Introduction to a Tool for Sharing the Gospel

This is a series of nine studies meant to be used to help someone make a decision about Jesus Christ. It is with humility, hope, and twenty-eight years of experience that I submit these as a tool to be used in the work of sharing the good news. Much of this material has been used by others but I have not discovered it in a written form making it reproducible in the lives of servants of Christ. I am confident it is probably out there, I am just not aware of these materials.

The basic assumption for using the nine studies is that the person you are sharing with has some desire to know more about Jesus. The individual has probably heard about Christ and is not opposed to Him. I have doubts about this material being used as the starting point when working with someone whose background is a major world religion other than some concept of Christianity. For those that I deal with in Great Falls, Montana this is a valid assumption and the concepts communicated have been proven through numerous personal studies.

My suggestion for the order of the studies is: (1) "What About this Book, the Bible?" (2) "Who is Jesus?" (3) "Jesus and a Searching Woman" (4) "Jesus: Out of Death Comes Life" (5) "Word of God" (6) "Faith" (7) "The Church," and then depending on what has happened throughout this study I will study conversion next or discipleship.

If the person is content with their spiritual journey to this point, but it has become clear that they are not biblically a Christian I will study "Discipleship" to try and give a Scriptural picture of following Jesus. If the person is tracking with the material and understands they are not a follower of Christ I will study "Light and Darkness" as the eighth study and then use "Discipleship" as the ninth study to help them count the cost of following Jesus. Prayer with some experience is the best guide to determine the order of the last two studies. I am confident that more studies can and maybe should be added. I have some supplemental material on the resurrection of Christ that I use, but have not included in this series. I believe there must be an emphasis on grace and throughout the series I will reference the need for God's grace, but I have not prepared a specific lesson on that topic and there needs to be one at some time. For example, the couple that served as a test group for this series was baptized last week after going through all of the studies. A week and a day after their baptisms I met with them and studied the concepts of grace and the continual action of the blood of Christ for those who are walking in the light. It is an important study, but not included in this set.

May this material be a blessing to all who use it. If you are teaching this material to a class of Christians so that they can use the material I have included a lesson called "Why Does the World Need the Gospel." This is an introductory lesson to help those in the class see the need to be prepared to share the good news of Jesus.

I am thankful for the help given to me by Gordon Naylor and Dave Bland as they have served as my advisors for this practicum through Harding University Graduate School of Religion. If you have questions concerning the series of studies please contact me at the Great Falls Church of Christ in Great Falls, Montana. Our email is <u>gfcc@imt.net</u>, the address is 3400 Central Avenue, Great Falls, MT 59401, and the phone is (406) 453-3379. The cartoons used in this series fit within the copyright requirements of Copyright Gospel Communications International, Inc - <u>www.reverendfun.com</u> and I am thankful for the tool that they provide.

May the Lord bring a great harvest as we plant and water.

In Christ's love,

Scott Laird, evangelist