

RE-EVANGELIZING: GETTING OUR OWN THEOLOGY RIGHT

*The Unbelievable Gospel: Say Something
Worth Believing* by Jonathan Dodson

Tactics by Greg Koukl

*Get Real: Sharing Your Everyday Faith Every
Day* by John S. Leonard

OUTLINE

Week 1: Setting the stage/ Evangelism Defeaters

Week 2: Re-Evangelization (Getting our own theology right)

Week 3: Interacting with Culture/ Tolerance

Week 4: Putting it into Practice/ Breaking through the casual

Week 5: Evangelism in different contexts/ Q&A

REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK

Why we evangelize?

What is evangelism?

Motives (heart and mind)- thwarted by defeaters

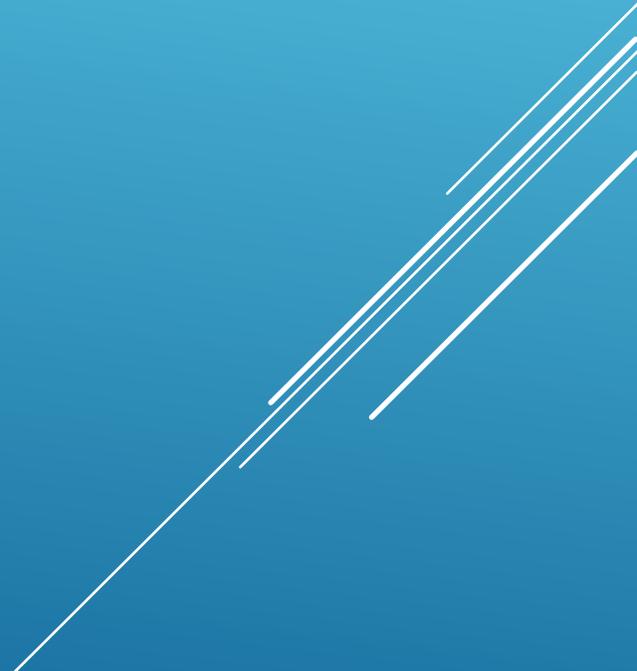
Impersonal Witness

Preachy Witness

Uninformed Witness

Intolerant Witness – Week 3

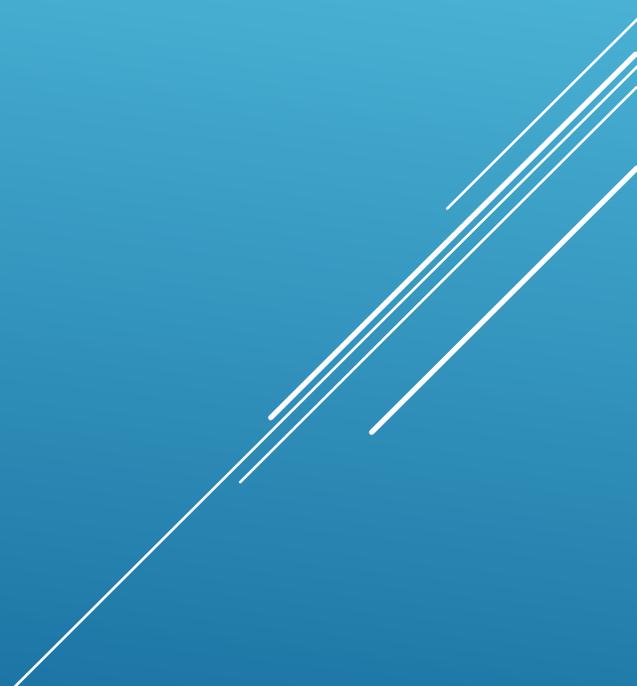
“IF YOUR HEART DOESN'T ACHE FOR
PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW CHRIST,
YOU MAY NOT KNOW CHRIST
YOURSELF” - BUCK PARSONS



THE ULTIMATE DEFEATER

Are you ever afraid of being found out as a Christian?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Maybe



THE ULTIMATE DEFEATER

*Fear of what others think of us is the defeater underneath all of the other defeaters

*"Spellbound by the approval of others and ensnared by fear of embarrassment, we hold our beliefs close and our savior distant."

