

Message Notes

The Raw Gospel (pt 4) - Response

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – “The Raw Gospel... so what?”

God. Us. Jesus. Response.

God

Us

Jesus

Today's Message

“What is our response to the Gospel of God?”

The need for a response (John 3:1-18)

1. The butter up (John 3:1-2)
2. The ‘in your face’ answer (John 3:3)
3. Huh? (John 3:4)
4. You need to be born again (John 3:5-8)
5. Huh (x2) (John 3:9)
6. Let me explain it... (John 3:10-18)

Heaven and Hell are on the line

How did the early church expected people to repond to the raw gospel?

The First Christian Sermon ever preached!

The Second Recorded Christian Sermon!

Summary: What is the Desired Response to the Gospel Message? **CONVERSION!**

Three Elements to Conversion

1. Repentance
2. Faith
3. Baptism

Application – Are you converted?

John 3:1-18

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

³In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

⁴“How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!”

⁵Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

⁹“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.

Other Passages talked about: Romans 5:8 Acts 2:14-41, Acts 3:11-20, 4:1-4

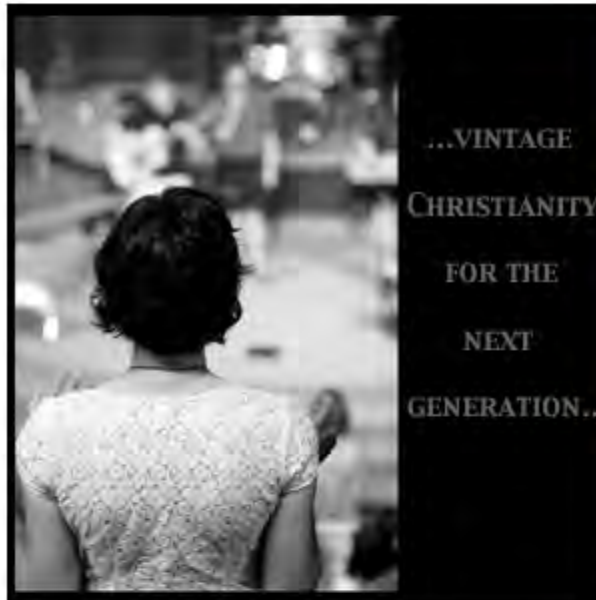


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NEW SERMON SERIES



Dead Letter and the Infinite Yes

Wintersleep © 2007 The Tom Kotter Company

CCLI

#1181771

I found a letter it read: "Our existence has serious side effects"
Turned on the television, it's telling me the world is collapsing

I think it's coming and it comes so fast; I'm hearing whispers of an infinite yes
And I don't know why it is our bodies are dead – why you look so sad?

And my therapist said: "We've evolved through a series of accidents"
There's been talk of chemical imbalances
Restless sense of detachment, nausea and/or violence

I think it's coming and it comes so fast; I'm hearing whispers of an infinite yes
And I don't know why it is; I feel it coming, I think it's real and significant
I think I think I think a little too often – that's what my therapist said –
We're alone in this wilderness
Left to choke on the pills and to feed on the viruses

THE

GOSPEL

BEAUTY. HORROR. LOVE. WONDER. MERCY. WRATH. GOD.



The Raw Gospel



TIEPOLO, Giovanni Battista, *The Prophet Isaiah* 1726-29 Fresco
200 x 250 cm Palazzo Patriarcale, Udine



EDINGEN VAN AELST, Pieter van, *The Miraculous Draught of Fishes* c. 1519

Tapestry in silk and wool, with silver-gilt threads, height 490 cm, width 441 cm Musei Vaticani, Vatican

A Familiar Pattern of the Raw Gospel

Encounter with God (The Setting)

~ GOD

A Clear Realization of Self (The Problem)

~ US

Cleansing/Forgiveness (The Solution)

~ JESUS

Response (The Change)

~ RESPONSE

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Thank God for Bandit Country

by Carl Trueman, June 2009

<http://www.reformation21.org/counterpoints/wages-of-spin/thank-god-for-bandit-country.php>

“There is, however, a spiritual dimension to blog attacks which is, ironically, conducive to spiritual health and growth. Here I have learned much (as elsewhere) from the master theologian, churchman, public figure, and normal Christian believer, Martin Luther. It is well-known that in his writings in table conversation Luther would often refer to visits from the Devil, how the Devil would come to him and whisper in his ear, accusing him of all manner of filthy sin: “Martin, you are a liar, greedy, lecherous, a blasphemer, a hypocrite. You cannot stand before God.”

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“To which Luther would respond: "Well, yes, I am.

