

Witnessing

A Privilege for Members of the Body of Christ

- Introduction.
 - As believers, we need to recognize that one of our greatest privileges is to share the gospel with unbelievers.
 - The purpose of this study is to help you understand how to recognize an open door for witnessing and how to give the gospel when such a door opens.
 - As a church, we should be an effective witness to the community which requires...
 - ✦ that we have a burden for unbelievers.
 - ✦ that we have been trained to talk to others about Jesus Christ.
 - ✦ that we recognize Bible study is not an end in itself, but a means to serve God more effectively.
- Background (Genesis 3)
 - Why does the world need to hear the gospel message?
 - ✦ When Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the ‘forbidden fruit’ in the Garden of Eden, their sin adversely affected the entirety of creation.
 - ✦ Their sin severed man’s relationship with God.
 - ✦ The only remedy is a personal decision to trust that the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross satisfied the righteousness of God.
- The Nature of Sin
 - Sin is a theme that runs throughout the Bible.
 - Beginning in Genesis 3, people have ever struggled with sin and separation from God.
 - The problem of sin is universal [Rom 3:23].
 - We are all accountable to the Lord for our sin [Psalm 51:4].
 - Our sins are well known both by us and God [Isa 59:12].
 - Jesus Christ paid the just penalty for our sins [1 Peter 3:18].
 - ✦ God cannot excuse even the “smallest” sin – sins must be punished or pardoned.
 - ✦ Through the finished work of Christ on the Cross, God can forgive even the “biggest” sin.
- The Great Commission
 - Jesus gave His disciples the commission to make disciples of others [Matt 28:19-20].
 - This must begin with reaching out to unbelievers with the good news that Christ died for their sins and rose from the dead.
 - Once saved, they need to start learning and growing in the Christian way of life.

- The Mission Defined
 - Jesus defined the mission [Acts 1:8].
 - ✦ The Goal – To be His witnesses by telling others about Him and inviting them to respond.
 - ✦ The Preparation – The Holy Spirit equips us to carry out this mission.
 - ✦ The Extent – To the end of the Earth which means as we go, wherever we go we are to be His witnesses.
- Evangelism is a Privilege
 - As believers, we should approach evangelism with humility, remembering...
 - ✦ God could have chosen any number of ways to get the gospel to unsaved people, but He chose to use people to tell others how to be saved.
 - ✦ God can use any believer, but He has prepared opportunities for us [1 Cor 16:9].
 - ✦ We speak on behalf of God [1 Pet 4:11].
 - ✦ Nothing will take place until God opens the door [Col 4:3].
 - ✦ Only the Holy Spirit can cause the seed that is sown to bear fruit [2 Thess 2:13-14].
- Hindrances to Evangelism
 - Excuses [Exod 4:1-17]
 - ✦ God calls us to go to those who do not know Him with a simple message – Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead.
 - ✦ This message is designed to free people from their bondage to sin through faith in Jesus Christ.
 - ✦ Fear and ignorance often cause us to avoid evangelizing the lost.
 - ✦ People use the exact same excuses that Moses did to avoid evangelism today...
 - Who am I that I should go?
 - What shall I say to them?
 - Suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice.
 - I am not eloquent.
 - Please send someone else.
 - ✦ Biblical answers to these excuses...
 - When it comes to evangelism, God desires our trust and obedience, not our opinions or excuses [Isa 50:10].
 - Without Him, we can do nothing [John 15:5].
 - With Him we can do anything He calls us to do, including telling others about Him [Heb 13:20-21].
 - Spend time with unbelievers? Really?
 - ✦ We all know unbelievers who are selfish, rude, and obnoxious (like some Christians!).
 - ✦ The Bible never asks us to enjoy being with them – it challenges us to have compassion for them.

