The Disciple and His Witness - Outline

John Repass

Introduction

A. Our People Group

- our neighborhood
- our workplace
- our school relationships
- our children's relationships and their parents or teachers or related contacts
- our social relationships –friends from the past or present
- merchants and tradesmen that we do business with
- new people that we are meeting.
- certain target groups

B. Our Responsibility

- 1. These people represent a post that the Lord has given each of us to man. We do that by:
 - a. Praver
 - b. Living A Godly Life
 - c. Witnessing

I. Seven Ministries Of Disciplemaking

- 1. Witnessing
- 2. Evangelism
- 3. Bringing Others To Christ
- 4. Follow Up
- 5. Discipleship
- 6. Disciplemaking
- 7. Shepherding (For Life)

A. Witnessing

- 1. Witnessing leads to...presenting the Gospel...which leads to...bringing people to Christ
- 2. Acts 1:8 (KJV) The word witness means literally "one who remembers"
- B. Our own life is a great part of our witness
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 3:2-3 (ESV)
 - 2. Matthew 4:19
- C. We have to earn the right to be heard
 - 1. By how we live our lives around those we are responsible for reaching by how we relate to others
 - 2. By having lives that are attractive and concerned
 - 3. By sincerely listening to others
 - 4. Verses: Luke 15:1,2; 2 Corinthians 3:2-3; Matthew 4:19

II. Evangelism

Mark 16:15 "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." See also 1 Timothy 2:4 & John 16:8

- A. Cold Contact Evangelism You can still do it! (Mark 4:26-29 [RSV])
- B. Evangelism begins with Prayer

1.Use ABC

Adversary. Bind the adversary against them

Believers. That God will raise up believers to speak the gospel to them.

Christ. That God will sand the Spirit of Christ to knock on the door of their hear

and draw them to Jesus.

2. Verse: Luke 9:23

C. Bringing Others To Christ

1. Keep Track Of Your Evangelism Rate

 $(10 \times 20 \times 3 \times 10 = 800 600 / 1 \text{ per wk.} = 11.5 \text{ years } 12 \text{ per year} = 50 \text{ years})$

GET PREPARED TO WITNESS, EVANGELIZE, AND BRING THEM TO CHRIST

III. Approach

A. Openers

- 1. What did you do last weekend.
- 2. Religious background
 - a. By the way what's your religious background?
 - b. Have you always been a _____ or is that something you've recently changed to?
 - c. A variation on that is "What does (your group) believe about how a person can go to heaven when he dies?
- 3. Do you know what the basic message of Christianity is?
- 4. Has anyone ever shared with you what the Bible says about the claims of Jesus Christ? May I take a few minutes and share some of them?
- 5. EE Question
 - a. Have you come to the place in your spiritual life that you know for certain that you are going to heaven.
 - b. If you died tonight and God said why should I let you into my heaven, what would you say? You know most people believe that but the Bible says something different Could I take a few minutes and share that with you?
- B. We need to <u>present the person of the Lord Jesus Christ</u> John 14:6D. <u>Emphasize the love</u> of God John 3:16
- C. Then we need to keep it simple. <u>Titus 3:9 (L)</u>. <u>11 Corinthians 2:1.2</u>
 - 1. Verse: Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the Gospel. It is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
 - 2. What is The Gospel?
 - 3. Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:3,4 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that <u>Christ died for our sins</u> according to the scriptures; And that <u>he was buried</u>, and that <u>he rose again the third day</u> according to the scriptures.
- D. Remember it's His work.
- E. Evangelism involves both sowing seed. watering the seed and reaping fruit
 - 1. Verse: Mark 4:26-29 (RSV) We must be willing to reap
- F. Evangelism is a skill you can learn

IV. How To Present: Steps To Peace With God

V. How To Present: The Bridge Illustration

Helps In Witnessing

Seven Basic Questions by Paul Little

1. What About the Heathen?

"What about the person who has never heard of Jesus Christ? Will she/he be condemned to hell?" Certain things are known to God alone (Deuteronomy 29:29). On some things God has not fully revealed His plan. This is one instance. The Scripture does offer some very dear points for us to keep in mind.

