SIMPLE LESSON/ OVERVIEW of the Bible story.

- The Bible is one of the most popular and yet misunderstood book in the world.
- It is possible to know a lot about the Bible without really understanding it and how it all fits together.
- God could have written the Bible so that only Greek scholars or PhD theologians could have understood it. Instead it was written so that it could only be understood by seekers who have the heart of a little child.
- This “Big Picture Presentation” takes an aerial view and checks out the "whole forest." It gives you a framework to understand the Bible.
- Many folks have a hard time understanding it, because they don’t look at things in context and see how it all fits together.

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- How could 40 men, separated by language, culture and time, all writing on controversial subjects, speak with one *voice and perfect harmony*? Why do you think this is true of the Bible? (Wait for response) That's right…because it is ***inspired by God!***

- This unity would be impossible without there being **one conductor**, *who orchestrated all of these events,* and moved these men to write by the **Holy Spirit** so it all fits together. Each of these 66 books are like instruments which play together in *beautiful harmony*.

- The internal evidence of the Bible is one of the most powerful evidences that this book was written by God (II Tim 3:16-17).

- This *one beautiful theme throughout history is truly amazing!*

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- We see the importance of the gospel, in that the admonition **to teach it to others are the last words Jesus spoke** on Mt. Olivet before He ascended into heaven.
- God wanted this message to be communicated to all mankind.
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- It is the truth that sets us free! (Jn 8:32) And it is an objective **truth.**

- **Objective truth is true whether you believe it or not**. Gravity is an example of objective truth. If you jump from a 10-story building, you will be just as dead whether you believe in gravity, or don't believe in it.

- How one responds to the gospel is the critical turning point in each person's life.

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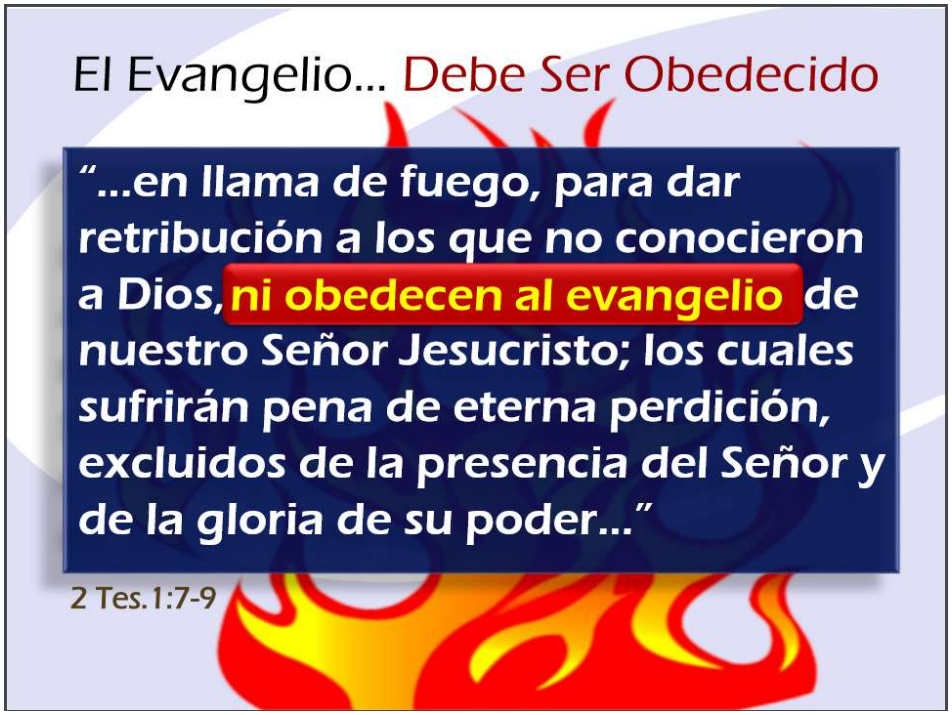

- It makes sense that those who don't *believe in God or know Him* will be rejected at Jesus' return, but this text says also those who have **NOT *obeyed the gospel*!**

- **How does one obey the facts of the gospel?** How can I obey facts? Illust. I believe George Washington was the first president of the US. I believe that fact and accept it; but how can I *obey* that fact?

