

# THE EVANGELISTS

M A G A Z I N E

Issue 14 June - November 2013



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**The Certainty of  
Judgement**

**Event Evangelism**

*Reaching the masses  
with the Gospel*

**The Gospel**

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Soldiers of the Cross, founded by Tim and Leah Knowing, is dedicated to evangelising the lost and seeing the church become the mighty, mature and fully-functioning army of God it is meant to be, in a war that has already been won through Christ's atoning death and resurrection.

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### ◆ Tim Knowing

**M**y wife, Leah, was reading an article to me the other day which was written by a financial advisor. He was warning about the great possibility of another financial crisis, and was commenting on the Ostrich-like reaction that many make when such a warning is bought forth. This reaction is known, in psychology terms, as a 'Normalcy Bias' and it refers to a mental state people enter when facing a disaster. It causes people to underestimate both the possibility of a disaster occurring and its possible effects. This often results in situations where people fail to adequately prepare for a disaster.

The assumption that is made in the case of the normalcy bias is that since a disaster never has occurred then it never will occur. It also results in the inability of people to cope with a disaster once it occurs. People with a normalcy bias have difficulties reacting to something they have not experienced before. People also tend to interpret warnings in the most optimistic way possible, seizing on any ambiguities to infer a less serious situation.<sup>1</sup>

One of the most tragic examples of Normalcy bias occurred during the 1930's when Adolf Hitler's National Socialist Nazi party came to power in Germany. Not only in Germany amongst the Jewish population, but also in the rest of Europe and Great Britain, the events that were about to unfold were unthinkable in the minds of most people. Hitler's anti-Jewish policies weren't introduced overnight, but one at a time. Whilst many Jewish families left before it was too late, sadly history shows us that the majority perished because in their minds it was inconceivable what was to take place.

The same thing took place in England. In September 1938 the British Prime Minister had met with 'Herr Hitler' in Munich, where they had signed a peace agreement. On returning home, Prime Minister Neville Cham-

berlain (*pictured*) stepped off the plane where he was met by the press, and holding up a piece of paper for the crowd to see, proclaimed this means "peace for our time". Almost one year later they were at war.

However, the greatest number of victims to Normalcy bias has not been as a result of war, but to an even greater enemy.

Approximately 150,000 people die every day. The Bible tells us in the book of Hebrews 9:27 "...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment". Tragically, it is this impending judgment of which masses of people are living in denial. They think that because they have lived a good life (in their eyes) that God will let them into heaven. The Bible makes it clear that "all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags..." (Isaiah 64:6). Romans 3:10 says "There is none righteous, no, not one."

The blessed news of the Gospel however, is that God sent His Son into the world "...that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth [in Jesus] ..." (Romans 3:26).

As believers we have been given a mandate to share with those around us the truth of these words, "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" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

In this issue of TEM we have two articles, 'The Certainty of Judgement' and 'The Gospel of Grace' which, I trust, will give a fresh revelation on what are essentially foundational doctrines in Christianity.

On page 14 you can read about one of the greatest ways you can reach large numbers of people with the Gospel in 'Event Evangelism'. And on page 7 we also would like to inform our readers on some important changes we have made at TEM which we hope will help inspire more Christians to be active in sharing their faith.

Until next time.

1. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normalcy\\_bias](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normalcy_bias)



Neville Chamberlain - © IWM (D 2239)

## SOTC - Kenya is launched



(Over the last few years we have developed an ongoing relationship with a number of our readers. Ps Nicholas Onyango from Kenya is one of those. Recently, after much prayer, the ministry of 'Soldiers of the Cross Inc.' (producers of this publication) accepted Ps Nicholas as an associate member of SOTC, with the aim that he will join us in fulfilling the mission the Lord has given us in not only proclaiming the Gospel, but seeing others equipped to take the Gospel to their community. We are excited about what the Lord is doing and would ask that the rest of our readers would pray for Ps Nicholas, that the Lord would grant him much grace and favour as he steps out in faith in establishing this work in Kenya. ED)

It's always impressing to me to know how friends and brethren God has given me as a blessing to my calling are doing and I hope this gets you fine there together with the family ... We really had a great service yesterday with a strong move of God's presence and felt to send the picture of the members of SOTC - Kenya the Lord has given us, thus how we are and waiting on God to do His will out of our total surrender to Him, Good lord bless you and your family.

**Pastor N. Onyango. (with picture of SOTC - KENYA)**

## Letters

### Past Issues downloaded

Thank you for the efforts in faithfully supplying the 'Evangelist Magazine' to the Body of Christ for our edification. I personally have enjoyed reading through them. In fact I recently downloaded and printed all the past issues and have almost finished going through them.

**K. Toivola, Australia**

### Really enjoyed last magazine

I really enjoyed your last magazine especially the article on William McKenzie, very good.