- A. God is just. Whatever He does with those who have never heard of *Jesus* Christ will be fair.
- B. No person will be condemned *for* rejecting Jesus Christ of whom she/he has never heard.... The whole world—every person, whether she/he has heard of the Ten Commandments or not—is in sin. Romans 2 clearly tells us that every person has a standard of some kind, and that in every culture, people knowingly violate the standard they have (Romans 2:12-16).
- C. Scripture indicates that every person has enough information from creation to know that God exists (Romans 1:19, 20, "So they are without excuse). Psalm 19 confirms this fact. Matthew 7:7-11 and Jeremiah 29:13 relate that if anyone responds to the light she/he has and seeks Gad, God will give that person a chance to hear the truth about Jesus Christ.
- D. There is no indication in the Bible that a person can be saved apart from Jesus Christ (John 14:6). Only He atoned for our sins. He is the only bridge across the chasm that separates the highest possible human achievement from the infinitely holy standard of God (Acts 4:12). We, who call ourselves Christians, must see to it that those who have not heard hear the Gospel.
- E. The Bible is perfectly clear concerning the judgment which awaits the individual who has heard the Gospel. When that person faces Gad, the issue will not be the heathen. Each one will have to account for what she/he, personally, has done with Jesus Christ. Usually someone will raise the question of the heathen as a smoke screen so as to evade personal responsibility. We need to answer this question. But then, as we terminate the discussion, we should focus on the individual and on her/his responsibility. What is she/he going to do with Jesus Christ? For a fuller discussion of the moral law inherent in the universe, see *The Case For Christianity* by C. S. Lewis.

2. Is Christ the Only Way to God?

Neither sincerity or intensity of faith can create truth Faith is no more valid than the object in which it is placed. The real issue is the question of truth. For example, Islam and Christianity are very similar in the moral and ethical realms, but the two faiths are diametrically opposed on the crucial question: "Who is Jesus Christ?" Islam denies that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Both faiths cannot simultaneously be true at this point. One is correct; one is incorrect *If* the crux of Christianity is false, our faith is worthless.

This question has some emotional aspects. Christians are not being bigoted, prejudiced, or presumptuous when they say that Christ is the only way to God. Christians have no other option because Jesus Christ <u>Himself</u> has said this. We are dealing with truth that has come to vs by revelation, through the invasion into human history of God Himself in Jesus Christ.

Some laws and their penalties are socially determined. For instance, being picked up for speeding means paying a fine. But in some other aspects of life, such as in the physical realms, we find laws that are not socially determined. The law of gravity is one such law. In the moral realm, as in the physical, there are laws that are not socially determined. We discern these laws from what God has revealed about the inherent law of the universe. One such law is that Jesus Christ is the only way to God. Dorothy L. Sayers offers some further helpful thoughts on this subject in *The Mind of the Maker3*

3. Why Do the Innocent Suffer?

"If God is all-good and all-powerful, why do the innocent suffer?" Here we have to admit our partial ignorance. We do not have the full explanation of the origin and problem of evil because God has chosen to reveal only a part to us. God created the universe perfect; humankind, through free will, chose to disobey. Evil came into the universe through this disobedience. Because people disobeyed and broke God's law, evil pervades the universe.

We must not overlook the presence of evil in every one of *us*. If God executed judgment uniformly, not one of us would survive. Suppose God were to decree, "At midnight tonight all the evil will be stamped out of the universe." Which of us would be here at 1 a.m.?

After pointing out our personal problem with evil, we need to know that God has done everything necessary to meet this problem. He came into human history in the Lord Jesus Christ, and He died to solve this problem. Every individual who willingly responds, receives His gift of love, grace, and forgiveness in *Jesus* Christ. C. S. Lewis has observed that it is idle for us to speculate about the problem of evil. The problem we all face is the *fact* of evil. The only solution to this fact *is* God's Son, Jesus Christ.

4. How Can Miracles Be Possible?

"How can miracles be possible? In this scientific age, how can any intelligent person who considers the orderliness of the universe believe in them?" The real issue here *is* whether or not God exists. If God exists, then miracles are logical and pose no intellectual contradictions. By definition, God is all-powerful. He can and does intervene in the universe that He has created.