- The Bible reveals **how** the facts of the gospel *can be obeyed*! We will discuss this later in the lesson.

- **This is Serious stuff!** God will absolutely *condemn* anyone who rejects the gospel. Wow. **The gospel is critically important!**

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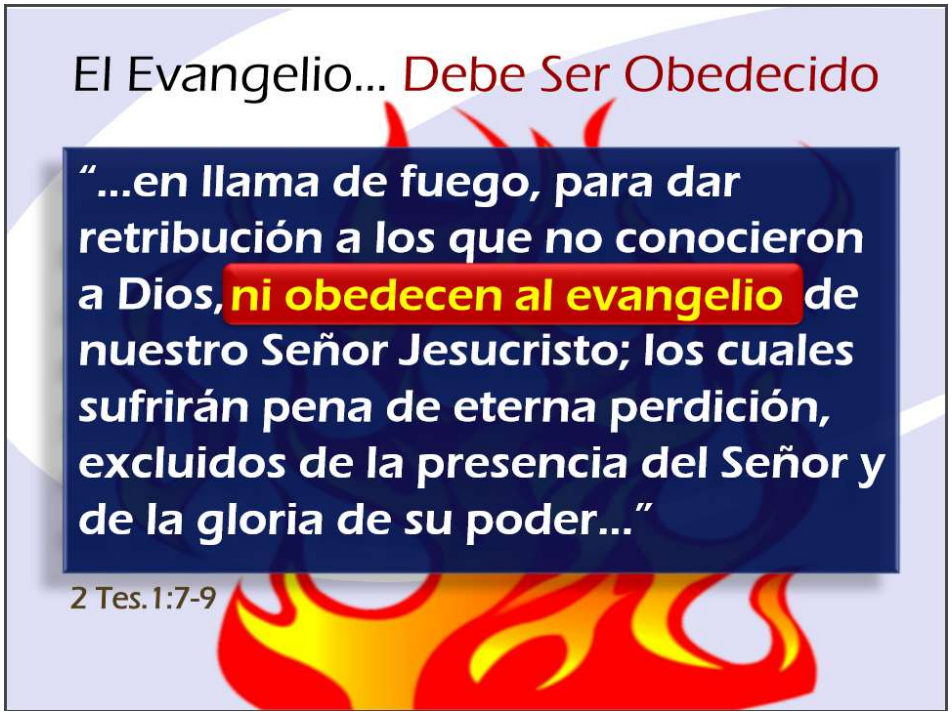

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Una Advertencia Seria... A Cristianos

"Estoy maravillado de que tan pronto os hayáis alejado del que os llamó por la gracia de Cristo, para seguir **un evangelio diferente.** No que haya otro, sino que hay algunos que os perturban y quieren **pervertir el evangelio de Cristo.**

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Gálatas 1:6-12 (también Hechos 20:28)

- It is amazing these Christians began to *change* the gospel message. Tragic. This passage makes it plain, there **is only <u>one</u> gospel and we have to get it right.**

- ONE gospel produces ONE Christian religion. Confusion is caused by the fact that not everyone is teaching the same (the one) gospel.

- Why important? Our salvation is **completely dependent upon our ability to know and respond to the one gospel**. Not even an angel from heaven is allowed to change it or try to improve upon it.

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- You see, although we are no longer under the Old Testament, it is still of great value.

- The OT is supposed to teach us something. Something very important. The **OT was a learning/training/teaching period** to bring the Jews, and us, to Christ, so that "we may be justified by faith."

- The OT was "written for our learning" (I Cor. 10:11) to reveal ***foundational principles*** necessary for us to understand the NT and the gospel.

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(Read this text as the presenter and stop after you get to the red highlighted portion about the fact it was done **before the foundation of the world**).. Then explain....

