

## "HANDY" WITNESSING

By Paul Steinberg

A version of God's Great Exchange by David Valleskey

**Thumb** --Does their spiritual situation rate a thumbs up or a thumbs down?

Key Questions: If you died tonight, are you sure that you would be in heaven? Why are you (un)certain --or let me put it this way: If you died tonight and faced God and he asked you, 'Why should I let you into my heaven?' what would you say?

Passage: 1 John 5:13 *These things are written ...so that you may know that you have eternal life.* Illus.: A person writes a letter to let his friend know facts. (e.g. What's the new baby's name, when he is going to visit, etc.) God didn't write the Bible to leave you guessing.

Transition: I am certain of my eternity, may I share with you why I am certain and how you too could be certain of heaven?

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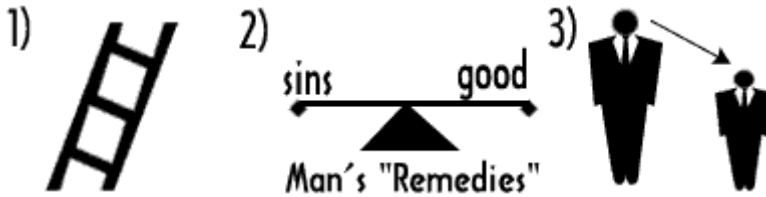
**Pointer** --Point out man's sin.

God demands: Lev. 19:2 *"Be holy {or perfect} because I the Lord your God am holy {perfect}.* Illus.: A billionaire accepts only a flawless diamond, a perfect car etc. God, who is absolutely perfect accepts nothing less than perfection.

God sees: Romans 3:23 *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* Illus.: Long jump across Grand Canyon -no one, even if he were an Olympic athlete could succeed at the jump -in the end the result would be the same for all, death. We all are short of perfection and deserve the same fate, eternal death. Or you want to go to a movie but don't have enough money. It doesn't matter if you are 5 cents short or \$10 you won't get in. if we are even just one sin short of perfection we don't deserve to get into heaven.

Result: Romans 6:23 *"The wages of sin is death."* Illus.: A person gets a check for a 40-hour week because he deserved it. By committing one sin we earn a paycheck of eternal

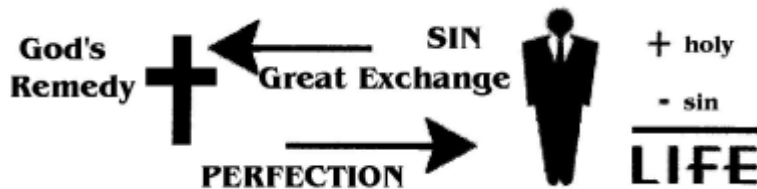
death



**Middle Finger** (The strongest finger) --Man thinks he is strong enough to make it by himself

- 1) "I'll try harder" ladder --No one can make it all the way to the top which is perfection.
- 2) "I can balance my sins with being good" --One flaw ruins a diamond no matter how good the rest is.
- 3) "But look how much better I am than..." --God will judge you alone and compare you to his own perfection

Passage: James 2:10 *"Whoever keeps the whole law, and yet stumbles at just one point, is guilty of breaking all of it."* Illus.: There is no such thing as kind of pregnant, or kind of alive, or kind of perfect. If you aren't absolutely perfect, you are imperfect and deserve God's judgment.



**Ring Finger** (finger for wedding ring, symbol of love) --God's remedy is his love.

Passage: John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life."* Illus.: Love motivates parent of dying child to do anything to save him, even give up his own life trying. God has such love for the whole world which includes you.

Passage: John 8:46 *Jesus said, "Can any of you prove me guilty of sin?" and no one could.* Illus.: If an investigation was made of anyone they could be proven guilty of sin. Jesus was the exception. Recount Jesus' suffering and death. Illus.: Like innocent man sent to gas chamber, Jesus innocently was killed for us.

Passage: Isaiah 53:6 *"The Lord laid on him the iniquity {sin} of us all."* Illus.: A superhero picked you up and carried you over the Grand Canyon. Or someone paid your admission to the movie you couldn't afford. Jesus Christ has done for you what you

couldn't -be perfect. Jesus has paid with his blood the price you couldn't to get you into heaven.



**Pinky** --("I" in sign language) What Jesus did becomes theirs through faith created and sustained by God's working in his Word.

Passage: Romans 6:23 *"The wages of sin is death, But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Illus.: A birthday gift is not earned. You do not in anyway earn eternal life; God has done it all.

Passage: Eph. 2:8,9 *"By grace you have been saved, through faith -and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."* Illus.: The Post office has determined that mail will come to people by means of mailboxes etc. God determined that what he did would come to people through faith, simple trust in what God has said and done. Even this faith is a gift (as described above) and nothing we do by our own strength or deserve.

Passage: Romans 10:17 *"Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ."* Illus.: Someone can know and trust that they are loved only if they are told about it. We know and trust we are loved by God (faith) only by what he has told us in his Word. A spouse or child needs to be reminded again and again that they are loved. The more it is heard the more they are certain of it. We need to again and again hear God say "I love you!" through his Word to build up our faith in his love.

**Open Hand:** Inviting them to hear more about God's love.

Ask key questions again and find out if they followed you. Leave them with an outline of the law and gospel. Leave other literature or a Bible with them. Invite them to hear more thoroughly how God loves them in a Bible Information Class. Offer to attend this class with them. If they are not interested in such a commitment offer to personally explain more to them at a specific future time. Pray for them.

This article was taken from the Evangelism material found on WELS.net