Ultimately, we are being asked, "How do I know God exists?" History records many arguments for the existence of God. However, these have counter-arguments, and some evidence seems to negate them. So they are regarded as hints rather than as conclusive proof that God exists.

The greatest indication of the existence of God is His coming into human history I know God exists, not because of all the philosophical arguments, but because He came into human history in Jesus Christ and I have met Him personally. Our answer begins with Him. His credentials substantiate His claim. The supreme credential, of course, is the fact that He rose from the dead. In helping a non-Christian think through the intellectual basis of Christianity, our best defense is a good offense. One way to stimulate the person's thinking is to ask, "Which of the other three possibilities about Jesus Christ do you believe, since you do not believe that He was the truth?" There are only four possible conclusions about Jesus Christ and His claims. He was either a liar, a lunatic, a legend, or the Truth.

- A. *Liar*. Most people believe that Jesus was a great moral philosopher and teacher. To call Him a liar would be a contradiction of terms.
- B. *Lunatic*. He thought He was doing right, but He suffered from delusions of grandeur. The hitch in this conclusion is that the clinical symptoms of paranoia do not fit in with the personality characteristics of Jesus Christ. The poise and composure which He demonstrated are not characteristic of those who suffer from paranoid disturbances.
- C. *Legend*. He never made the statements attributed to Him. They were put in His mouth by overenthusiastic followers in the third and fourth century. Modern archaeology, however, makes it difficult to maintain this theory. Recent findings confirm that the New Testament documents were written during the lifetime of the contemporaries of Jesus Christ. Development of an elaborate legend would have required a more significant time-lag.

We also need to consider with the person what it means to prove or not to prove God. We can never prove God by the *sci*entific method. But that does not mean that our case *is* lost. The scientific method as a means of verification is limited to measurable aspects of reality. No one can measure love, hatred, or justice. However, there is a science of history. *As* we examine the data for Christianity, and particularly the evidence for the resurrection, we find a solid case on which to base our conviction.

These are the ideas we need to suggest to a person who takes the essentially materialistic position, based on rationalistic presuppositions, and claims that because there *is* no supernatural, miracles are impossible. When someone begins with this presupposition, no amount of evidence will convince her/him of the truth. If you started out by denying that miracles are possible, what evidence would convince you that a miracle had taken place? None. Christ dealt with this problem in Luke 16:28-31. The principle still holds today. The data we have concerning God's visitation to this planet are sufficient grounds for us to believe. When someone refuses to accept this evidence, no additional evidence will convince her/him.

5. Isn't the Bible Full of Errors?

"How do you reconcile your faith with the fact that the Bible is so full of errors?" The reliability of Scripture is being challenged. First, ask what particular errors the person has in mind. Ninety-nine percent of the time people cannot think of any. If the person has a specific problem and you do not have the answer, do not panic. Instead smile casually and tell that person, "I don't have the answer to that one, but I will be glad to dig it up for you? If the person has not read the Bible, that is a fair indication of her/his insincerity in questioning it. But do not press this point, and never make fun of anyone or try to argue by ridicule. This only brings the Gospel into disrepute.

The Bible does contain some apparent contradictions. But, time and time again, an apparent contradiction has been vindicated by the discoveries of modern archaeology. Dr. Nelson Glueck, an outstanding Jewish archaeologist, makes the remarkable statement, "No archeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference."

Evolution may be a problem if it leads to an atheistic conclusion for someone. The real issue though is not evolution, but coming to gripe with Christ Himself *Ask*, "What conclusion are you drawing from your evolutionary position—that the universe happened by chance? Or are you saying that God created the universe and did so by using certain evolutionary processes? I am not convinced about that particular position, but let us assume for the moment that it is correct. What conclusion are you drawing?" From there, direct the person's attention to what Jesus Christ has said and done. *How* God brought the universe into being is not so important as *that* He did it. One's presupposition, and not the actual evidence, often determines her/his conclusion. An apparently strong case for a naturalistic position can be made by ignoring the evidence *for Jesus* Christ But if a person is going to be intellectually honest, she/he must come to grips with Him. An amazing number of thinking non-Christians have never really thought about the evidence for Jesus Christ.

