

Steven Lee wrote an article in **Desiring God** where he shares what he sees as **the Top 4 Reasons** That People Do Not Share The Gospel:

- **Lack Of Gospel Knowledge.**
- **Apathy.**
- **Fear.**
- **Lack Of Compassion.**

How many times have you heard the gospel in a sermon, book, or conversation? If you've been a Christian, even for a short time, you have likely heard the gospel hundreds of times. Yet, many of us still struggle to articulate the truths of the gospel in a simple, coherent, and intelligible way. Could you share the essential message of the gospel in sixty seconds, right now?

I Peter 3:13-16

Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, but sanctify (declare) Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

- **Daniel** – Daniel 6:5 – “*Then these men said, "We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find it against him with regard to the law of his God."*
- **Prayer Card** - We are a soul winning body of believers.

As we let that passage marinate in our minds **let's think about the first 2 chapters of the book of Romans:**

- **Paul begins to put the ax to many of the things that the Jews had held fast to as to what made them righteous in God's eyes.**
 - **Romans is written** to believers.
 - Like most books in the New Testament **they are written to address theology issues** that the Church is facing.

Now Paul thinks **what if I were to be cross examined** on what God has led me to write so far, **how would I respond.**

Romans 3:1-2

- **What advantage is it in being a Jew** and **what is the profit in circumcision?**

- Paul says there are many advantages to being a Jew, one that he mentions is that they have been entrusted with oracles (Scriptures) of God.
- No other people had this privilege but Israel.
- **Acts 7:38.**
- But how had they responded to the Scriptures, by an appalling lack of faith.
- *“Down through the years it’s been ridiculed, burned, refuted, destroyed, but it lives on. It is the anvil that has worn out many hammers. Most books are born, live a few short years, then go the way of all the earth; they’re forgotten. But not the Bible.”* Billy Graham
 - Think of the books that you are reading right now, none of them have the potential to change your life like the Bible. (6 for me)
 - **Prayer Card** – We are a Bible believing body of believers.

Romans 3:3-4

- Granted not all Jews have believed, but does that mean that God will go back on His promises? Can the unbelief of some, cause God to break His word?
- May it never be!!!! / Certainly not / heaven forbid.
- **II Corinthians 1:20.**
- **Psalm 51:4.**
 - David confessed his sin before God and acknowledged that God was justified in His judgment.
 - If God rewards faithfulness, does this not mean that He will punish disobedience?
 - **Coin Illustration.**

Romans 3:5-6

- Has not God set us up for failure, (**Romans 3:23**) (**Psalm 14:1-3**)?
- May it never be!!!!
- The Law did not make man suddenly guilty of wrongdoing, God’s righteous standard has always been the target, and we will always fall short.
- The Greek word for “sin” is hamartia, an archery term for “missing the mark.”
- Grace (**God’s unmerited favor**).
- The Law was God’s first step toward His plan to redeem us.

Romans 3:7-8

- Well if sin makes the grace of God shine brighter then why not sin the more so that His grace will abound more?

- The reverse is actually true.
- Paul kind of speaks tongue in cheek here in **verse #8**.
- The illustration of Diane and I looking at the moon the other night, the moon has no light at all but rather simply reflects the light of the sun.
- That is what we are called to do, reflect the light of the Son (Jesus Christ) in our lives.
- That is one of the reasons that our culture is so confused about Christianity is that some don't live like Christ.

Imagine that day that you stand before Christ, and He passes righteous judgment on you for all the sins you have committed.

- You look and say, "but I object" His response will always be the same "objection overruled!"

So how do we avoid that happening?

Farmer Joe decided his injuries from the accident were serious enough to take the trucking company (responsible for the accident) to court. In court, the trucking company's fancy lawyer was questioning farmer Joe. "Didn't you say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine'?" questioned the lawyer.

Farmer Joe responded, "Well I'll tell you what happened. I had just loaded my favorite mule Bessie into the..."

"I didn't ask for any details," the lawyer interrupted, "just answer the question. Did you not say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine'!"

Farmer Joe said, "Well I had just got Bessie into the trailer and I was driving down the road..."

The lawyer interrupted again and said, "Judge, I am trying to establish the fact that, at the scene of the accident, this man told the Highway Patrolman on the scene that he was just fine. Now several weeks after the accident he is trying to sue my client. I believe he is a fraud. Please tell him to simply answer the question."

By this time the Judge was fairly interested in Farmer Joe's answer and said to the lawyer, "I'd like to hear what he has to say about his favorite mule Bessie."

Joe thanked the Judge and proceeded, "Well as I was saying, I had just loaded Bessie, my favorite mule, into the trailer and was driving her down the highway when this huge semi-truck and trailer ran the stop sign and smacked my truck right in the side. I was thrown into one ditch and Bessie was thrown into the other. I was hurting real bad and didn't want to move. However, I could hear ole Bessie moaning and groaning. I knew she was in terrible shape just by her groans. Shortly after the accident a Highway Patrolman came on the scene. He could hear Bessie moaning and groaning so he went over to her. After he looked at her he took out his gun and shot her between the eyes. Then the Patrolman came across the road with his gun in his hand and looked at me. He said, "Your mule was in such bad shape I had to shoot her. How are you feeling?"

It was then that I said, "I'm fine."

Today, no need to say or lie "I'm fine". We are not fine. We have been touched by death, because of sin.