- In the very beginning *before man was even created*, God (who is a Spirit) *purposed* that He would have spirit beings *made in His image.* We are spirits in a fleshly body.
- **We *are here for this short life to show God that we choose to serve and love Him.*** That is our purpose and that is God's purpose in creating us.

Illust. **Similar to parents today**. *Parents have children so they can share their love with them, and hope they will love them in return. We don't want to make our children love us, we want them to* ***choose to do so.***

- Since God created mankind with a **free will** (the ability to *choose t*o either sin or not sin), doesn't it make sense that he would *make provision* in case man chose to sin? <u>If man cannot sin, then this plan wasn't necessary, Christ's suffering and death wasn't necessary.</u>

- That is why He planned a *scheme of redemption* before man was even created. **He decided in advance He would not abandon us.**

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This is it. **God is holy**. The OT emphasizes this over and over again.

- Some things are clean, some unclean. Some things are holy, some are not.
- God is Holy and clean. **Man is sinful and unclean and needs cleansing!**

It is interesting, that the Bible states that ***"God is Love" (I John 4:8)*** but it never says God is ***Love, Love, Love***. But it does state several times both in the Old and New Testament, that God **is <u>HOLY, HOLY, HOLY</u>**(Isa 6:3 Rev 4:8)

- **All of the interaction that we have with God is determined by this fact.**
- Fortunately, the fact that God is holy also means **<u>God is good</u>**.

Omnipotent power. He does not use it to *abuse or manipulate, but uses it only for our good.* All of His power is governed by His goodness and holiness. Everything He has done as a *beneficent* Father is because He wants what is in our best interest.

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- **God dearly loves His creation**

- He wants to make provision to help man out of the terrible consequences caused by man's rebellion.

Illust. Sometimes people in prayer ask God to overlook their sin! They don't realize they are asking for the impossible.
God's justice will not allow Him to just "overlook "or "sweep man's sins" under the carpet. **No, sin is serious and has to be dealt with!**

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SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP ONLY OCCURS WHEN MAN CAN BE SINLESS.

- When man can exhibit the characteristic of holiness, God has a union and relationship with man that is called *spiritual fellowship*.
- **We are spirit beings that inhabit earthly physical bodies.** (***Not bodies with spirits, so much as spirits with bodies***!) The earthly bodies are *temporary and mortal*. Our spirit bodies will soon leave these bodies and inhabit the true reality that God has prepared for eternity.

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- Once we are cleansed, we can be holy as well.

SANCTIFICATION – to make holy or set apart before God.

- This is usually connected with having our sins cleansed.
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- **God is of such purity and sin is such a revulsion, that He cannot look upon sin (Heb 1:13)!**

- The real problem of sin: **it separates us from God.** (Is 59:2). There is no evil in Him whatsoever!

Illust. It is similar to the reverse attraction of magnets. When man's unholy sinful spirit tries to get in close contact with a holy and pure God, there is a natural separation and push back.

- Holiness and impurity do not belong together.

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SIN = SPIRITUAL DEATH, A CAPITAL CRIME

- That's why when sin (any sin) separates us from God, it is described in the most drastic terms- **Spiritual Death! All sin represents a capital crime**!

Illust. Did you see the classic movie "The Sixth Sense?" It came out in 2000 and starred Bruce Willis and a six year old played by Haley Osment. Haley would frequently exclaim**: "I SEE DEAD PEOPLE!"** (*This is an optional illustration*).