6. Isn't Christian Experience Only Psychological?

Some suggest that we have faith only because we have been conditioned since early childhood. We have been raised like Pavlov's dogs—an oversimplification. Christians have been converted from every imaginable background. Thousands have had no childhood contact with Christianity. Yet each will testify to a personal encounter with Christ that transformed her/his life. The Lord, Himself is the only constant factor.

Others assert that spiritual ideals are essentially wish fulfillments. They can be traced to a person's feeling a need for God, creating an image in her/his mind, and then worshiping the mental projection. Objective reality is totally lacking, Religion is called a crutch of people who cannot get along in life. Religious people are self-hypnotized.

What is our objective evidence for our subjective experiences? Christianity differs from autohypnosis, wish fulfillments, and all the other psychological phenomena in that the Christian's subjective experience is securely bound to an objective, historical fact, namely the resurrection from the dead of Jesus Christ.

If the resurrection is true, it makes all the difference in the world. It is confirmation of God's revelation in Christ, an absolute truth, an historical fact outside of ourselves, an objective fact to which our subjective experience is tied We need to hold these two facts, the objective and the subjective, in proper perspective. I need to recognize that my experience is based on the solid foundation of an objective fact in history.

Evidence For The Resurrection, by J.N.D. Anderson, is a brief and helpful summary. He discusses the evidence and the various alternatives that have been advanced to explain away the *resurrection*, showing why, in the light of the data, each explanation is inadequate.

7. Won't A Good Moral Life Get Me To Heaven?

A student at Duke University said, "If God grades on the curve, I'll make it." Most people will accept the philosophy that all we need to do is our best, and then everything will be all right, or at least we will be able to just get by. This is an incredible optimism about our righteousness and appalling ignorance of God's infinite holiness. God does not grade on the curve. He has an absolute standard, Jesus Christ. Light destroys darkness. The character of God so blazes in its purity that it consumes all evil. In God's presence, we would be consumed because of the corruption in our lives. The perfect righteousness of *Jesus* Christ is the only basis on which we can come into fellowship with the living God.

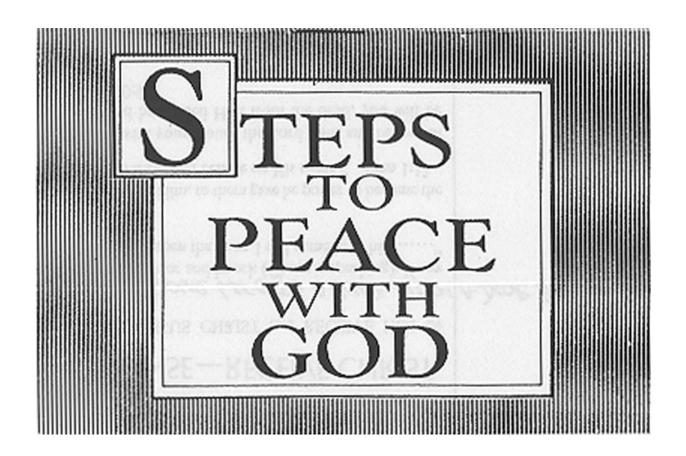
Morality is not the answer. From the bum on Skid Row, to the Joe College type, to the tremendously moral man, all is futile. No one could swim the entire distance to Hawaii. All would drown. No swimming instructions would help. We need someone to take us to Hawaii. This is where Christ comes in.

If you can live a life that *is* absolutely perfect, you can make it to heaven on your own steam. But no one ever has succeeded, nor ever will succeed. All the other religions of the world are essentially sets of swimming instructions, suggested codes of ethics, for a wonderful pattern of life. But our basic problem is not knowing *how* we ought to live; it is lacking the *power* to live as we should. The good news that Jesus Christ, who invaded human history, does for us what we could not possibly do for ourselves. Through Him we may he reconciled to God, given His righteousness, and enabled to have fellowship with Him in His very presence.

(Taken from *How* to *Give Away* Your *Faith* by Paul Little. 1966 by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship of the USA and used by permission of InterVarsity Press.)