- ✦ It is important for us to remember that they are people for whom Christ died [1 John 2:2].
- ✦ Unbelievers are controlled by Satan, dead in their trespasses and sins [Eph 2:1-2] and without the power of the Holy Spirit [1 Cor 2:14].
- ✦ We were just like them before we trusted in Jesus Christ for our salvation [Eph 2:3].
- ✦ Therefore, we should have compassion and share the message of the saving grace of Jesus Christ.
- Satan whispers lies to us...
 - ✦ I may end up doing more harm than good.
 - ✦ I might not be able to answer the unbeliever's questions.
 - ✦ My life isn't what it ought to be.
 - ✦ There is probably a better time than today.
 - ✦ Don't listen to these Satanic lies!
- The Testimony of Our Lives
 - Joseph's life and character pointed people to the God he served.
 - Today, as we walk by means of the Spirit in our daily Christian life, the way we handle difficult circumstances and blessings can draw unbelievers to ask, 'How do you do it?'
 - This can be an opening to share the gospel.
 - God calls Christians to a life of discipleship and pursuing Christ-like living.
 - Therefore, we should strive to be holy as He is holy [1 Pet 1:14-16].
 - When people experience God's love and holiness through us, it points them to our loving and holy God.
 - We must be careful to avoid the pitfalls that sully our witness...
 - ✦ Pride can cause us to take our eyes off of the Lord [Heb 12:1-2] and put them on ourselves.
 - ✦ Immorality can destroy our credibility with unbelievers and believers.
 - ✦ Lies and deceit can destroy other people's trust in anything we might have to say.
- The Testimony of Our Lips
 - Witnesses are those who tell others what they know, have heard, seen and experienced [1 John 1:1-4].
 - Effective witnesses are...
 - ✦ Bold
 - ✦ Clear
 - ✦ Prayerful
 - ✦ Christ-like
 - It is very important to put our trust in God, that the Holy Spirit will speak through us in evangelism [Luke 12:11-12].
 - We should also follow Jesus Christ's example and use Scripture to answer any questions or challenges [Luke 4:1-13].

- Sharing the gospel requires preparation...
 - ✦ Study the Bible so you know how to tell others about the Lord.
 - ✦ Be prepared to communicate what you do know.
 - ✦ Tell people specific stories about what God has done in your life.
 - ✦ Keep in mind that people come to God by grace through faith, not reason or emotions.
- Some believers practice ‘in your face’ evangelism, confronting people before taking the time to build bridges.
- Other believers have a ‘no hurry’ approach with no sense of urgency.
- We should recognize that there is a proper time to share the gospel [Ecc 3:1-8].
- How do we find a balance between the two?
 - ✦ Respect the fact that every person’s life is subject to God’s timetable.
 - ✦ Consistently pray for opportunities to share the gospel and the wisdom to recognize them.
 - ✦ Pray for the words to say and boldness to use them [Eph 6:19].
 - ✦ Have a sense of urgency knowing that none of us are promised tomorrow [Jas 4:13-16].
- We should try to introduce spiritual matters into our conversations with unbelievers...
 - ✦ There is not just one way to do this.
 - ✦ Experience helps us know how to do this.
 - ✦ Rushing into this can hinder your witness.
 - ✦ We need to enjoy the conversation while prayerfully looking for opportunities.
 - ✦ The goal is to proceed from the secular to the spiritual to the gospel.
 - ✦ We must recognize that people are at different stages of their spiritual journey and try to meet them where they are.
- The gospel can be shared in a single verse, John 3:16 which tells us about...
 - ✦ God’s love – He loves us, not for who we are, but in spite of who we are – sinners.
 - ✦ God’s gift – He gave His Son to pay the price God required for our sins.
 - ✦ God’s offer – whoever believes in Jesus should not perish but have everlasting life.
- It helps to have a basic methodology for presenting the gospel to someone.
 - ✦ This will help make you more confident in talking to others about the Lord.
 - ✦ This will also help you relax, enjoy the conversation, turn it to spiritual things, and clearly explain the gospel.
 - ✦ Always remember that everyone is different.
- The EvanTell method is a four-step process which involves...
 - ✦ An opening question.
 - ✦ Explaining the bad news.
 - ✦ Explaining the good news.
 - ✦ Closing and prayer.