*As a result, our fear will silence the Good News. We will remain paralyzed, un-evangelized and un-evangelizing.

*"It may very well be the case that embarrassment is the most feared form of persecution for many Christians today."
Buck Parsons

* Proverbs 29:25- "The fear of man lays a **snare**, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe."

THE ANTIDOTE TO THE ULTIMATE DEFEATER

The Gospel of Adoption is the antidote to the idolatry of reputation.

How?

It frees us from what others think by releasing us into what God the Father thinks of us.

We need to preach the Gospel to ourselves so we can share this Good news.

Obeying the mission of Christ and sharing our faith with others will lead to increased opportunities to confront our fear of others.

THE TRUE NATURE OF THE GOSPEL

*“ The gospel, when truly grasped in all of its richness and glory, will cause us to **stop in our tracks**, **fall** on our feet, and **cry out** to God in **joyful** worship or humble **terror**.”

*” We possess the most **attractive** (and repelling) message on earth, which has been and should be communicated in endless **dazzling** (and mundane) ways in order to **thrill** the human heart, **capture** the imagination, and **rivet** the intellect.”



THREE-DIMENSIONAL GOSPEL

*What is the Gospel? The Gospel is the good and true story that Jesus has defeated sin, death and evil through his own death and resurrection and is making all things new, even us.

- Three dimensions/perspectives of the Gospel: three ways of looking at the Gospel whole. They cannot be separated.
- **Historical**- Jesus' true story of death and resurrection
- **Personal**- Jesus' defeating of sin and death even for us
- **Cosmic**- Jesus' overthrow of evil

HISTORICAL GOSPEL

- Emphasizes its doctrinal and theological content
- Specific claims which are grounded in historical events
- Christianity is rooted in particular events: life, death and resurrection of Jesus
- These claims must be believed in order to receive salvation
- It is not just another spiritual idea or principle- It is exclusive and unique in its claims
- The historical Gospel **changes what we believe**
- **Acts 4:12** - Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

HISTORICAL GOSPEL

- *The Gospel is centered on the person of Christ
- *The Gospel is history making news that is worth announcing and spreading
- * This dimension is foundational and primary to the other two dimensions.
- If Jesus didn't truly live, die, and rise from the dead, then all of our attempts at personal change and social, cultural, and cosmic renewal lead to human glory and will ultimately fail.

1 Corinthians 15:14-17

14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. **15** More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. **16** For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. **17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

PERSONAL GOSPEL

*The Gospel changes who we are

- We have a brand new identity- we were dead in our sin and now we are alive.
- It's freeing because the Gospel is not about us changing us, but about God changing us. He does and will do what we cannot do for ourselves.

Titus 3:4-6 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

- He regenerates us- we have new life. The Spirit of the living God makes us new.
- Jesus alone has the power to change us permanently. We are adopted as sons and daughters through his Spirit. As a result, we begin to bear the fruit of His Spirit like love, joy, peace, etc.. (Galatians 5:23)