And Josh's analogy on the burning car, kind of like the frog in the luke warm water in the pot. He is very comfortable in the luke warmness of his sin, doesn't even notice the temperature being turned up until finally he enjoyed the heat of his bath so much he didn't even notice that the heat finally killed him. The subtleness of the slow rise of sin and tolerance of it will eventually kill.

I really enjoy Paul Washer's preaches. They are very powerful and anointed I believe. I have downloaded several of them now and believe they will continue to bless, challenge and set free the hearers.

**J. Muir, Australia**

### Magazine shared with others

Thank you for the following that we get from you yesterday: three the evangelists magazines. Thank you to josh page for his story in the magazine. Your magazine touched me a lot and i am blessed with it. I also shared the other two to two teachers at ... primary school here in ... Malawi.

**F. A. CHIPUKUNYA, Malawi**

If you have been encouraged by this magazine, or have a testimony to share of how God is using you in His harvest field, please let us know, that others may also be encouraged.

Write or email us at the contact details on pg 2.

# THE CERTAINTY OF JUDGEMENT

By Ray Comfort

The prophet Jeremiah warned King Zedekiah repeatedly of the coming judgment of God upon the tribe of Judah. At times the king appeared to actually believe the prophet, then in the next moment he had him shut up in prison.

The world at times seems to believe the gospel. They enjoy gospel music, they will listen to popular prosperity and positive-principle preachers but they seek to shut us up the moment we speak of a coming judgment. John the Baptist preached judgment for sin. He told Herod that he had transgressed God's Law in taking his brother's wife, and that cost John his life (Mark 6:18). In the eyes of the world, there is nothing popular or positive about preaching the reality of Judgment Day.

Jeremiah's message also put his life in jeopardy. He openly preached that Judah had strayed from the Moral Law. He even expounded the Law to

reveal their specific sins (Jeremiah 7:9). They had transgressed the First and Second Commandments by going after other gods. They broke the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Commandments, and then walked in hypocrisy (v. 10). And still they continued in sin by following after their own counsels and the imagination of their hearts.

The prophet also had to contend with those who preached a life improvement message rather than one of judgment (Jeremiah 28:1-17). The Bible tells us that such a message was in truth "rebellion against the LORD" (v. 16).

It still is. When the preaching of Judgment Day is neglected, people don't see a need to repent. Why should they, if they are not warned that there is a fearful consequence for sin? (See Jeremiah 23:14.) When Jeremiah spoke of God's judgment upon the nation, he described it as total and absolute. His message left

no room for doubt:

*"For thus says the LORD, Behold, I will make you a terror to yourself, and to all your friends: and they shall fall by the sword of their enemies, and your eyes shall behold it: and I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall carry them captive into Babylon, and shall slay them with the sword. Moreover I will deliver all the strength of this city, and all the labours thereof, and all the precious things thereof, and all the treasures of the kings of Judah will I give into the hand of their enemies, which shall spoil them, and take them, and carry them to Babylon" (Jeremiah 20:4,5).*

In these two verses, the word "all" is mentioned six times, "will" four times, and "shall" five times. This was going to happen.

So this is the setting in which the king of Judah questions Jeremiah about why he preaches the judgment of God:

*"For Zedekiah king of Judah had shut him up, saying, Why do you prophesy, and say, Thus says the LORD, Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it; and Zedekiah king of Judah shall not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him mouth to mouth, and his eyes shall behold his eyes; and he shall lead Zedekiah to Babylon, and there shall he be until I visit him, says the LORD: though you fight with the Chaldeans, you shall not prosper". (Jeremiah 32:3-5).*

Jeremiah's answer to the king's question about why he so adamantly preached judgment is a strange one. He gives a parable that seems totally unrelated to the question. This is what he says:

*"The word of the LORD came to me, saying, Behold, Hanameel the son of Shallum your uncle shall come to you saying, Buy my field that is in Anathoth: for the right of redemption is yours to buy it. So Hanameel my uncle's son came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the LORD, and said to me, Buy my field, I pray you, that is in Anathoth, which is in the country of Benjamin: for the right of inheritance is yours, and the redemption is yours; buy it for yourself. Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD". (Jeremiah 32:6-8).*

The story seems unrelated to the question, until one understands the meanings of the names he used. The name Hanameel means "God has compassion." Shallum means "retribution." Hanameel and Shallum were father and son;

they were related to each other. The compassion of God should never be separated from the retribution of God; they are related. Because He is a just God of retribution and must punish sin, God was in Christ reconciling the



world to Himself because of His great compassion. There would be no cross unless there was wrath against sin.

When the world asks us why we preach that there will be a fearful Day of Judgment, we could simply say that it will come to pass because the Bible says so. While this is true, that isn't the only reason we are sure Judgment Day will take place. Our assurance comes from the fact that God has revealed His retribution and His compassion in the gospel, and now offers humanity forgiveness in the Saviour. It is through the power of the gospel that we gain assurance that Judgment Day will surely happen.