- After the conversation has turned to spiritual matters, ask questions...
 - ✦ EvanTell recommends asking, “Has anyone ever taken a Bible and shown you how you can know for sure that you’re going to heaven? May I?”.
 - ✦ Other questions are also appropriate such as, “Do you believe you will go to heaven when you die? If so, why?”.
 - ✦ Whatever questions are asked should serve to steer the conversation toward an opportunity to share the gospel.
 - ✦ If that opportunity materializes, transition to sharing the Bad News/Good News.
- Sharing the Bad News/Good News...
 - ✦ The Bible contains both bad news and good news.
 - ✦ The bad news is something about you and me.
 - ✦ The good news is something about God.
 - ✦ Begin by talking about the bad news before moving to the good news.
 - ✦ After sharing the gospel, move to the closing.
- The Bad News...
 - ✦ We are all sinners.
 - ✦ Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
 - ✦ “To sin” means to miss the mark.
 - ✦ When we lie, hate, lust, or gossip, we have missed the standard God has set.
 - ✦ The penalty for sin is death.
 - ✦ Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death.”
 - ✦ The Bible says that by sinning we have earned death.
 - ✦ That means we deserve to die and be separated from God forever.
- The Good News...
 - ✦ Since there was no way we could come to God, the Bible says that God came to us!
 - ✦ Christ died for you.
 - ✦ Romans 5:8 says, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
 - ✦ The Bible says Christ took the penalty that we deserved for sin, placed it upon Himself, and died in our place.
 - ✦ Three days later Christ came back to life to prove that sin and death had been conquered and that His claims to be God were true.
 - ✦ But the Good News gets even better.
 - ✦ You can be saved through faith in Christ.
 - ✦ Ephesians 2:8-9 says, “For by grace you have been saved [delivered from sin’s penalty] through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast.”
 - ✦ You must trust Jesus Christ to get you to heaven through no effort of your own.

- The Closing...
 - ✦ Ask the person you are witnessing to if there is anything keeping them from trusting in Christ.
 - ✦ If he is hesitant, ask him to tell you the reasons he feels he cannot trust in Christ.
 - ✦ Try to answer his objections biblically.
 - ✦ If you don't know the answer, say so and let him know you will follow up when you find the answer.
- If the person decides to trust in Christ...
 - ✦ Be very clear that faith in Jesus Christ is all that is necessary for salvation.
 - ✦ Ask him if he would like to pray and proclaim his faith in Jesus to God in a prayer of thanksgiving.
 - ✦ Do not cloud the issue of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus by saying, "Give your life to God." or "Invite Jesus into your heart."
- What is saving faith?
 - ✦ In Acts 16:30 the Philippian jailer asked, "What must I do to be saved?"
 - ✦ Paul (and others) answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."
 - ✦ This saving faith involves knowledge of who Christ is, acceptance of His person and work, and trust that Christ alone can save.
- Is repentance necessary for salvation?
 - ✦ Luke 24:47 says, "repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name."
 - ✦ Acts 17:30 says, "God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent."
 - ✦ However, this repentance is not feeling sorry for your sins or promising God that you will clean up your life (which would add works to the gospel).
 - ✦ The biblical definition of repentance is to change one's mind.
 - ✦ To be saved, a person must recognize his sinful condition, that this causes a separation from God, and that only faith in Christ can save.
 - ✦ A change of mind is a necessary part of this process of coming to faith in Jesus.
- Practice integrity in evangelism
 - ✦ Be a person who has nothing to hide.
 - ✦ Be honest when you fail.
 - ✦ Say what you mean and mean what you say.
 - ✦ Do not exaggerate your testimony.
 - ✦ Be clear and straight-forward with your presentation of the gospel.
 - ✦ Do not promise that faith in Christ will result in material possessions, career opportunities, good health, success, etc.
 - A believer's hope is in the Lord and His promises for this life and the life to come.
 - This is what we have to offer people in evangelism – nothing more and nothing less.