COSMIC GOSPEL

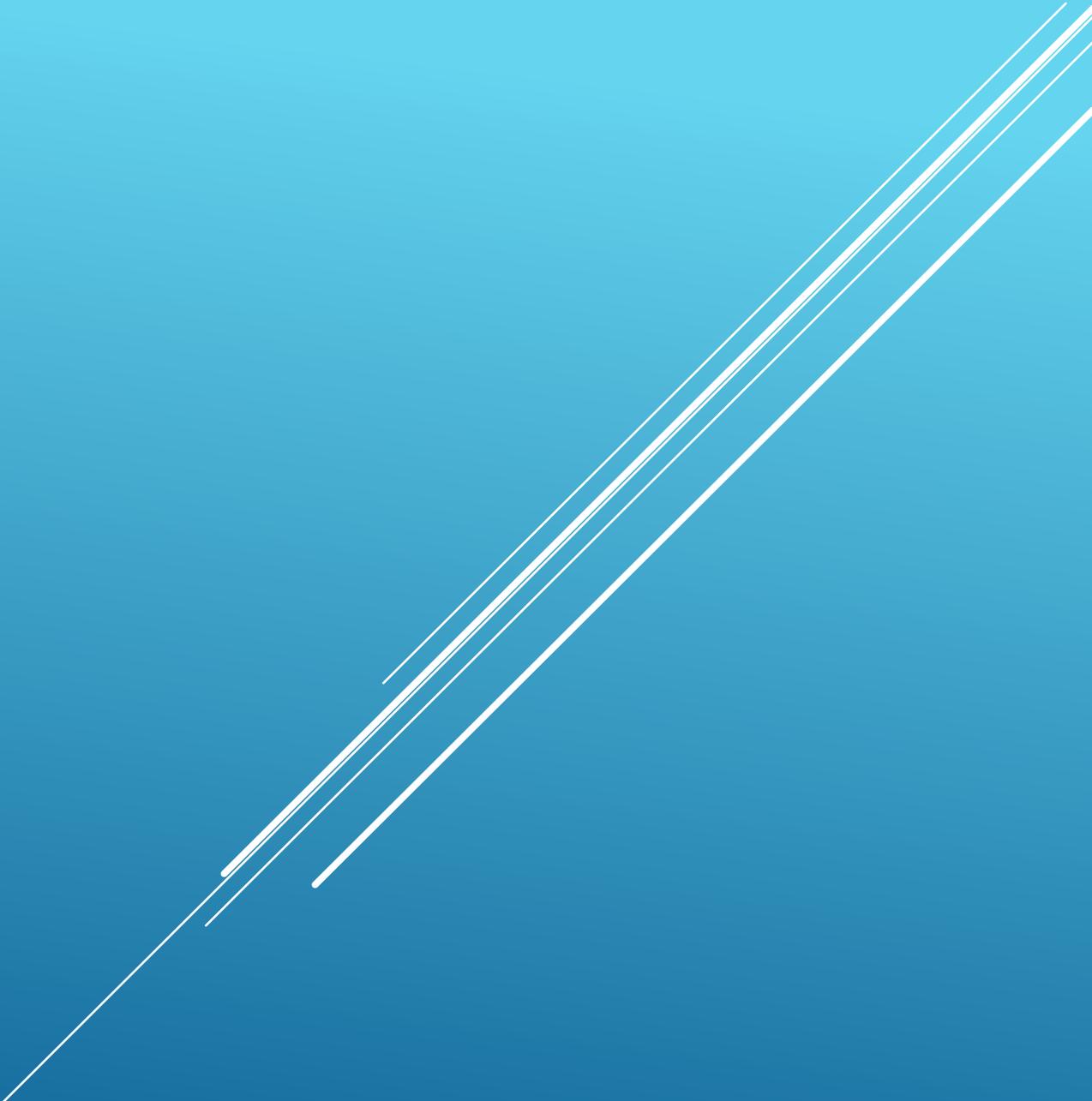
- The Cosmic Gospel changes how we interact and relate to the world.
- It changes our mission and purpose
- Three aspects:
 - 1. Spiritual- sharing a whole Gospel
 - 2. Social- redeeming social ills
 - 3. Cultural- making great culture
- Luke 4:18- “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.”
- Isa 61:1-8: spiritual renewal, cultural renewal, social renewal
- Luke 4:21- “ Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

COSMIC GOSPEL

*Jesus was anointed to preach the gospel, to share the announcement that his reign will bring transformation for the poor, for the city, and for the spiritually captive.

- The gospel renews all things, socially, spiritually, and culturally, and will one day be completed for the people of God in the return of Christ.
- “Christ overthrows the curse by rising from the dead to liberate the world from its bondage and to restore repentant sinners to their glorious purpose as God’s new humanity, the church to participate in his grand agenda to make all things new.” (1 Corinthians 15; Revelation 21:5)

SUMMARY

- Fear- the ultimate defeater
 - The Gospel of Adoption- the antidote
 - Three Dimensional Gospel
 - 1. Historical
 - 2. Personal
 - 3. Cosmic
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- A series of several parallel white lines of varying thicknesses, starting from the bottom left and extending diagonally towards the top right, creating a sense of movement and depth against the blue background.