Those who are seeking safety will find it in the Saviour. One who repents and trusts the Saviour becomes a new creature; he is born again. Nothing can convince a sinner of the reality of Holy Scripture and its great warning of the coming wrath like a new life with a new heart and new desires.

How then do we best drive men to the Saviour? By preaching that the God of compassion is also the God of retribution. It is by opening up the spirituality of the Moral Law that men are made to realize their guilt and see their need of refuge

from the coming wrath.

Scripture then gives us additional details of what happened after the purchase of the field:

*"Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Take these evidences, this evidence of the purchase, both which is sealed, and this evidence which is open; and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may continue many days."* (Jeremiah 32:14)

We are "evidence of the purchase." We stand as a testimony of a transaction of Almighty God. We have been purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ (Acts 20:28), have been sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise unto the day of redemption (Ephesians 1:13; 4:30), and now have the unspeakable riches of this treasure in earthen vessels (2 Corinthians 4:7).

If we are faithful witnesses, our testimony will consist of both God's compassion and His retribution, and we will warn others of the coming Day of Judgment.

*Taken from 'The School of Biblical Evangelism', Lesson 21 with permission. Available from [www.biblicalevangelism.com](http://www.biblicalevangelism.com).*



**Ray Comfort**

*Ray Comfort is the best-selling author of more than 70 books, including You Can Lead an Atheist to Evidence But You Can't Make Him Think, Nothing Created Everything (with special cover-condemnation by Richard Dawkins), God Doesn't Believe in Atheists, and Evolution--the Fairy Tale For Grownups.*

*His booklet "The Atheist Test" has sold more than a million copies. He is the co-host of an award-winning television program (with actor Kirk Cameron), blogs daily to hundreds of atheists at "Atheist Central," has debated atheistic evolution on ABC's Nightline and on the BBC, and was a platform speaker at American Atheists, Inc. at their annual convention in 2001.*

*He is a New Zealander, who lives with his wife, Sue, in Southern California where they have three grown children.*

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# THE EVANGELISTS MAGAZINE GOES DIGITAL

We are very excited to announce that The Evangelists Magazine is now **FREELY** available in **Digital format** and can be read online or downloaded from our website. With the TEM readership already reaching over 10 countries, we pray that the Lord will use this new technology to allow TEM and the message of the Gospel to extend further afield than ever before.

#### How it will work for subscribers:

Subscribers will receive an email each quarter with a link to the latest magazine, as well as other regular updates on events and information relating to evangelism.

#### Are we still printing a Hard copy?

Yes. The Evangelists Magazine will still be available in Hard Copy format. For our Australian subscribers, a Hard Copy will continue to be freely posted. Unfortunately, due to increasing overseas postage costs, overseas subscribers wanting a Hard Copy, will need to pay postage. For further details and costs, including yearly discounts, please visit our website.

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**180**

*"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.... For if by one man's offence death reigned by one, much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1-2, 17).*

**D**o you remember what your life was like before you surrendered to Christ? You were an enemy of God living in blindness, a lost soul without hope. You were ungodly, guilty - and the wrath of God was "abiding on you" (see John 3:36).

How did you find forgiveness and acceptance before God? How did you enter into the blessed assurance you were saved, rejoicing in the love of Jesus Christ?

Was it because God saw something good in you? Did you possess some inherent righteousness that attracted Him to you? Did you earn His favor with obedience and kindness?

No - absolutely not! No one is ever saved by his own works or merit. Scripture says, "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness's are as filthy rags." (Isaiah 64:6).

All our sins are blotted out and we are reconciled to God by faith in the shed blood of Jesus. It is by grace alone we are saved - and not by anything we have done.

The theological definition of grace is "the

Corinthians 1:30). Please don't be put off by all the terms in this verse. Simply put, the goal of the gospel is redemption - and God's grace includes everything He has done for us through Christ to redeem us from the power the devil and bring us into the kingdom of his glorious light!

Justification is the cornerstone of grace. To be justified by God means to be "acquitted" - forgiven of all sin and guilt - and to be considered holy and righteous before Him. No one is justified - that is, he cannot become holy or righteous - by his own works, obedience or faithfulness. Rather, these things are all the result of a justifying faith in the power of Christ's blood to make us acceptable in God's sight: "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." (Ephesians 2:8-9).

*"Even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." (Galatians 2:16).*

Here is the foundation of all faith, which every believer must fully understand. Your entire walk with God depends on it. You can't have peace with God if you do not know how you are made right before Him. You must be fully convinced you are clear before God, not by your own diligence or works, but by believing and trusting in the victory of the Cross of Jesus!

The apostle Paul did not want to be found standing before Christ in his own righteousness. Here was

He studied the Word of God endlessly. He loved his fellow man and went about doing good. According to the law, Paul was a perfect man.