- The truth is that we ***walk among the spiritual dead every day.*** Anyone who is alive but is mature enough to be accountable before God and has sinned is spiritually dead! Like the man played by Bruce Willis, **they don't realize they are dead.**

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- PROBLEM: SIN LEADS TO DEATH
- Sin is the problem of each of us. One sin is all it takes.
- All of us at one time or another has exercised our free will and chosen to sin. That causes us to be separated from God.
- I like to tell people that ***"If the wages of sin is death, we better quit before pay day!"****(Optional phrase.. use only if comfortable)bh*

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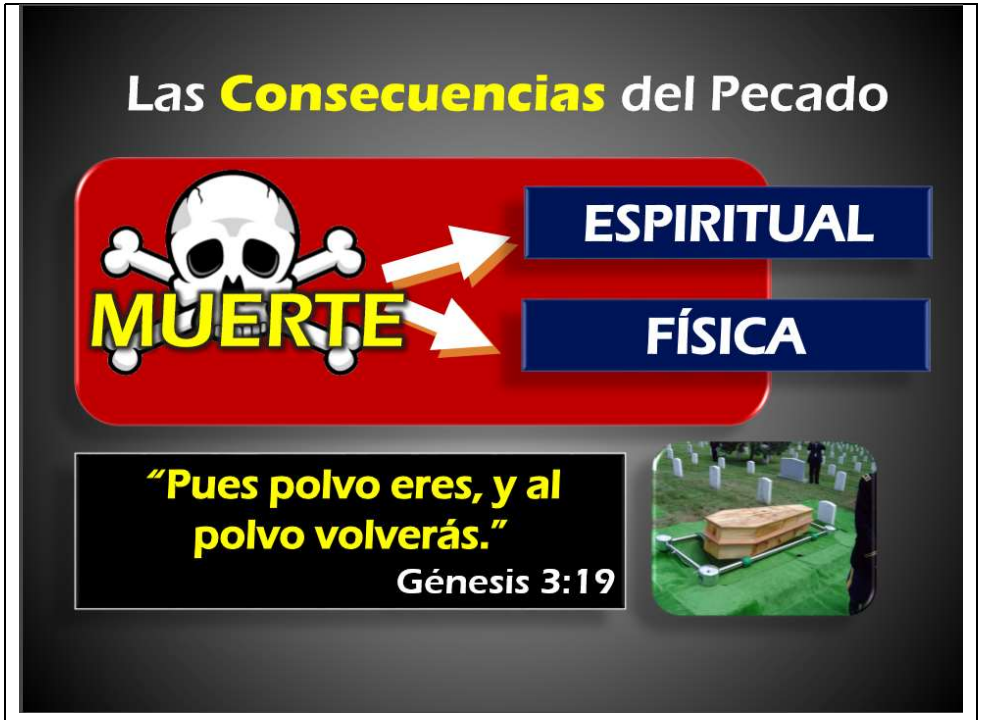

- Not only do we suffer **SPIRITUAL DEATH, but there is PHYSICAL (MORTAL) DEATH** also. **We all die physically, because of the consequences of Adam and Eve's sin**. (Gen 3:19). Our physical containers will eventually *go back to the dust...*

- So, there are both *spiritual* and *physical* consequences to sin.

- Because of God's justice, as the righteous judge, He has placed a **judicial penalty** over our heads and **a price** that must be paid. **The judicial price that God has set is nothing short of the death of the sinner. A death penalty!**