- How to avoid offending people in evangelism
 - ✦ If we offend someone, it will be extremely difficult to reach them with the gospel [Prov 18:19].
 - ✦ Therefore, be sensitive and tactful.
 - ✦ Ask the Lord to reveal things that may be offensive and turn away from them.
 - ✦ Learn the value of a compliment which can enhance the receptivity of your message.
 - ✦ Recognize that a certain degree of tension can be healthy, and the result of the Holy Spirit working on the heart of the unbeliever.
 - ✦ Do not be stopped by memories of situations you may have mishandled in the past.
 - ✦ Never, never, never, ever water down the gospel in an attempt to avoid offending someone.
- Dealing with rejection in evangelism
 - ✦ Hosea was concerned about Israel's repeated rejection of his message despite his repeated overtures [Hos 8:3].
 - ✦ So, how should we handle rejection and keep it from hindering future efforts?
 - Recognize that people are rejecting the message (and Christ), not us [John 15:18].
 - People don't want to hear that they are sinners and that their good works aren't enough to satisfy God.
 - They also don't want to hear that failure to trust Christ leads to eternal separation from God.
 - See beyond the person to the problem - unbelievers are slaves to the world, the flesh and the devil [Eph 2:1-2].
 - Pray for them instead of reacting.
 - Remember that Jesus said to "love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." [Luke 6:27-28].
- Witnessing in Specific Situations
 - Avoid false assumptions about unbelievers
 - ✦ One of the major themes of the book of Jonah is the contrast between God's view and Jonah's view of the people of Nineveh [Jonah 3:5-4:11].
 - ✦ Like Jonah, our attitudes toward unbelievers can keep us from reaching out to them.
 - ✦ Some false assumptions include...
 - Unbelievers are blinded by sin and hence not very smart.
 - Unbelievers are not interested in talking about spiritual things.
 - Unbelievers are not interested in God or the Bible because they are not interested in church.
 - Unbelievers who have been offended by encounters with Christians in the past are no longer interested in interacting with any Christians.
 - False assumptions people have about Christ
 - ✦ Many people misunderstand who Jesus is and what He did.

- ✦ Common misunderstandings include...
 - Jesus was a great man/teacher, but not God.
 - Jesus never claimed to be a great man/teacher, but He did claim to be the Son of God [John 10:33-36].
 - Truly great men do not lie.
 - Jesus was a deceiver who misled thousands.
 - Jesus made bold claims about being resurrected after His death [Matt 17:22-23].
 - God would not have resurrected Him if He was a deceiver [Romans 1:4].
 - Jesus was human and sinful like everyone else.
 - Jesus came in the likeness of sinful flesh [Rom 8:3]
 - Jesus was blameless [2 Cor 5:21; Heb 4:15].
 - Even unbelievers like Pilate were able to recognize this [Luke 23:22].
- Developing relationships with non-Christians
 - ✦ Jesus made it a priority to spend time with non-Christians [Luke 15:1-10].
 - ✦ We should imitate His pattern...
 - Take the initiative/be proactive – don't wait for unbelievers to come to you.
 - Think about all of the non-Christians you already know.
 - Be sensitive – listen and share your thoughts.
 - Be prayerful – if the Holy Spirit is not at work, they will not listen.
 - Be patient.
 - Be prepared.
 - Remember that each of these people has the potential of having an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Waiting on the Lord in evangelism
 - ✦ In the Old Testament 'to wait' depicted a mindset and attitude of confidence and hope [Micah 7:7].
 - ✦ How does 'waiting on the Lord' affect our evangelism?
 - We realize there may be ways that He works to bring people to Christ – ways that we may not see.
 - We defer to His timing, knowing He always knows the best time.
 - We recognize that He may use other people to reach unbelievers that we are witnessing to.
 - We recognize that He does the work of evangelism in a way that brings glory to Him [John 6:44; 16:8-11].
- Witnessing to an atheist
 - ✦ Sharing the gospel with someone who does not believe there is a God is challenging because they are foolish [Psalm 14:1-5].
 - ✦ Here are some things to keep in mind...

- Denying the existence of God is due to spiritual death [Eph 2:1] and blindness [Eph 4:18].
 - They may be in rebellion, saying there is no God so that they can live as if He does not.
 - They may blame God for their circumstances of life.
 - Listen to their concerns before talking.
 - Ask them to consider the Cross and the resurrection from a historical perspective.
 - Pray for them.
 - Wait upon the Holy Spirit to convict them of the truth.
- Witnessing to those who say there are many ways to God
- ✦ Man was created to worship God and Him alone [Deut 6:13-15].
 - ✦ Many verses in the Bible specify that there is only one way to establish a relationship with God...
 - Christ is the narrow gate [Matt 7:13-14].
 - Christ is the door [John 10:7-9].
 - No one comes to the Father but through Jesus Christ [John 14:6].
 - There is salvation in no one else [Acts 4:12].
 - Obtain the Father only through the Son [1 John 2:23].
- Witnessing to those who believe science contradicts the Bible
- ✦ We know that God created the universe and everything that is in it [Psalm 102:25].
 - ✦ However, many unbelievers struggle with how the Bible can be compatible with scientific theories (creation of the universe, evolution, etc.)
 - ✦ Explain that the Bible is not a book about science, but the account of God in human history.
 - ✦ Point out that some scientific theories have come under question in recent years.
 - Many top scientists no longer accept Darwin's theory.
 - Many geologists now accept catastrophic effects.
 - ✦ Explain that apart from a righteous God there is no way to explain what is moral and what is immoral, what is right and what is wrong.
 - ✦ Find a way to use Scripture to take them from the creation to the Creator (e.g. Psalm 104).
- Witnessing to people who say they've always been a Christian
- ✦ We know that we are all born sinners, not Christians [Psalm 51:5].
 - ✦ Try to discover whether the person has made a personal decision to trust in Christ for salvation.
 - Ask them what they mean by their claim to be Christian.
 - Ask them if they think they are going to go to heaven.