But all that became as rubbish to Paul - he counted it all as loss - when he came into the revelation of the righteousness of Christ!

*"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.... And do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith" (Philippians 3:7-9).*

**To Be Made Righteous By Faith Is The Hardest Thing For The Flesh To Accept!**

There are many sincere believers today who have not yet submitted to the righteousness of Christ. They still go about trying to please God by their good deeds. They accept salvation by faith but then they want to take over from there!

There is something in our flesh that rebels against a faith-walk. We want to earn our salvation - to help God out! We don't mind being saved by faith; but we don't want to live by faith. Our flesh cries out, "All my obedience, all my hard work to please God - it has to count for something!" Yes, it is worth something - but not for meriting forgiveness and pardon!

We don't want to accept that we are made right before God simply by believing. We would rather "bite the bullet" - and when temptation overwhelms us, we say through gritted teeth, "Bless God, I'll

*God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" (Romans 10:2-4).*

These people were trying "to establish their own righteousness." We know that process by another name: legalism!

Legalism is misunderstood by most Christians. Even most ministers don't know what it is. I used to believe legalism had to do with man-made rules and regulations designed by sincere, God-loving people who were trying to lead holy lives. I thought it was all about observing dress-code restrictions and other do's and don'ts.

No - legalism is much more subtle than rules and regulations. It goes far beyond that!

When I was a boy, I heard evangelists thunder against the sins of the day. They preached against bobbed hair, women's "open-toe" shoes, makeup and fancy dresses. This was called "Holiness" preaching - but the standards kept changing with the new fads. I thought that was legalism!

When I first came to New York City more than thirty years ago, I was shocked by all the rigid rules in Hispanic Pentecostal churches. Our workers would go to the streets, pray with drug addicts and try to get them into local churches. But if a newly saved girl was wearing jeans or makeup, the pastor would rush out and say, "You can't come in here dressed like that!"

I met them after a service, they looked hurt, crushed, their eyes filled with tears. They told me they were upset because the women in our church did not wear head coverings! They said, "How can the Holy Spirit be at work here, when you don't obey the command to cover a woman's head?"

I thought that was legalism!

I hear from prayer groups all across the country who are tossed, turned and left confused by all kinds of new rules brought in by passing teachers. One tells them, "You must kneel to pray. God hears only those who kneel." Another teacher comes along and says, "You must sit in His presence. You need not kneel - that is Catholic!" Someone else says, "You must stand when the Bible is read. You dishonor God when you sit during the reading of the Word!" Yet another tells them, "That is bondage! Jesus made the people sit when He preached the Word!"

I thought all this was legalism! It is indeed all rules and regulations. But all of this is only a part of legalism - it is not the heart of the matter.

Legalism is far worse than all these things. In fact, all of us have a bit of its leaven in our hearts because legalism is based on pride!

**Legalism Is an Outward Show, a Facade - a Pretense of Holiness to Impress People, Not God!**

At its heart, legalism is a desire to appear holy. It is trying to be justified before men and not God!

Legalism is wanting to be known as a

# THE GOSPEL OF GRACE

By David Wilkerson

un-earned pardon, mercy and favor of God," Scripture says: "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness [which is justification], and sanctification, and redemption" (1

a good man - a Pharisee who had diligently kept all the numerous rules and regulations of the law. He paid tithes faithfully. He loved God with all his heart. He attended all the functions of the synagogue.

get victory if it kills me!" (And it will kill you!).

But that is not the path to victory. Obedience and faithfulness come as a result of standing steadfast on the rock of justification by faith alone!

Paul said this of a certain people: "They have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of

One minister told a young girl, "Go home and dress like a woman - then come back. We don't allow worldliness in this church!" I thought that was legalism!

A young couple in England who received our newsletters began listening to tapes of our services at Times Square Church. They grew to love the messages of holiness. So they came to visit - but when

prophet, a man of prayer, a woman of intercession - and feeding and fostering such an image!

The legalist is not out to earn justification. He is more interested in appearances, in impressing other Christians that he is devoted, pious, serious, all-out for God. He says, "I am deeply religious - and everybody ought to see it!"



“We all look at appearances - but God sees the heart! We each need... to be honest about ourselves.”

We see this in the Jewish Talmudic writers' list of seven classes of Pharisees. Among these classes were:

- The Shechemites. These Pharisees said long prayers in public to be considered holy - but on the side they robbed widows of their estates!
- The Stumblers. These were so mock-humble they wouldn't dare lift their feet before a holy God. Instead, they shuffled along with a "poor, humble, insignificant me" attitude.
- The Bleeders. This group would not lift their eyes from the ground, lest they look at something evil. They got their name from constantly walking into walls; the more they bled, the holier they were!