Biblical Comparison of Christianity with Buddhism

What's the difference? Christians Believe... Buddhists Believe... God God is Omniscient and Omnipotent There is no personal God. (Job 42:2; Psalm 115:8 Matt. 19:26) Jesus Christ Jesus is the unique Son of God who died for our sin (Matthew 14:33; Matthew 16:16; John 1:34; John Jesus is a good teacher, less important than Buddha. 9:35-37; 1 Corinthians 15:3; Romans 5:6-8) Sin Sin is any thought or deed contrary to the will of God Sin is anything which hinders our progress. Each All of humankind is spiritually dead in sin. person is responsible for her/his own sin. (Romans 3:10, 23; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1). Salvation Salvation comes through Christ's effort, only (Acts Salvation comes by self-effort only. 4:12; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8-10).



GOD'S PURPOSE— PEACE AND LIFE

God loves you and wants you to experience peace and life-

abundant and eternal. THE WAY THAT NE HAVE THIS PERCE AND LIFE

S'... We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 5:1

The Bible

IN JOHN 3:16 IN THE BIBLE IT SHYS,
"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,

that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16 EACH OF US COULD PUT OUR OWN NAME EVERSE - FOR GOD SO LOVED

"... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [(NAME) THAT it more abundantly. John 10:10

HEGAUE ...

THE WORD ABUNDANTLY MEANS A FULL AND MEANING FUL LIFE. SO PEACE AND LIFE COME FROM JESUS CHRIST.

> Since God planned for us to have peace and abundant life right now, why are most people not having this experience?

WHY DO YOUTHINK THEY AREN'T?



OUR PROBLEM—SEPARATION

God created us in HIS own image to have an abundant life. He did not make us as robots to automatically love and obey Him, but gave us a will and freedom of choice.

WE chose to disobey God and go our own willful way. We still make this choice today. This results in separation from God.

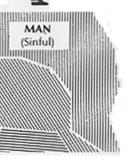
The Bible says...

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23 AND THE RESULT OR TAYMENT FOR THAT SIN IS FOUND IN THE NEXT VERSE.
"For the wages of sin is death (separation from God): but the gift of

God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23



HERE IS AN ILLUSTRATION THAT SHOWS HOW MAN IS ON ONE SIDE AND IS SINFUL, AND GOD WHO IS HOLY IS ON THE OTHER SIDE AND THEY ARE SEPARATED BY A BOTTOMLESS PIT. AND



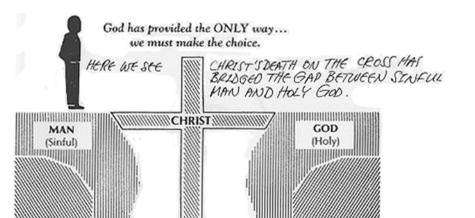
Our choice results in separation from God.

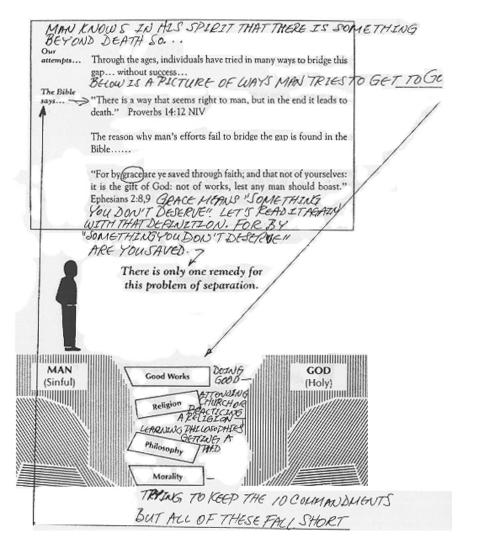


GOD'S REMEDY—THE CROSS JESUS CHRIST is the ONLY answer to this problem. He DIED on the Cross and AROSE from the grave, paying the penalty for our sin and bridging the gap between God and man. "... God is on one side and all the people on the other side, and Christ Jesus, Himself man, is between them to bring them SOME MIGHT SAY IF GOD LOWES ME WHY WOULD HE SOUD ME TO HELL?
"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us," Romans 5.8 NIV GOD HAS PROUDED A WAY FOR OTHERS SAY "ARENT WE ALL GOING THERE BUT JUST DIFFERENT, Jess answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one WAYS? comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 NIV HE SAYS HE IS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD

The Bible

says...