- Ask them what they would say if they stood before God and He asked, “Why should I let you into heaven?”.
 - If they do not answer that they have trusted in Christ, give them a clear presentation of the gospel.
- Witnessing to people who are religious or steeped in tradition
- ✦ Sometimes people who have no religious background are easier to witness to than those who have one.
 - ✦ The people of Judah in Jeremiah’s time provide a good example of this [Jer 44:15-19].
 - ✦ So, how do we reach religious people who don’t have a personal relationship with God?
 - Recognize that the Holy Spirit needs to be at work in their lives.
 - Ask them open-ended questions in order to determine what they actually believe.
 - If they have a Bible, use it to point out verses and ask what they think those verses mean.
 - Avoid making an issue of the church they attend.
 - Center your conversation on the Cross of Christ.
 - Encourage them to study the Scriptures for themselves.
 - Pray that God will bring believers who were formerly captive under the same religion into their lives.
 - Be patient and wait on God’s timing.
- Witnessing in a morally depraved culture
- ✦ The Northern Kingdom of Israel went through serious moral decay [2 Kings 17:13-23].
 - ✦ However, God continued to send prophets to warn them that they needed to repent.
 - ✦ Today, the culture in our country has become godless and morally bankrupt.
 - ✦ So, what are we to do?
 - Pray, pray, pray, and then pray some more.
 - Live your life in contrast to the world’s lifestyle.
 - Be faithful to evangelize even if you do not see it bear fruit.
 - If you have the opportunity to share the gospel, do so in a non-judgmental way, if possible.
- Witnessing to relatives
- ✦ One of the greatest burdens we face is that members of our earthly family are not part of God’s family.
 - ✦ So, how do we witness to family members?
 - Do not be intimidated by past experiences.
 - Remember that it is God’s work, not ours, that leads people to want to hear the gospel.
 - Recognize that your actions around your relatives are just as important as the words you say.

- If speaking to them in person is difficult, consider sending a letter or email.
 - Pray that God will send additional witnesses to share the gospel with them.
 - Remember that God can do anything, and that He desires that everyone be saved [1 Tim 2:3-4; 2 Pet 3:9].
- ✦ God, who brought you to Christ, can certainly save even your most hardened relative.
- Witnessing in the workplace
 - ✦ Daniel witnessed to the leadership of Babylon and gave an example for us to follow [Dan 6:1-3].
 - ✦ The way we conduct ourselves in the workplace lends credibility to our words.
 - ✦ When witnessing to co-workers remember...
 - People are watching how we handle ourselves, particularly in high stress situations.
 - Make sure you show yourself to be an example of honesty in little and big things.
 - Try to be consistent, living every moment of every day in submission to and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
 - Don't forget that we are paid to work, not to witness.
 - Look for opportunities to talk to people after hours, during lunch or while on breaks.
- Witnessing to children
 - ✦ Children are a gift from the Lord [Ps 127:3-5].
 - ✦ The most important way we can care for our children is to lead them to Christ giving them the prospect of a life of peace and joy in the Savior.
 - ✦ When witnessing to children...
 - Explain the gospel clearly.
 - Avoid confusing jargon.
 - Don't place any condition for salvation on behavior.
 - Lead them to Christ, don't try to force them to believe.
 - Emphasize the key issue of trusting in Christ.
 - If the child believes, pray with them while emphasizing that they are saved by faith in Jesus, not by a prayer.
- Witnessing to rebellious children
 - ✦ David's relationship with Absalom shows that children who do not walk with the Lord can be a major heartache for their parents [2 Sam 18:33].
 - ✦ So, what can we do to reach children who are rebellious?
 - Treat them the way Christ would: respond to evil with good [Matt 5:39; Rom 12:21].
 - Pray for them.
 - Try to determine if they are unbelievers or believers who are no longer walking with the Lord.
 - Ask God to send someone from outside the family as a positive influence.
 - Seek God's timing and wisdom in talking to them.

