

MAKING THE MESSAGE CLEAR  
Why God Came To Earth, Part 3  
December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Process A Person Goes Through In Becoming A Christian

- Meet a Christian
  - Like the Christian
    - Awareness of the Bible's relevance
      - Positive attitude of Bible
        - Hear & understand the gospel
          - Recognize personal need for Christ
            - Become a Christian

Why is it so important that we cultivate relationships with people who don't know Christ yet & walk with them through these stages - 85 % of Christians came to Christ through a family member or friend who is a Christian

Odds are your friends will never come to Christ unless a believer cultivates a relationship with them & commits to walk through these stages with them to become a Christian

**2 questions we must be able to answer:**

1. What is it our non-believing friends need to Know ?
2. What is it our non-believing friends need to do ?

Our non-believing friends think they Know what they need to know, and think they understand what they need to do

They think they need to be good & quit sinning

They think they need to simply pray a prayer

*What Do Those Who Aren't Christians Need To Know?*

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (NIV) "Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried,..."

First point of the gospel – Christ died for our sins

The proof – He was buried

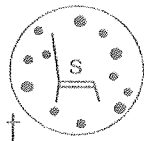
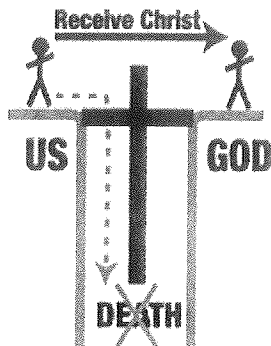
1 Corinthians 15:4-8 (NIV) "...that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born."

Second point of the gospel – Christ rose from the dead

The proof – He was seen by many

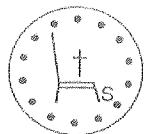
Here is the message of the gospel that we must make clear & simple: Christ died on the cross for our sins and was buried. He arose from the dead and was seen.

God is calling us to make the message clear so we are ready when that critical moment comes in a non-Christian's life



#### Self-Directed Life

Self is on the throne, directing decisions and actions (represented by the dots), often resulting in frustration. Jesus is outside the life.



#### Christ-Directed Life

Jesus is in the life and on the throne. Self is yielding to Jesus. The person sees Jesus' influence and direction in their life.

### What Do Those Who Aren't Christians Need To Do?

Need to understand the message & place their trust Christ as their savior  
John 3:16 (NIV) "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 20:31 (NIV) "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name."

John 8:24 (NIV) "I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins."

Each person must place their trust in Christ's death on the cross as full payment for their sins

The only thing that can get me into heaven is trusting what Christ has done for me by dying on the cross as payment for my sins

Religion – "DO" – what can I do to get to God

Christianity – "DONE" – what God has done to ensure I can get to Him through Christ

Be involved in the process; be committed to walk with people through the process of becoming a Christian; be ready when it all comes together and someone wants to know what do I need to know & do to become a Christian

### My Next Step Today Is:

- For the first time I am trusting Christ's death on the cross as payment for my sin
- As a Christian I will learn (commit to memory) to tell the very simple message of what a person needs to know to become a Christian