



*Abiding Word Lutheran Church  
July 11, 2009*

## **Session Two**

# **What Is The Message That I Bring?**

### *Quick Review*

Define the following terms from last session:

- Justification
- Universal Justification
- Alien Righteousness
- Self-Righteousness
- Sin
- Faith
- Grace

Why is it important to know what these words mean?

Imagine that you have never gone to church, you have never opened a Bible, that you only have a vague understanding of religion in general. What do these words mean to you?

These are words that we may take for granted that people know. It is important to know and understand what they all mean, but now put yourself in the position of someone who has never opened a Bible before. Can you clearly communicate the basics of law and gospel using words like *justification* and *grace*? In this lesson we want to learn how to clearly communicate without using unfamiliar words.

# *Pre-Evangelism and Evangelism*

What does the word *evangelism* mean?

How does Romans 10:17 help explain the difference between *pre-evangelism* and *evangelism*?

Evangelism has to do with using words. Although many Christians do know what they believe, they sometimes have difficulty communicating what they believe to others. There may be a number of reasons for that:

1. Sorting “milk” from “meat” *1 Corinthians 3:1-4*
2. Using technical theological terms *Matthew 13:1-52*
3. Arguing and not testifying *Acts 17:16-34*
4. Giving up too soon *Acts 2:22-41*
5. Leading others through a simple thought progression *Acts 8:26-40*

## ***God's Great Exchange***

To get comfortable clearly communicating law and gospel, we have to practice. There are many approaches someone may take to proclaiming law and gospel. This morning I would like to present to just one approach. It is called *God's Great Exchange*.

What God Demands

What God Sees

Man-Made Remedies

God's Remedy

God's Promise

Blessings that Follow

## ***Distinguishing Between Law and Gospel***

Now that we have seen one option as to how to present law and gospel, it is important to note that different people are at different stages in their faith. This is one reason why it is important to distinguish between law and gospel.

*Read Matthew 19:16-26*

Is Jesus preaching law or gospel to the rich young man?

Why did he choose this route of preaching?

In what situations would we follow Jesus' example?

*Read Acts 16:25-34*

What preaching of the law could Paul have used here?

Did Paul use law or gospel in this situation?

In what situations would we follow Paul's example?

## ***Where Would You Start?***

Margie says, "I'm going to heaven because I know I'm a whole lot better than most people. Do you ever watch the news?"

John says, "Why would God listen to me after I cheated on my wife?"

Jim says, "I don't get religion. It's just a bunch of words that no one uses anymore from a bunch of dusty old books!"

## FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 8:

1. Study *The Great Exchange* booklet so that the thought process and some of the Bible passages come easily to mind. Practice walking through a law and gospel presentation using the pamphlet as a guide.
2. Continue with homework assignment #3 from last month.
  1. Each Sunday look for visitors and greet them, welcome them to our services and make them feel comfortable
  2. If you visit another church, identify what made you feel welcome and where you felt uncomfortable. Are there lessons we at Abiding Word can learn from this?
  3. Evangelism starts with building bridges and earning the right to speak up. As a first step in this process spend an entire day speaking only encouraging and complimentary words. How did people react? How did it make you feel? Do you need to make changes so this becomes your usual approach? What will help you make these changes?
  4. One important time to share our faith is when people are going through difficult times. Spend 10 minutes each day thinking about and writing about different times in your life when you have needed comfort and either received or did not receive the comfort that you needed. What did people say to you? What did you want them to say to you? What didn't you want them to say to you?
  5. Build a list of family, friends, co-workers or others who need to hear about their Savior. Pray for their souls each day and ask the Lord to help you plant or water the seeds of faith in their life. If you don't know anyone in this category, ask God to help you find lost souls. Think about putting the list on a post-it note and sticking it to your bathroom mirror. Maybe try praying out loud for these people.

Use the *Friends Who Need Jesus* form in the Resources section of your folder if you like. Jot down what you know about each of the people you identify, using the Profile sheet, to begin thinking about how to reach out to each person.
  6. If you don't already spend daily time in your Bible, begin a regular study program. Read from cover to cover or use one of the many reading plans included in this binder.

Use the "How to Study Your Bible" material in the Resources section of your folder for help.
3. Keep a journal of all of the above - what you did, your thoughts, what you learned, what you want to change in your life, your ideas, your concerns, your questions...
4. Volunteer to assist with VBS follow-up calls on Sun, Aug 2 or 9.