And, indeed, Satan, you do not know the half of it. I have done much worse than that and if you care to give me your full list, I can no doubt add to it and help make it more complete. But you know what? My Saviour has died for all my sins - those you mention, those I could add and, indeed, those I have committed but am so wicked that I am unaware of having done so. It does not change the fact that Christ has died for all of them; his blood is sufficient; and on the Day of Judgment I shall be exonerated because he has taken all my sins on himself and clothed me in his own perfect righteousness.’

Thank God for Bandit Country

by Carl Trueman, June 2009

<http://www.reformation21.org/counterpoints/wages-of-spin/thank-god-for-bandit-country.php>

“Luther knew what temptation looked like; he knew his own wickedness; but he also knew the all-surpassing perfection and grace of Christ. So, in closing, I want to thank my blog critics, the crass, the colourful, the profane, and the plain old crazy, for helping me to understand better my sin and my Saviour. You think I'm arrogant? You should talk to my wife: she could fill you in on just how arrogant I really am. You think I'm ruthless and cold? Believe me, you don't know where half of the bodies are buried. You think I'm a weak and spineless girlyman? Hey, you don't know nearly the extent of my cowardice.

Thank God for Bandit Country

by Carl Trueman, June 2009

<http://www.reformation21.org/counterpoints/wages-of-spin/thank-god-for-bandit-country.php>

You think I'm an inveterate street fighter? Bring it on. If someone will hold my coat, why go out onto the street?

We can finish this right here and right now. But you know what? My Saviour knows the full depth of all my sleaziness, my sin, and my moral insanity, and has covered by his blood all these crimes you allege against me. Indeed, he has covered many more and much worse; and your reminders of my sinfulness and my need of him are most gratefully received."

A Familiar Pattern of the Raw Gospel

Encounter with God (The Setting)

~ GOD

A Clear Realization of Self (The Problem)

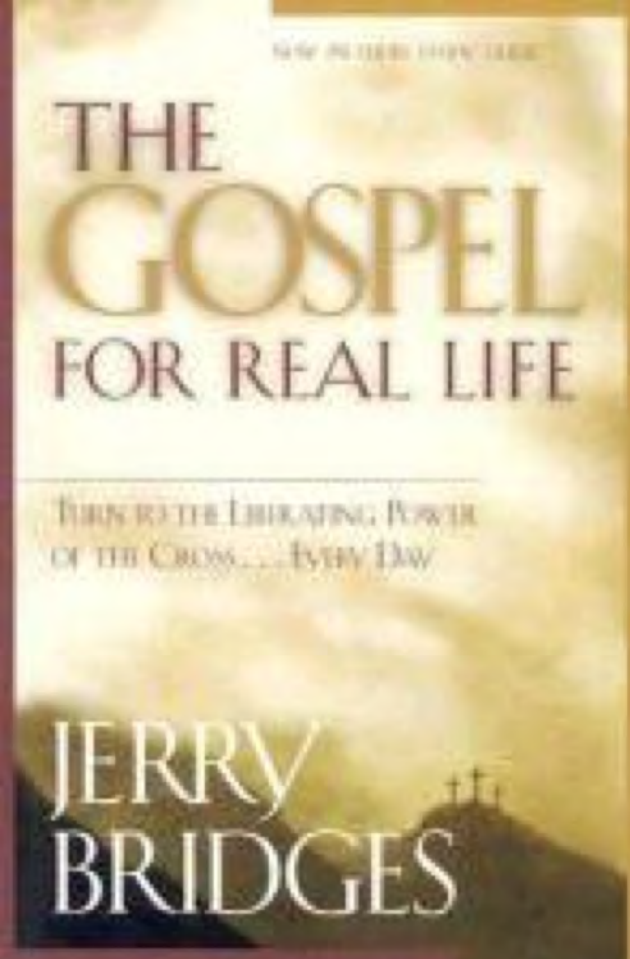
~ US

Cleansing/Forgiveness (The Solution)

~ JESUS

Response (The Change)

~ RESPONSE



“The cross, then, is an expression of God’s wrath toward sin as well as His love for us. It expresses His holiness in His determination to punish sin, even at the cost of His Son. And expresses His love in sending His Son to bear the punishment we so justly deserved. So in answer to the question, “Why the cross?” We must say God’s holiness demanded it to save us from our sins. We cannot begin to understand the true significance of the cross unless we understand something

of the holiness of God and the depth of our sin. And it is a continuing sense of the imperfection of our obedience, arising from the constant presence and remaining power of indwelling sin, that drives us more and more as believers to an absolute dependence on the grace of God given to us through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

“As we consider the work of Christ for us, we need to keep in mind our sin that necessitated it. For it is only against the dark backdrop of our sinfulness that we can see the glory of the cross shining forth in all its brilliance and splendor. And, as we gaze upon the glory of the cross, we will also discover that Christ, in His great work for us, not only resolved our sin problem, but also secured for us [the unsearchable riches of Christ].”