Beloved, these types are in every church! They have a sad, serious, "holy" look. Some of them dare not raise their hands to praise God - nor clap and be happy or joyful! They think of themselves as "shut in with God," holy, above everybody else. They sit in "deep meditation," their lips moving, lost in the Spirit. Yet *"all their works they do for to be seen of men"* (Matthew 23:5).

**God Has Lovingly Reminded Me of Some of My Legalistic Games!**

Last year, Gwen and I spent a vacation at a Florida hotel with some dear friends, a couple from Texas, Dr. and Mrs. Rice. We all had spent the week seeing Disney World, and now we just wanted to relax. As we stood in the lobby of the hotel, Gwen suggested we go to the Rice's room to play dominoes.

Now, I know the Rice's have always considered me to be a righteous man - and I figured I didn't want to blow it! I realized that during the week our friends hadn't once seen me retreat to pray. I thought, "How am I supposed to be holy in front of these people if I don't go pray?"

So I told them, "I'm sorry, I can't play dominoes. I need to go in my room and touch God. You all go ahead and play."

But do you know what I was really saying? "I don't have time to waste,

like you poor earthlings! You worldly minded ones go and tinkle around with dominoes. This prophet is going to shut himself in with God!" (I ask you: How can you relax at playing dominoes when you know that someone like that is nearby, "pleading with God"?)

When I got to our room it was about eight o'clock. I thought, "I'll watch just a half hour of CNN News, then I'll pray." One hour of news later, CNN announced an upcoming documentary on the rise and fall of Hitler. I quickly reasoned, "That has to do with prophecy - I have to see it!"

At a quarter to ten, I'd already seen Hitler rise and fall - when I heard Gwen coming down the hall. I jumped up, ran to the TV, shut it off, turned out the light - and fell on my face in the dark at the foot of the bed!

When Gwen walked in she saw her devoted prophet husband getting up slowly from his holy position, piously acting as if he had been in prayer for two hours. I looked up meekly, rubbing my eyes, and said to Gwen, "Oh, honey, isn't the Lord good?"

I hope you can laugh at this as loudly as our congregation did when I shared it in my sermon! But, more importantly, I hope you laugh at it hard enough to drive the truth down into your soul: We all play games. Trying to maintain a facade of holiness before people! I had to maintain my image of a holy man - and that is legalism at its worst!

The fact is, people who truly have the righteousness of the Lord don't have to put on airs. They are common, ordinary folks who know how to weep and laugh and enjoy Jesus and the fellowship of the saints. They are involved in other people's burdens and needs - and they're not always "shut away," trying to maintain an image.

We all look at appearances - but God sees the heart! We each need to come down from our high horse of pretentious holiness - to be honest about ourselves, the way we know God sees us. That is the only way to enjoy true fellowship with Him and with each other!

**Beyond Legalism Is the Perversion of the Gospel of Grace!**

Grace as it is preached in many churches today is producing a class of Christians who are still pleasure lovers,

deeply involved in sin. Multitudes today live like the devil, yet claim, "I am the righteousness of Christ by faith!" Beloved, that is a lie from the pit of hell! They are deceived!

A few years ago, on my Sundays off between crusades, I used to drive by a certain church that preached what is called "the grace message." (This isn't a Baptist, Presbyterian or Pentecostal doctrine; the gospel of grace is indeed the gospel of Jesus Christ.) As I drove by, the deacons stood outside smoking, several of them shaking off a hangover from Saturday night.

Some of these men were known adulterers, some wife-beaters. Still others were known around town as cheats in their business. Yet, because of the "grace message" they heard, they were convinced they were justified, no matter how they lived - that they were made the righteousness of God in Christ.

I knew the pastor of this church to be a righteous man. But there was something wrong with his message: He didn't preach the entire gospel! He once told me, "David, I really believe in righteousness. And if you have the righteousness of Christ, it will produce a desire to be pure and holy."

But I thought to myself, "Wait a minute! You've been preaching to these people for eight years! After all that time, where is the evidence among them of a pure walk with God? Why hasn't your "grace" message produced a truly godly congregation who are separated from worldliness? Why is there still so much divorce, and so many illegitimate babies born to your teenagers? Many of your people still live for the devil, they're dying and going to hell - and you know it!"

Beloved, I preach without reservation that justification and righteousness come by faith alone. I am saved by faith, made righteous by faith and kept by faith in Christ's blood. That is the very foundation of the gospel and of true grace preaching.

But not all faith is justifying faith! The Bible clearly speaks of two kinds of faith: one that justifies, and another that is of no value - a faith that even the devils exercise.

The book of Acts records that Simon the magician "believed" - but his faith was not the justifying kind. *"Simon him-*

*self believed also: and... he was baptized"* (Acts 8:13). Simon offered the apostle Peter money to get the power of the Holy Ghost - but Peter answered, *"I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity"* (verse 23). He was saying, "Your heart is still bound by sin!"