- Witnessing in the aftermath of a tragedy
 - ✦ When unbelievers face loss, they tend to think more about their own eternal destiny.
 - ✦ This may open the door for us to encourage them and direct the conversation to the Lord, but we should follow these basic guidelines...
 - Start by letting people know that you care.
 - Be a good listener, even if the person is angry at God.
 - Don't claim to identify with what they are going through when you cannot.
 - Try to bring up the issue of eternity.
 - Focus on the Cross and how they can be saved.
 - Offer to pray with them.
- Witnessing to those living an alternative lifestyle – balancing grace with Biblical truth
 - ✦ Some believers are uncomfortable building relationships with people who gravitate toward a particular sin such as homosexuality [Lev 18:22].
 - ✦ Many unbelievers think Christians hate homosexuals and want to berate or avoid them.
 - ✦ How can Christians overcome this perception in their relationships with unbelievers while remaining true to the teachings of Scripture?
 - Remember all have sinned and fall short [Rom 3:23].
 - Recognize that we are to take the gospel to everyone.
 - Dump any self-righteous or morally superior attitudes.
 - ✦ God calls us to love people and share His love, grace and forgiveness with them regardless of their lifestyle.
 - ✦ Christ died for them just like he died for us.
 - ✦ Never compromise on what sin is when showing God's love to others.
- Witnessing to those who treat us unjustly
 - ✦ David was the victim of Saul's hatred and jealousy, yet he tried to do what was right in God's eyes [1 Sam 26:1-11].
 - ✦ When we interact with unbelievers who treat us unjustly, we should...
 - Do what is right in God's eyes.
 - Try to see things from an eternal perspective.
 - Pray for patience and that God will change the other person's heart.
 - Pray that God will send someone to help you share the gospel with this person.
 - ✦ What if the situation turns hostile?
 - Respond with a gentle answer [Prov 15:1].
 - Recognize the spiritual battle going on in the mind of the unbelievers [Eph 2:1-3].
 - Back off for the time being, if necessary.
 - Show forgiveness as we have been forgiven in Christ.
 - Recognize that it's the Holy Spirit's responsibility to convict the unbeliever of the truth of the gospel.

- Witnessing to people who don't believe in life after death
 - ✦ People who don't believe in life after death see no need to prepare for it.
 - ✦ Instead of focusing on the hereafter, draw their attention to Jesus...
 - Jesus spoke of a heavenly home [John 14:1-3].
 - Jesus also spoke of hell [Matt 10:28].
 - ✦ Jesus taught that God is the God of the living, not the dead [Mark 12:18-27].
 - ✦ If Jesus really was who He said He was, then His teaching on the hereafter must be true.
- When to mention hell in evangelism
 - ✦ Evangelism requires that we speak with truth, but should we go so far as to mention hell?
 - ✦ Scripture tells us...
 - Jesus spoke more about hell than He did about heaven.
 - Jesus reserved His harshest language for Jewish leaders whose arrogance demanded such an approach.
 - ✦ We should mention hell when the circumstances are right and appropriate for the person in view.
- How to deal with roadblocks in evangelism
 - ✦ Go to God in prayer.
 - ✦ Concentrate on being directed, not directing.
 - ✦ Consider that the roadblock may be temporary.
 - ✦ Seek the wisdom of other believers.
 - ✦ Realize that some roadblocks are Satanic.
 - ✦ Take your time and wait upon the Lord.
- Discipling New Believers
 - Giving new believers biblical assurance of salvation
 - ✦ After someone trusts in Christ as Savior have them read John 5:24 and walk them through it...
 - “He who hears My word” – Did you do that?
 - “and believes Him who sent Me” – Did you believe?
 - “has eternal life” – Does this mean now or later?
 - “and does not come into judgment” – Any doubt here?
 - “has passed out of death into life.” – Will or has already?
 - ✦ Explain that assurance of salvation is based upon trusting in Jesus Christ, not on what we do before or after salvation.
 - ✦ Read 1 John 5:13 – so that you may know.
 - ✦ Read John 10:28-29 – cannot be snatched away.
 - ✦ Read John 6:37 – certainly not cast out.