~ Jerry Bridges, The Gospel For Real Life p. 29-30.

The Bridge Illustration

MANKIND

GOD

Christ Paid the Penalty
Romans 5:8
I Peter 3:18

All Have Sinned
Romans 3:23
Isaiah 53:6

Must Receive Christ
John 1:12
Revelation 3:20

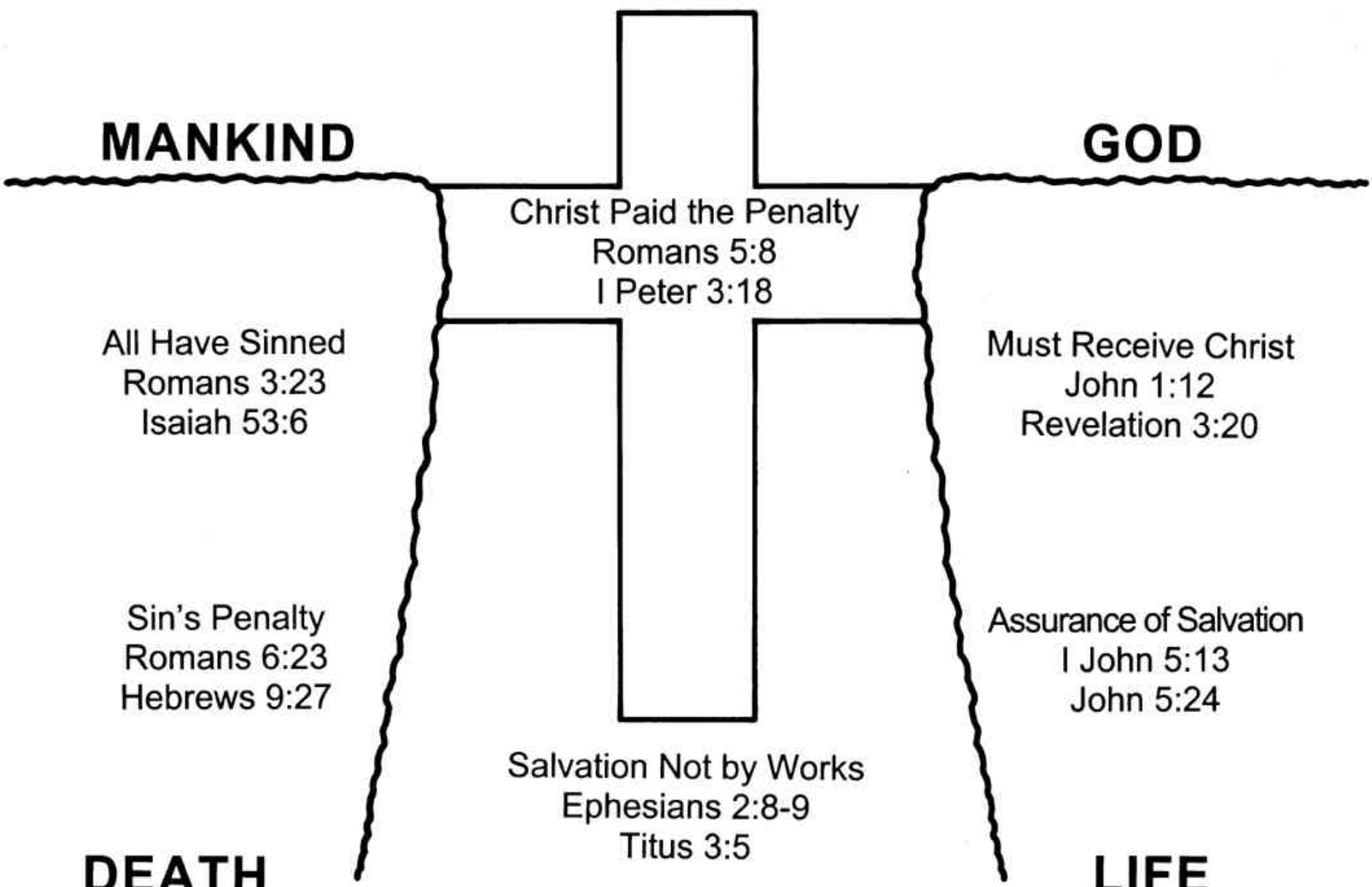
Sin's Penalty
Romans 6:23
Hebrews 9:27

Assurance of Salvation
I John 5:13
John 5:24

Salvation Not by Works
Ephesians 2:8-9
Titus 3:5

DEATH

LIFE



A Familiar Pattern of the Raw Gospel

Encounter with God (The Setting)

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A Clear Realization of Self (The Problem)

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Cleansing/Forgiveness (The Solution)

~ JESUS

Response (The Change)

~ RESPONSE

Isn't just knowing about Jesus enough?