Peter told Simon that without repentance both he and his money would perish! Indeed, Simon believed - but he was not made the righteousness of God in Christ! His faith was not justifying faith, the kind that purifies the heart and brings the righteousness of Christ!

Scripture says many people *"believed (in Jesus)... when they saw the miracles which he did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them... for he knew what was in a man"* (John 2:23-25). These people had a belief in Christ - but it wasn't the faith of those who receive *"power to become the sons of God"* (1:12).

Justifying faith is more than a faith of assent; it does more than just acknowledge God. James argued: *"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble"* (James 2:19). James was talking about a dead, temporary faith - not an eternal one. And Jesus warned about this kind of faith, saying some believe *"for a while... (but) have no root... and in time of temptation fall away"* (Luke 8:13).

But there is a justifying faith - one that *"purifies the heart"* (see Acts 15:9) and *"believeth unto righteousness"* (Romans 10:10). The great Puritan writer John Owen said it well: "We absolutely deny that we are justified by that faith alone which can be alone - that is, without a principle of life and obedience in all things, at all times.... For we recognize no faith to be of the sanctifying kind, but that which virtually and radically contains in it an obedience at all times - yea, we acknowledge no faith to be justifying, which is not itself a spiritually vital principle of obedience and good works."

For faith to be justifying, there has to be an accompanying desire to obey and be faithful to God! This kind of faith contains a vital force - a principle of ever-

lasting obedience and love for God. Anything short of that is a dead, temporary faith. It does not produce the true benefits of grace - but instead it mocks grace!

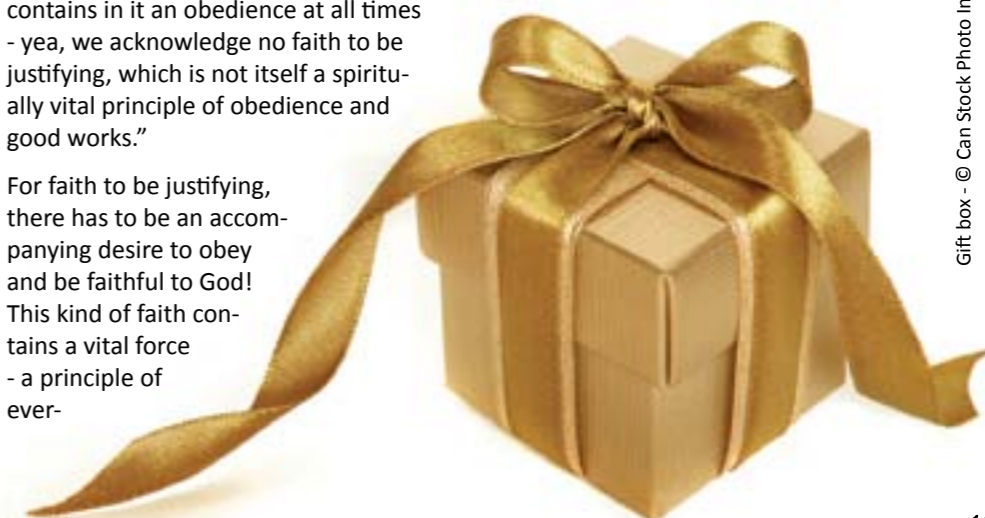
**Many "Grace" Preachers Do Away With the Law Before It Can Do Its Work Of Convicting of Sin!**

We are not saved by the law but we are convinced and convicted of our sin by the law! *"For by the law is the knowledge of sin"* (Romans 3:20).

The law was sent *"that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God"* (verse 19). *"The law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith"* (Galatians 3:24).

*"The law is holy... and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceedingly sinful"* (Romans 7:12-13).

“Justifying faith is more than a faith of assent; it does more than just acknowledge God.”



Paul was saying, "I couldn't really confess my sins until I knew they were sins! I couldn't seek after the holiness of God until I saw how far from Him I was! The law hit home to me, destroying my non-chalance about sin. When I saw God's holiness by His commandments, sin became utterly sinful to me!"

That is the conviction that drives you straight to the arms of Christ, crying, Mercy, Lord! I can't save myself, I can't fulfil Your law. I've seen the sin of my heart!"

Faith has been defined as "the flight of a convicted, repentant sinner unto the mercy of God in Christ Jesus." Only the person who has been convicted of his sins by the law of God will "flee to Christ" for refuge.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood and offered the crowds the gospel of God's grace. But first he put them under the blazing light of the law! He pointed his finger and said, "Ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain... Jesus... both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:23,26). The people were pricked in their hearts - so utterly convicted by the Word of God they cried out, "What shall we do?" (verse 36).

Adam was given the gospel of grace - after his "eyes were opened" (see Genesis 3:7). It was only after he had seen his pitiful condition and the consequences of his sin that God brought to him the message of mercy and hope!