- Teaching new believers about the spiritual toolbox
 - ✦ Confession of sin [Psalm 32:5; 1 John 1:9].
 - ✦ Prayer [Heb 4:16; James 1:5; 1 John 5:14].
 - ✦ Faith-rest [Psalm 55:22; Phil 4:6-7; 1 Pet 5:6-7].
 - ✦ Spiritual growth through the word [2 Tim 2:15; 3:16-17; 1 Pet 2:2; 2 Pet 3:18; Heb 6:1].
 - ✦ Bible reading [Psalm 119:11; Matt 4:4; Heb 4:12].
- Helping new believers find a church
 - ✦ One of the most important things to discuss with a new believer is finding a church where they can fellowship with other believers and start growing spiritually.
 - ✦ They should look for a church that...
 - Believes that salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone.
 - Believes the Bible is the inspired, inerrant word of God.
 - Has leaders who are spiritually mature.
 - Has a congregation that displays genuine love for others.
 - Is committed to helping believers grow spiritually and serve others.
 - Correctly teaches Church-age doctrines such as water baptism, communion, grace orientation, etc.
 - ✦ It is perfectly fine to invite them to your church, but if they choose not to do so, be prepared to recommend another Bible teaching church.
 - ✦ Encourage them to focus on building a spiritual foundation first before getting involved in activities.
 - ✦ Continually encourage their spiritual growth.
- Making sure new believers understand the meaning and purpose of water baptism
 - ✦ When believers are baptized it...
 - Testifies to the inward reality of their salvation.
 - Identifies them as disciples of Jesus Christ.
 - Provides an illustration of the gospel (death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ) to unbelievers who attend the ceremony.
 - ✦ Baptism is not a requirement of salvation.
- Some Further Steps
 - Collectively, as a church, we should want to be an effective witness to our community.
 - ✦ We must have a burden for unbelievers...
 - We should be praying for them.
 - We should always treat them in grace and love.
 - ✦ We should be trained to talk to others about Jesus Christ.
 - ✦ We must realize that Bible study is not an end in and of itself, but a means by which we are equipped to serve God and carry out the mission of the Church.

- Individually, we should develop a personal testimony.
 - ✦ Throughout the Psalms, David and the other writers declare what the Lord has done for them [Psalm 66:16].
 - ✦ Our personal testimony is one of the most powerful tools we have to tell unbelievers how to come to know God through Christ.
 - ✦ An effective testimony...
 - Is clear – talks about what Jesus did (He died for our sins and rose from the dead).
 - Uses terms unbelievers can understand.
 - Uses the Bible, but don't try to teach the entire Bible.
 - Employs a strong opening statement.
 - Includes personal accounts of God's working.
 - Finishes with a clear gospel message.
 - Is relatively short so as not to be tedious.
 - Is delivered in the spirit of love.
- Structuring your personal testimony
 - ✦ A well-structured testimony tells three things...
 - Where you were before you came to faith in Christ
 - How you came to understand the gospel and trust Christ
 - The difference He has made in your life since you became a believer
 - ✦ After listening to your testimony, listeners should clearly understand how to trust in Jesus Christ alone as Savior.
- Using illustrations in personal evangelism
 - ✦ Every presentation of the gospel should include...
 - The reality of sin
 - The provision of a substitute to die for our sin
 - The necessity of faith
 - ✦ Zechariah was given illustrations and word pictures to explain spiritual truth [Zech 5:1-11].
 - ✦ Jesus also used stories to illustrate biblical truth [Luke 8:4-15].
 - ✦ Illustrations help people see the truth – not just hear it – and can make the communication of the gospel more effective.
- Conclusions
 - God has called us to be Ambassadors for Christ [2 Cor 5:20].
 - We have also been given the Great Commission [Matt 28:19-20].
 - We should consider ourselves blessed to be invited to be fellow workers with God in sharing the good news of salvation through faith in Christ.
 - Therefore, we should be prepared to witness to others at any time [1 Pet 3:15].
 - Be sure to follow through when someone does accept Christ as Savior.