The need for a response

1.The butter up

John 3:1-2

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

The need for a response

2. The 'in your face' answer

John 3:3

³In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

The need for a response

3. Huh?

John 3:4

⁴“How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!”

The need for a response

4. You need to be born again

John 3:5-8

⁵Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

The need for a response

5. Huh (x2)

John 3:9

⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked

The need for a response

6. Let me explain it...

John 3:10-18

¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven – the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

The need for a response

5. Let me explain it...

John 3:10-18

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.



"It is a serious thing, to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no 'ordinary' people."



“You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilisations -- these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whome we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit -- immortal horrors or everlasting splendours. This does not mean that we are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have, from the outset, taken each other seriously -- no flippancy, no superiority, no presumption. And our charity must be a real and costly love, with deep feeling for the sins in spite of which we love the sinner -- no mere tolerance or indulgence which parodies love as flippancy parodies merriment.”

~ C. S. Lewis *The Weight of Glory*

**How did the early church
expect people to respond to the
raw gospel?**

The First Christian Sermon EVER!

Acts 2:14-41

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

The First Christian Sermon EVER!

Acts 2:14-41

¹⁷“ ‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ²⁰The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²¹And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

The First Christian Sermon EVER!

Acts 2:14-41

²²“Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵ David said about him:

The First Christian Sermon EVER!

Acts 2:14-41

“ ‘I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. ²⁶Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, ²⁷because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. ²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

The First Christian Sermon EVER!

Acts 2:14-41

²⁹“Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay.

³²God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. ³³Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. ³⁴For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

The First Christian Sermon EVER!

Acts 2:14-41

“ ‘The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand
³⁵until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.” ’

The First Christian Sermon EVER!

Acts 2:14-41

³⁶ “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

The First Christian Sermon EVER!

Acts 2:14-41

³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

The First Christian Sermon EVER!

Acts 2:14-41

⁴⁰With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

The Second Recorded Christian Sermon!

The Second Recorded Christian Sermon!

Acts 3:11-20, 4:1-4

¹¹While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. ¹²When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?"

The Second Recorded Christian Sermon!

Acts 3:11-20, 4:1-4

¹³The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.

The Second Recorded Christian Sermon!

Acts 3:11-20, 4:1-4

¹⁶By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.

The Second Recorded Christian Sermon!

Acts 3:11-20, 4:1-4

¹⁷“Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ^a would suffer. ¹⁹Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you – even Jesus...”

The Second Recorded Christian Sermon!

Acts 3:11-20, 4:1-4

¹The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ²They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. ⁴But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

The Desired Response to the Gospel

The Desired Response to the Gospel

CONVERSION

The Desired Response to the Gospel

Conversions entails:

Repentance

Faith

Baptism

Repentance

Repentance

- The Spirit of God opens Your eyes to the gospel

Repentance

- The Spirit of God opens Your eyes to the gospel
 - Sense of Hopelessness

Repentance

- The Spirit of God opens Your eyes to the gospel
 - Sense of Hopelessness
 - Feeling of Helplessness

Repentance

- The Spirit of God opens Your eyes to the gospel
 - Sense of Hopelessness
 - Feeling of Helplessness
 - Confession

Repentance

- The Spirit of God opens Your eyes to the gospel
 - Sense of Hopelessness
 - Feeling of Helplessness
 - Confession
 - Humiliation

Repentance

- The Spirit of God opens Your eyes to the gospel
 - Sense of Hopelessness
 - Feeling of Helplessness
 - Confession
 - Humiliation
 - Turning Away

Faith

Faith

- Belief in Jesus

Faith

- Belief in Jesus
- Turning Toward Jesus as Savior, Lord and Guide

Faith

- Belief in Jesus
- Turning Toward Jesus as Savior, Lord and Guide
- Forgiveness

Faith

- Belief in Jesus
- Turning Toward Jesus as Savior, Lord and Guide
 - Forgiveness
 - Restoration

Faith

- Belief in Jesus
- Turning Toward Jesus as Savior, Lord and Guide
 - Forgiveness
 - Restoration
 - Reconciliation

Baptism

Baptism

- United Yourself with Jesus and understanding that ALL of salvation is not from you, not about you, and completely, 100% a gift! (necessary)

Baptism

- United Yourself with Jesus and understanding that ALL of salvation is not from you, not about you, and completely, 100% a gift! (necessary)
- Publically Declaring your Faith in Jesus Christ (necessary!)

Baptism

- United Yourself with Jesus and understanding that ALL of salvation is not from you, not about you, and completely, 100% a gift! (necessary)
- Publically Declaring your Faith in Jesus Christ (necessary!)
- Going through Baptism rite (not necessary, but highly encouraged)



The Raw Gospel

“"My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things, that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Saviour."”

