritually understood.

Jesus is our example is our example in John 4 for witness. He is at the well. Started in the natural realm. Swung to the spiritual. Brought conviction by using the 7th commandment and then revealed Himself as the Messiah.

- Talk about the weather and sport. Let them feel a bit sanity. Maybe joke a bit here and there.
- And then deliberately swing from the natural to the spiritual.
- In the way of the Master Ray teaches to do this by using Gospel Tracts. (Then give penny with 10 commandments)
 - Here is a gift. A penny with the Ten Commandments.
 - Put out a feel if he is open for it or not. Ten Commandments thanks a lot. Not open
 - Hey then commandments. Thanks! I appreciate this.
 - I say: **you think you kept the Ten Commandments. Let's go through them.**
 1. **Ever told a lie?** What does that make you? A sinner. No specifically. I'm not a liar. How many lies do you have to tell to be a liar?
 2. **Have you ever stolen?** No. Come on you just admitted to me you're a liar. Have you ever stolen something small? What does that make you? A thief?
 3. **Jesus says if you ever looked at a woman with lust after her you have committed adultery with her in your heart.** Have you ever done that? Ye plenty of times. **With**

your own admission you are a lying, thief, adulterer of heart. You have to face God on judgment day. And we've only looked at three of the Ten Commandments.

4. **Have you ever used God's name in vain?** Yes, I've been trying to stop. You know what you are doing? That's called blasphemy. **The Bible says every idle word man speaks will be account for on the Day of Judgment.** The law will not hold him guiltless if he takes the name of God in vain.
5. **The Bible says if you hate someone you are a murderer?**

The wonderful thing about God's law, God has taken the time to put it upon our heart.

(Romans 2:15) They show that the essential requirements of the Law are written in their hearts and are operating there, with which their consciences (sense of right and wrong) also bear witness; and their [moral] decisions (their arguments of reason, their condemning or approving thoughts) will accuse or perhaps defend and excuse [them].

- Conscience – means with knowledge.
- **So when he lies, lust, fornicate, blasphemes, commit adultery, he does it with knowledge that it is wrong.**
- **God has given light to every man.**
- The Holy Spirit convicts him of sin, righteousness and judgment.
 - **Sin – transgression of the law**
 - **Righteousness – which is of the law**
 - **Judgment – which is by the law**
- His **conscience** accuses him. The words of the law which is written upon his heart – **and the law condemns him.**
- **So I say: So if God judge you by this standard on the Day of Judgment are you going to be guilty or innocent?**
- **He says: guilty.**
- **I says: Well do you think you will go to heaven or hell? The usual answer is: Heaven. Why do you feel like that? Is it because you think God is good and He will overlook your sins. Yes that's it, He will overlook my sins.**
- **ILLUSTRATION:** *Well try that in a court of law. You committed rape, murder, and drug-pushing. Very serious crimes. The judge says you are guilty, all the evidence is here. Do you have anything to say before I pass sentence. You say yes judge: I like to say I believe you are a good man and you will overlook my crimes. The judge will probably say: you are right about one thing. I am a good man. But because of my goodness I am going to see that justice is done. Because of my goodness I am going to see that you are punished. **And the very thing the sinners hope will save them on the Day of Judgment, the goodness of God, will be the very thing that condemn them.** Because God is good. He must by nature punish murderers, rapists, thieves, liars, fornicators, blasphemers. God is going to punish sin wherever it is found.*

Now with this knowledge he is able to understand that a sinner sin is primarily vertical.

- That he has **sin against heaven.** That he has **violated God's law** and He has **angered God** and the **wrath of God** abides upon him.
- He can now see that **he is weighed in the balance of eternal justice** and is **now found wanting.**
- **He can now understand the need for a sacrifice.**
- **Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law being made a curse for us. God commended His love for us while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.**

- We broke the law, He paid the fine. It is as simple as that.
- Now if a man will repent, if a woman will repent and put their faith in Jesus, God will remit their sins so God will on the Day of Judgment when their court case come up will say: your case is dismissed through the lack of evidence.

Your knowledge of disease and the horrific consequences has made you to desire the cure.

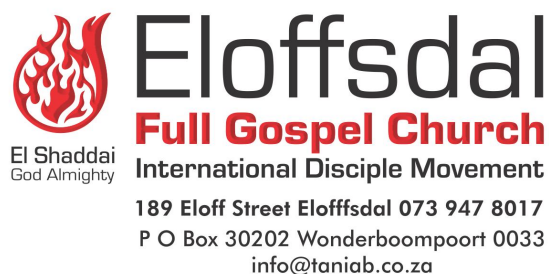
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness
- How many non-Christians do you know that hungers and thirst after righteousness.
- Bible says: **none seek after God. They hate the light and love the darkness and will not come to the light to be exposed. They only drink in iniquity like water.**

Charles Spurgeon. They will never accept grace before they tremble before a just and holy law

Introduction to next week: True and False Converts

So he who comes to the Lord, knowing he will face God in the day of wrath will never forsake the righteousness of God in Christ because His very life depends on it. Follow-up is when we get decisions through altar calls and we take labourers from the harvest fields, and give them the disheartening task of running after the decisions to make sure they go on with God. Not in Scriptures. What it is, it is a **sad admission to the confidence we have in the power of our message and in the keeping power of God. If God has saved them, God will keep them. If they are born of God, they will never die. If He had begun a good work in them, He'll complete it to death.** All he had was God and the Scriptures?

Bibliography: Notes from sermon of Ray Comfort



If you would like to speak to someone about your situation, we would love to help you and pray with you. Please contact the El Shaddai FGC Offices or you can email us at info@taniab.co.za