This is why modern-day grace preaching is not changing sinful hearts: because it does not open the eyes of the sinful! There is no guilt, no shame, no sorrow for sin.

Pardon for sin is being offered to people who do not even admit they are sinful! They are offered justification for sins they have never felt guilty of committing... deliverance when they don't even know they are bound... righteousness for which they do not hunger or

thirst... freedom from a holy wrath they don't know rests upon them!

### There is a Spirit of Lawlessness in the Land!

The sinner calls it "rights": The right to practice homosexuality. The right to abort. The right between consenting adults to do with their bodies whatever they choose. In short the right to do whatever they please! Sinners want all these rights, but do not want to pay any penalties and consequences. That is a spirit of lawlessness!

This spirit is now creeping into the church: "Give me free pardon and everlasting life - without any cost. Free me from all guilt and condemnation. Promise me a justification I can never lose. But don't disturb me by asking me to lay anything down! Let me have it my way without giving up my personal freedom, without any call to obedience!"

This may not be what is actually said - but it is what is lived. And now we have invented a queasy "grace message" with no foundation on which to build a holy life - a gospel that appeases the spirit of lawlessness in our land!

You may be saying, "I don't understand all these Bible doctrines - grace, justification, sanctification. It's all too confusing."

Dear saint, God gives us something very simple, which we all can understand: "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble" (James 4:6).

If you have any pride in you - especially in thinking you are more spiritual than others - then you can be sure God will bring you down. He says He will resist you!

But God pours out His grace to the humble! You don't have to figure out how to get this grace. James 4:6 says He will give it to you!

"Humble" as used here means "broken in spirit, repentant." It is a sense of emptiness, helplessness, need. You don't have to understand any doctrine to be humble before God; you don't have to wonder if you are doing everything right. God says, "Just stay broken - stay needy, hungry and thirsty. And I will supply all the grace you need!"

"Submit yourselves therefore to God" (James 4:7). While this ungodly world cries, "Give me my rights, let me do it my way" - God's people submit to Him!

We cry, "Not my will or my rights - only Yours, Lord!"

If your heart is pricked in any way by this message, it is a good sign God is dealing with some pride in you. Can you laugh at your own games of hypocrisy and legalism? If so, you can laugh the devil right out of your soul!

Can you say right now, "All my righteousness and goodness are filthy rags in God's sight, without the blood of Christ. But because of the blood, all my works, obedience and faithfulness are received as a sweet-smelling savor unto the Lord!" That, beloved, is true zeal for God - and for holiness and righteousness!

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### David Wilkerson (1931 - 2011)

David Wilkerson was the Founding Pastor of Times Square Church in New York City. He was called to New York in 1958 to minister to gang members and drug addicts, which was made famous in the best-selling book and movie, 'The Cross and the Switchblade'.

In 1987, David Wilkerson returned to "the crossroads of the world" to establish Times Square Church. As a pastor of the church, he faithfully led this congregation, delivering powerful biblical messages that encouraged righteous living and complete reliance on God.

David Wilkerson had a strong burden to encourage and strengthen pastors throughout the world. From 1999 to 2008, he travelled around the globe holding conferences for Christian ministers.



Gift box - © Can Stock Photo Inc./tanatat



### By Leah Knowling

Over the years, this magazine has highlighted various forms of evangelism in an effort to inspire and encourage Christians to fulfil the Great Commission. Whilst the Gospel remains the same, how we share it can vary greatly depending on the people and the situations.

This article's photographs by Faith Miriam Photography





Some people open-air preach, others witness one-to-one, some prefer to hand out tracts, still others use the internet to share their faith, to name a few.

While the Lord can and does use His people in different ways to see His Gospel proclaimed, some situations naturally lend themselves to one or the other type of evangelistic endeavour.

Such is the case with large events where people are focused on getting to their seat or position as quickly as possible, and on what they are going to watch. Usually the window of opportunity to do any kind of witnessing is also limited. In such cases, open-air

where you live. Anytime where people are gathered for a particular event, whether big or small, is a good opportunity to share the Gospel. Sometimes we just have to think outside the box and see what doors the Lord opens up.

Christmas parades, Easter events, Australia Day (or its equivalent), outside stadiums for sporting events, shows, festivals and parades are just some suggestions.

Recently, Soldiers of the Cross (the ministry who publishes this magazine) organised just such an outreach in Rockhampton, Qld, with the help of some of the local churches.

Each year in Australia, ANZAC Day is the day when Australians remember the sacrifice of their men and women who have fought in wars for their country. In cities and towns across the country, memorial services and parades are held on this day.

In Rockhampton, the annual ANZAC Day parade usually attracts around 8000 spectators. A perfect opportunity to proclaim the Gospel. (It's a wonder we didn't think of it before.)

