

Forgotten Key to Biblical Evangelism

“I am as good as any Christian.” A Christian, by himself, isn’t good. Jesus said that God alone is good. The only “goodness,” or righteousness, that the believer has comes from Jesus Christ (2 Corn. 5:21; Phil. 3:9). The Bible tells us that, without Christ, man is corrupt and filthy; “there is none that does good, no, not one.” (Psalms 14:3).

Have you ever thought, “There must be a key to reaching the lost?” Well there is... and it’s rusty through lack of use. The Bible does actually call it “the key,” and its purpose is to bring us to Christ, to unlock the Door of the Savior (John 10:9). Not only is it Biblical, but it was used throughout church history to unlock the door of revival. Much of the church today doesn’t even know it exists. The problem is that it was lost around the turn of the twentieth century. Keys have a way of getting lost. Jesus used it. So did Paul (Romans 3:19-20) , Timothy used it (1 Timothy 1:8-11), and James (James 2:10), Stephen used it when he preached (Acts 7:53). Peter found that it had been used to open the door to release 3,000 imprisoned souls on the Day of Pentecost.

Satan has tried to prejudice the modern church against the key. He has mangled it, misused it, and of course hidden it... he hates it because of what it does. Perhaps you are wondering what this key is. I will tell you. All I ask is that you set aside your traditions and prejudices and look at what God’s Word says on the subject. In Acts 28:23 the Bible tells us that Paul sought to persuade his hearers “concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets.” Here we have two effective means of persuading the unsaved “concerning Jesus.” Let’s first look at how the prophets can help persuade sinners concerning Jesus. Fulfilled prophecy proves the inspiration of Scripture. The predictions of the prophets present a powerful case for the inspiration of the Bible. Any skeptic who reads the prophetic words of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Joel, etc., or the words of Jesus in Matthew 24 cannot help but be challenged that this is no ordinary book.

The other means by which Paul persuaded sinners concerning Jesus was “out of the law of Moses.” The Bible tells us that the Law of Moses is good if it is used lawfully (1 Timothy 1:8). It was given by God as a “schoolmaster” to bring us to Christ (Galatians 3:24). Paul wrote that he “had not known sin, but by the law” (Romans 7:7). The Law of God (the Ten Commandments) is evidently the “key of knowledge” that Jesus spoke of in Luke 11:52. He was speaking to lawyers...those who should have been teaching God’s Law so that sinners would receive the “knowledge of sin.”

Prophecy speaks to the intellect of the sinner, while the Law speaks to the conscience. One produces faith in the Word of God; the other brings knowledge of sin in the heart of the sinner. The Law is the God-given “key” to unlock the door of salvation. The Bible says in Psalm 19:7, “The law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul.” Scripture makes it very clear that it is the Law that actually converts the soul.

Examples of: *Law to the Proud*

Luke 10:25-37 Professing Expert on God’s Law tested Jesus

Jesus gave him the Law because he was a proud, arrogant, self-righteous man that was not seeking the truth but was in essence saying “And what do you think I must do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus gave him Law and when he was willing to justify himself by asking who was his ‘neighbor,’ Jesus told him the parable of the “good” Samaritan who simply obeyed the most basic of the commandments, loving his neighbor as himself.

Luke 18:18-25 Rich young ruler wants eternal life.

Jesus gave him five horizontal commandments relating to man, and when he said he had kept this since his youth Jesus told him he lacked one thing. Jesus knew this man’s god was his money. When He told him to sell all he had, distribute it to the poor and follow Him the man became very sorrowful because he loved his money more than God.

Example of: Grace to the Humble

John 3:1-21 Nicodemus

Nicodemus humbly came to Jesus recognizing the deity of Christ.

Acts 2 Jews on the day of Pentecost

These were "devout Jews" who were humble of heart there to celebrate the giving of God's law on Mt. Sinai.

Scripture Explains the Functions of God's Law

Psalm 19:7

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul

Romans 7:7

What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law.

Romans 3:19

Now we know that what things soever the law says, it says to them who are under the law; that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Romans 3:20

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight; for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

1 John 3:4

Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law.

James 2:10

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

Galatians 3:11

But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident for, the just shall live by faith.

Romans 2:15

Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness.

1 Timothy 1:8-9

But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully (for the purpose for which it was designed). Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners...

Hebrews 9:27

And it is appointed to men once to die, but after this the judgment;

2 Corinthians 7:10

For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation....

Hebrews 10:16-17

This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, said the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.