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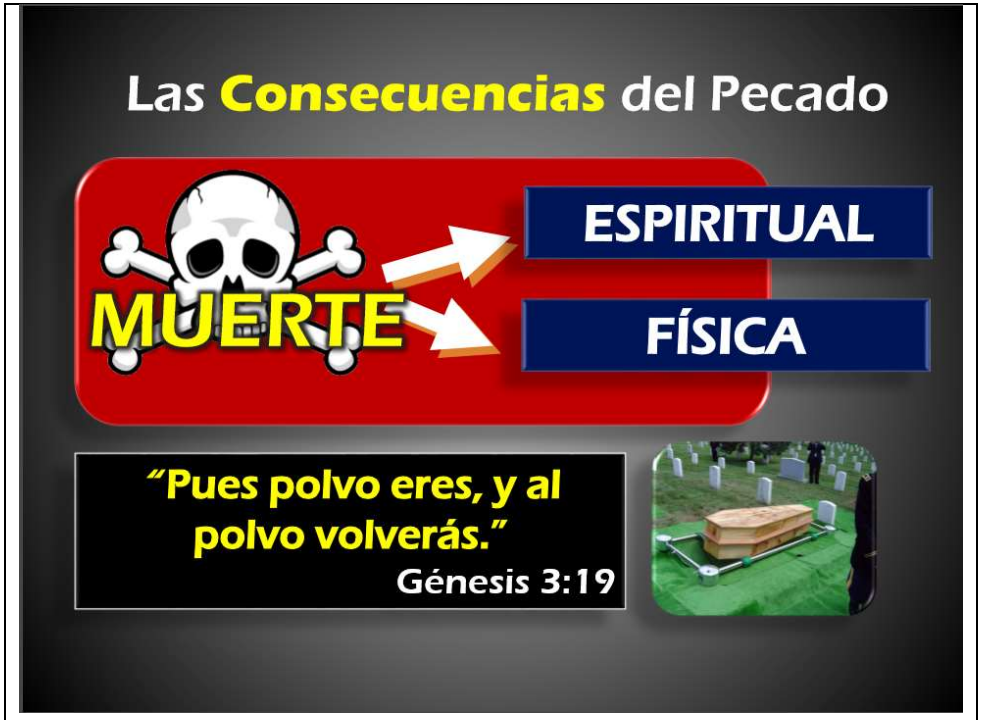

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LIFE! A LIFE MUST BE PAID. This reflects the *seriousness of sin*. And it is on the head of every sinner.

- **LIFE REQUIRED** God says there is only one thing that will pay for sin, and that is the fact that your **life is required.**
- **BLOOD REQUIRED.**
  Being *good* will not take care of this problem.

If *I* sin, who deserves to die, or pay the penalty for *my* sin?
(Pause and wait for an answer) **That's right: I DO.**
If *you* sin, who deserves to pay the penalty? YOU DO.

<Let's summarize what we have learned so far about the two types of death that we face and the Judicial penalty for sin>

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The judicial penalty results in two serious types of death (remember that death by definition means **SEPARATION**).

- Spiritual death is *separation from God* (Rm 6:23).
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- Spiritual death is the **JUDICIAL PENALTY FOR SIN WHICH IS HANGING OVER OUR HEAD AND IS REQUIRED OF EVERY SINNER.**
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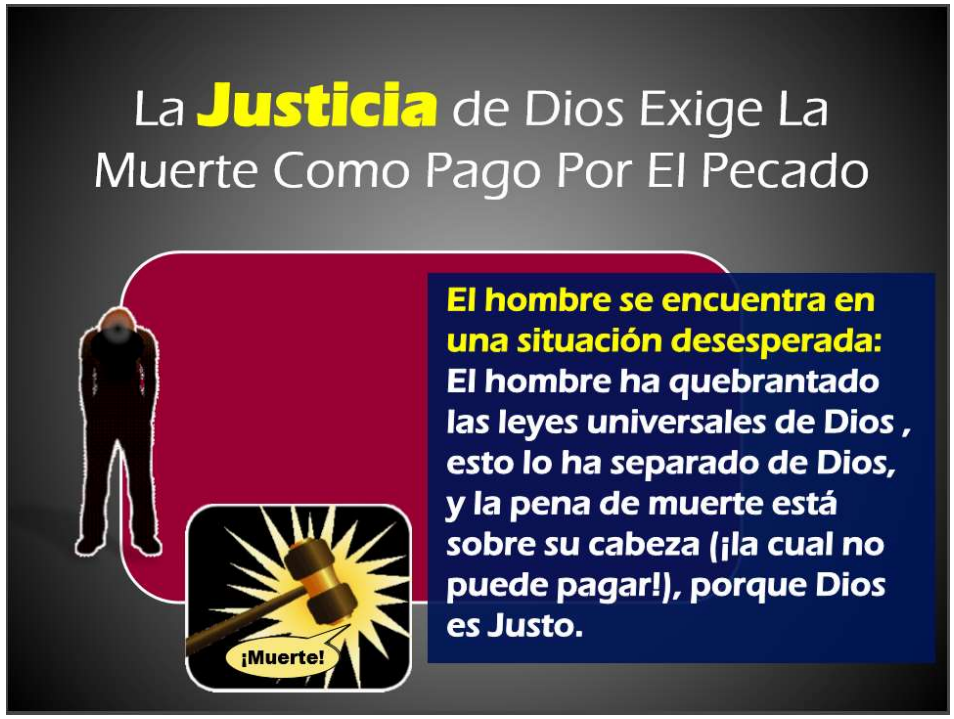