Last issue, we promoted a Gospel tract written specifically for ANZAC Day, using the story of an Australian WW1 Chaplain, William 'Fighting Mac' McKenzie which led into a clear Gospel presentation. It was this tract that was handed out to over 1200 people in the space of just over an hour at this year's parade.

When organising an outreach such as this, prayer is always a big key. Prior to this event, we prayed

for the Lord to use it for His Glory and for people's hearts to be open. As one lady who participated said, "It was important to pray that the Lord would prepare hearts to receive the pamphlet ... and He did."

One man testified that during the outreach they "prayed for the people receiving ... that it would be thought provoking and life changing for them".



And people did read it. One person who participated in the outreach testified, "I found that people were very receptive as they took hold of the tract ... As I walked through the crowd ... I was greatly encouraged by the number of people reading the tracts as they waited for the March to begin."

Another commented, "When I heard about the tracts to be given out on Anzac Day I was quite keen.... With the first few people I was a little nervous, but after that I was not and I even had one or two ask me for them! After the service I saw a man pick one off the



preaching can be seen as a distraction and one-to-one witnessing is not always possible.

In these situations, tract evangelism is highly effective to get the Gospel into the hands of a lot of people in a short space of time. It is also a good introduction to evangelism for those who haven't done much witnessing before.

In these last days, everyone always seems so busy, too busy to listen to the message that brings eternal life. So, opportunities to evangelise through events are all around us, no matter



ground, look at it and keep it. Giving them out early before the service was a great idea as it gave people something to do while they waited and hopefully made them think about their own lives."

This last testimony brings up an interesting point relevant to evangelism of any kind. It has been well said that there is only ever 'one first time'. The first time you do anything can be a little nerve-wracking, even awkward. None more so than when witnessing for the

was an interesting experience. At first it was a little uncomfortable and somewhat embarrassing, but I quickly realised that I really had no good reason to be embarrassed, and that if I wanted to witness to people I would have to step outside my comfort zone. People seemed pretty happy to take the tracts, and while no one came back and asked any questions, I noticed that basically everyone there had one in their hands so I am hopeful that it impacted at least one life."

It was encouraging to hear what God did through this event in the lives of those who participated. Not only did some step out of their comfort zones, but one man got his whole family involved. He writes,

"Over [the] years I've handed out tracts many times and been involved in many gospel and evangelistic events - this year's ANZAC day event was by far the easiest. In fact before I knew this I decided to involve the family. One of my boys was reluctant and the other keen. My wife supported it and came along with our 2 babies. So we all had a go at handing out tracts and greeting people.



Lord. But usually as you determine to step out in faith, the Lord, through His Holy Spirit, helps you to swallow the nerves and do it, whether it be speaking to a stranger, handing out tracts, or letting your light shine in your workplace.

As one young man testified, "Handing out tracts to the crowds on Anzac Day

"The kids found it simple and in fact enjoyed it. We had the two boys together on their own and they handed out nearly 100 tracts between them. My wife did well with the double pram and also handed out a large number. It's not very threatening taking literature from a Mum with 2 kids - it seems normal and that might have been part of making the day so comfortable.

"The tracts were well written and appropriate and everyone wanted them. I enjoyed the morning thoroughly, and more so knowing that I was serving Christ at the same time."



So, whether you have never shared the Gospel with anyone, or are a seasoned witness for Christ, events - large and small - are a great way to see Christ proclaimed to a lot of people in a limited time. And you will know you are a part of the body of Christ fulfilling the Great Commission to "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).



Fireman in burning house - © Beahslady/Pixabay



# MODERN SALESMANSHIP

By A. W. Tozer

"They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us." (1 John 2:19)

In our eagerness to make converts I am afraid we have lately been guilty of using the technique of modern salesmanship, which is of course to present only the desirable qualities in a product and ignore the rest. We go to men and offer them a cozy home on the sunny side of the brae. If they will but accept Christ He will give them peace of mind, solve their problems, prosper their business, protect their families and keep them happy all day long. They believe us and come, and the first cold wind sends them shivering to some counsellor to find out what has gone wrong; and that is the last we hear of many of them.

By offering our hearers a sweetness-and-light gospel and promising every taker a place on the sunny side of the brae, we not only cruelly deceive them, we guarantee also a high casualty rate among the converts won on such terms. On certain foreign fields the expression "rice Christians" has been coined to describe those who adopt Christianity for profit.

The experienced missionary knows that the convert that must pay a heavy price for his faith in Christ is the one that will persevere to the end. He begins with the wind in his face, and should the storm grow in strength he will not turn back for he has been conditioned to endure it.

By playing down the cost of discipleship we are producing rice Christians by the tens of thousands right here on the North American continent.

Source: *That Incredible Christian*, 116-117



[www.soldiersofthecross.com.au](http://www.soldiersofthecross.com.au)