

Alderwood Community Church
September 30, 2018

The Good News and the Bad News about the Gospel
Close: The Importance of following Jesus Closely
John 3:16-18, 36
(Page 1052 and 1065)

Consider what is at stake: Your eternal destination and the eternal destination of those you care about deeply.

Question #1 If your heart were to stop beating right now and you were to slump over in your seat and die, are you certain you would go to heaven?

Question #2 If you answered yes, why are you certain? (The answer to this question reveals the basis upon which you are resting for your eternal destiny!)

Here is the Good News: You can know for sure that when you die, you will go to heaven! (1 John 5:11-13; John 3:15-17, 36; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

What does it mean to believe? It is more than just intellectual assent to the claims of Christianity, it is a confident faith that Jesus is who he said he was and that what he did on the cross was for you personally!

What are we to believe?

1. That you are a sinner. (**Romans 3:23**)
2. The penalty for your sin is eternal death. (**Romans 6:23a**)
3. Jesus died to pay your penalty and restore your relationship to God.
(1 Peter 3:18)
4. You are to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, restoration and eternal life by faith. (**Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:8-9**)

It is not what you do for God, it is all about what God has done for you!

Confess your faith in Jesus Christ, right now! (**Romans 10:9-10**)

Here is the Bad News: Those who reject Jesus Christ in this life are under the wrath of God and will suffer eternal punishment.

(John 3:36; Matthew 25:31-34, 41, 46)

Let the reality of eternal punishment grip your heart as you think about your unbelieving family members and friends.

1. Hell is not a figure of speech describing the painful situations we face in this life.
2. Hell is a place of punishment after judgment. (**Matthew 5:22; 23:33**)
3. Hell is described in imagery of fire and darkness.
(**Matthew 8:12; 13:40-50**)
4. Hell is a place of never ending punishment. (**Matthew 25:41, 46**)

Influencing Your Relational World (Fill out card and pray over it daily!)

1. Pray
 - Ask God to break your heart, soften your heart for the plight of those who do not know Jesus!
 - Ask God to give you awareness and boldness when opportunities present themselves.
(**Ephesians 6:19-20; Colossians 4:5-6**)
 - Ask God to open the hearts of your family/friends to the gospel.
2. Prepare
 - Ask God to put people on your heart that you can write down on your card. Who is already in your life?
 - Take some time to think how you can get to the place of sharing Jesus with them! Choose one name and make a plan!
3. Proclaim
 - Enter into that person's life. Love, serve, tell.
 - Practice (keep at it, you will get better and more confident!)
 - Remember what is God's part and what is your part!
You are to testify and share Jesus, God is the one who wins them!

Resources: Sermon Series on ACC Website

Lifting the Lid on Hell – Feb. 15, 2009

Heaven – Dec. 14, 2008

Game Plan – Getting our Friends to Jesus – Feb. 10, 2013

Sermon Questions:

1. What obstacles or questions did you have to overcome in order to put your trust in Jesus as your personal Savior?

How have you resolved them?

2. In **Ephesians 2:1-10** the apostle Paul describes, with amazing clarity, what God has done for each of us. Read vv. **1-10** three times slowly and prayerfully. Then write, in 2-3 sentences, what you think the passage is saying.

3. What do you learn in these verses about people?

How do you respond to these facts as you think of yourself, your family, and your friends?

4. What do you learn from these verses about God?

How do you respond to these facts as you think about yourself, your family, and your friends?

5. If someone asked you, "How do I become a Christian? I want to know I'm going to heaven when I die." How would you answer them?
6. Who, in your life right now, do you want to see come to Jesus Christ? Share those names with your group and spend time praying for them.