

BAHRAIN REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH
Reformed Evangelism

December 13, 2024

Preliminary

Outset: Arminianism sometimes think that, if the church embraces Calvinism, evangelism will die.

Case: Jonathan Edwards' *Great Awakening: Sinners in the hand of an Angry God*, 1741... cf. George Whitefield

[Martin Luther, *95 Thesis*, #1] – "Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, when He said "Repent", willed that the whole life of believers should be repentance"

Questions:

1. If God has an elect, and they're already predestined to come to Christ, then why Evangelize?

Answer: We evangelize because God's commanded us to... Mt 28:18-20; 2 Tim 4:2

Note: Evangelism is the means by which God has purposed to bring His will to pass.

[Kennedy, *Amazing Grace*, 189] – "God is pleased to use human means to accomplish glorious, divine and eternal ends. And we have the incredible privilege of being co-laborers with Christ in bringing to pass the greatest, most glorious ends imaginable – the redemption of all of God's elect."

2. Is God helpless without you or me to evangelize?

Answer: God doesn't need us to round up the elect – He is sovereign God! (Acts 17:25)

➤ God gives us the unspeakable responsibility and privilege of participating in this work of redemption

3. How, and to whom, should we present the Gospel?

Answer: We're to be ready in season and out of season to present the Gospel to every creature... Mk 16:15; 2 Tim 4:2

Warning: Avoid the sin of omission in sharing the Gospel

Ezekiel 3:18, 19 = *If I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ¹⁹ But if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, or from his wicked way, he shall die for his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.*

Point: The Christian is not ashamed of the gospel... Rom 1:16; Mk 8:38; Mt 10:32, 33

4. Why preach the Gospel to every creature if only the elect are going to respond?

Answer: We don't know who the elect are, so we should strive to preach the gospel to call them ... 1 Cor 9:22

[Spurgeon, *Sermon Collection*] – "God has called me to preach His Word and if I knew that all the elect had a yellow strip painted down their backs, then I would give up preaching the Gospel and go lift up shirt tails!"

5. How to evangelize?

Answer: [Martin Lloyd-Jones, *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*, 235] – "Evangelism must start with the holiness of God, the sinfulness of man, the demands of the Law, and the eternal consequences of evil, [and the promised hope of the gospel]"

Issue: Instead of preaching the Law of God to convict men of sin and expose their guilt before a just and holy God, many churches opt for a non-confrontational approach to both preaching and evangelism.

➤ Because they allegedly avoid conflict, they use flowery language in preaching the gospel...

Fallacy: God is love, therefore He is not judgmental

➤ Sugar coated preaching is dangerous to a soul... "God loves you just the way you are" is not the Gospel at all.

➤ Peace, joy, health, and wealth are the main points of their preaching

[Ray Comfort from George Whitefield, *The Evidence Bible*, 227] – "That is the reason we have so many "mushroom converts," because their stony heart is not plowed; they have not got a conviction of the law; they are stony grounds hearers"

[A.W. Pink, *Saving Faith: Part 1 Signs of the Times*, c.1930] – "The nature of Christ's salvation is woefully misrepresented by the present-day evangelist. He announces a Savior from hell rather than a Savior from sin. And that is why so many are fatally deceived, for there are multitudes who wish to escape the Lake of Fire who have no desire to be delivered from their carnality and worldliness."

Point: We share the gospel so that the truth from it can free a man from his captivity in his sin and be save by God.

➤ The "Good News", becomes truly good only in direct relation to the bad news that it comes to address

➤ In the field of medicine, presenting a cure without explaining the illness is a form of deception

[Martin Lloyd-Jones, *Sermon on the Mount*, 235] – "The essence of evangelism is to start by preaching the Law; and it is because the Law has not been preached that we have so much superficial evangelism."

(a) The Law and the Gospel

Note: Without understanding the depth of our sin and our offense against God, there is no salvation!

- All of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God... Rom 3:23
- We have violated God's righteous standards more times than we can number... James 2:10
- The wages of our sin is death... Rom 6:23
- There is punishment for those unbelievers and do not repent of their sins ... Jn 3:36; Rom 2:5; Rev 20:15

(b) The Threefold Use of the Law

Note: The Law of God help unbelievers in any age recognize their imperfections.

[Augustine, *Ancient Christian Commentary on the Scriptures*, 6.182] – “Sin cannot be overcome without the grace of God, so the Law was given to convert the soul by anxiety about its guilt, so that it might be ready to receive grace.”

i. As a Mirror

Note: It is the Law's duty to expose the sinner and their sins

- Looking at the Law is like looking in a mirror where one sees themselves... Jms 1:23

Point: The law is the schoolmaster for understanding sin and having wisdom in Christ as the sinner's sole hope

Romans 3:20 = ...*through the law comes knowledge of sin*

Romans 7:17 = ...*would not have known sin except through the Law.*

Romans 7:13 = ...*so that sin through the Commandments might become exceedingly sinful.*

- The Law declares God's holiness and righteousness
- It declares our total dependence on God's grace.
- It declares the need for Christ and His finished work.

ii. As a Restraint Against Evil

Note: The Law helps to control violent outbursts of sin and keeps order in the world – (Luther)

Rectification: While the Law restrains sin, the Law does not sanctify the sinner – sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit.

- God has put His law in the minds and hearts of man as guidance... Heb 8:10b; Ezek 11:19, 20; Rom 2:14f
- The law set us apart from the world... Ps 19:7 = *The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul*

iii. As a Revelation of God's Will

Note: The believer saved by grace through the gospel is now guided by the Law for their ongoing sanctification

Titus 2:11-14 (v.12) = [The Word/Law] *training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age*

Point: The law reveals God's righteousness and what pleases Him... Eph 2:10

- The believer delights in God's law... Rom 7:22
- It serves as a guide in striving to bring glory and honor to God... Ps 1:2; 119:16, 92-94, 174, Jos 1:8
- Obeying the Law is a revelation of love for God... Jn 14:15
- The law is not burdensome... 1 Jn 5:3

Challenge: Giving pleasure to God is a natural work for His children... cf. Mt 7:23

Galatians 3:24 = *The Law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might become justified by faith.*

[Augustine, *Ancient Christian Commentary on the Scriptures*, vii.49] – “The Law was therefore given not to take away sin but to include all under sin...so that by this humiliation they might know that their salvation was not in their own hands.

(c) Keys to Biblical Evangelism

- Pray for and love the people to whom you bring the Gospel... Jn 17:9, 10
- Ask God for wisdom... Pro 11:30 = *whoever captures souls is wise*
- Strive to reflect the nature and truth of God in your life and character...
2 Cor 3:2 = *You yourselves are our letter of recommendation... to be known and read by all*
- Have a respectful manner... 1 Pt 3:15 = *do it with gentleness and respect*
- Motivation was compassion... Mt 9:36
- Present the Law of God.
- Sow the Gospel/Word of God (PLEASE, not always with your testimony)
- Move your audience into a place of doubt – concerning the way they're living their lives.
 - Help them to see the futility, vanity, and inconsistencies of their worldview... 2 Cor 10:5
 - To get them to doubt the efficacy of the idolatrous belief system... 1 Pt 3:15
- Clearly challenge your audience to repent and believe the Gospel, to be reconciled to God... Acts 2:38; Jn 3:16

Conclusion: [John Bunyan, from Ernest C. Reisinger's *The Law and The Gospel*, 33] – “The man who does not know the nature of the Law cannot know the nature of sin, and he who does not know the nature of sin cannot know the nature of the Savior.”