4

OUR RESPONSE—RECEIVE CHRIST

We must TRUST JESUS CHRIST and RECEIVE HIM by

The Bible

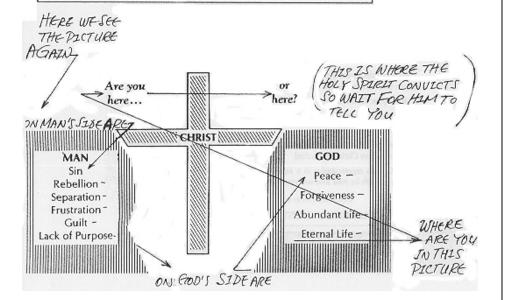
personal invitation.

JESUS COMPARES OUR LIFE TO A HOUSE WITH A DOOR AND HE SAS "Behold, I stand at the door and knock (Christ is speaking): If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him....."

Rev 3:20

"But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." John 1:12

"... If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9



Is there any good reason why you cannot receive Jesus Christ right now? IF A PERSON WANTS TO RECEIVE CHRIST THERE ARE FOUR THINGS HE MUST DO. A HOW TO RECEIVE CHRIST: 1. Admit your need (I am a sinner). ARE YOU WILLIAG TO ADMIT THA cross and rose from the grave. Do You BELIEVE THAT JESUS DIED FOR YOU THEN THEE 4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in IS ONLY ONE and control your life through the Holy Spirit. THING LEFT (Receive Him as Lord and Savior.) HERE IS A PRAYER WHICH A PERSON CANTRAY AND IF THEY MAAN IT JESUS WILL COME IN TO THEIR LIFE Prayer is more than saying words. It is the attitude of your heart. If you desire to receive Christ, pray a prayer like the one below: READ THE PRAYER AND SAY DOES THIS PRAYER EXPRESS THE DESTA WHAT TO PRAY: OF YOUR MEART?

WHAT TO PRAY: OF YOUR MEART?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PRAY IT NOW? CK. I'LL PRAY OUT LOUD AND

Dear Lord Jesus YOU PRAY AFTER ME-EITHER OUT LOUD OR SILA. I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe PAUSE AFTER EAC that. You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now SENTENCE SO THA invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust You HE CAN PRAY as Savior and follow You as Lord, in the fellowship of Your Church. THANK YOU FOR DOING WHAT YOU SAID YOU WOULD DO. IF HE PARYS SZLENTZY, ASK IF HE TRAYED IT. HE NEED. TO GIVE SIGNATURE TESTIMONY IF HE PRAYS OUT LOUD ASK IF HE PRAYED FROM HIS

HEART

GOD'S ASSURANCE— HIS WORD

If you prayed this prayer,

The Bible says...

"For' whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved."
Romans 10:13

Did you sincerely ask Jesus Christ to come into your life? Where is He right now? What has He given you? Tell another Christian about your decision and ask them to sign as your witness.

HOW DO YOU KNOW HE CAME IN? (GO TO REV 3:20 AND HAVE HIM READ Birth Certificate IT. TELL HIM CHRIST CAN'T LIE. HE HAB TO COME IN BECAUSE

HE SAID HE WOULD

The Bible

"He that hath the Son hath life (right now); and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." 1 John 5:12-13

Receiving Christ, we are born into God's family through the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit who indwells every believer... this is called regeneration or the "new birth."

If you want further help in the decision you have made, write to:

BILLY GRAHAM EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION Box 779, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440 This is just the beginning of a wonderful new life in Christ. To deepen this relationship you should:

- 1. Read your Bible every day to get to know Christ better.
- 2. Talk to God in prayer every day.
- 3. Tell others about Christ.
- Worship, fellowship, and serve with other Christians in a church where Christ is preached.
- As Christ's representative in a needy world, demonstrate your new life by your love and concern for others.

God bless you as you do.

BILLY GRAHAM EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION

Man

- 1. Man is sinful Romans 3:23
- 2. Sin has a penalty Romans 6:23
- 3. Salvation a free gift Ephesians 2:8, 9

God

- 1. Christ paid the penalty Romans 5:8
- 2. Christ is our salvation John 10:9
- 3. We must receive Him John 1:12