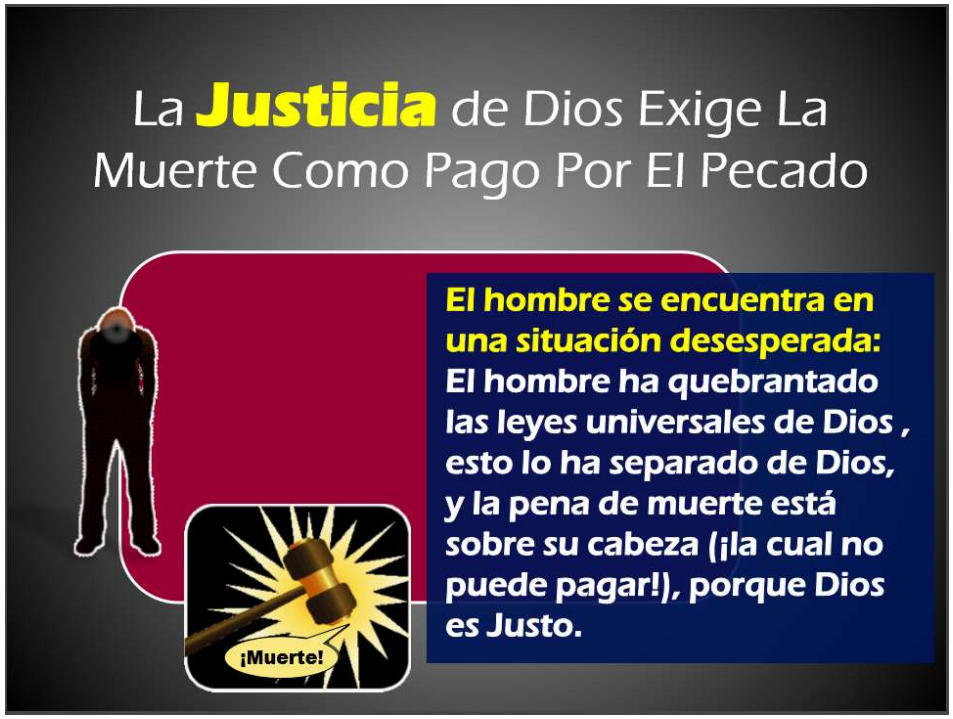
PERSONAL SIN

- The principle so many overlook is that the price for sin is *personal* – it is on *my* head – it is on *your* head – it is on the head of everyone who sins!

- **So man is in a miserable situation. He has a price on his head that he cannot pay.**

What is the remedy? Is there any hope?

<Yes, there is hope. God reveals to us another facet of His character and His Holiness. >



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- **If we only experienced the JUSTICE of God, it would be a short story for all of us. But the other side of His holiness is His LOVE as demonstrated in His grace and mercy. God says, let Me help you find a way to pay this price that separates us!**

- **Through MERCY we are spared DEATH which we deserve for breaking His** laws, through **GRACE** we receive **LIFE**, which we do not deserve!

- **People often confuse grace and mercy and use them interchangeably. This is a mistake.**

Illust. Assume for a minute that you are caught speeding. You knew the law, you violated it, are guilty and deserve the fine. However, assume you are respectful and apologize. If the police officer says***: "Okay: I will let you off with a warning. Just be more careful next time,"*** you are the recipient of **MERCY.** You did **not get *the penalty you deserved***.

But let's assume that he also smiles and says: *"I just got news I have received a large unexpected inheritance. I am a wealthy man! I want to share my blessings with people today. Here's a check for $1,000. Enjoy! God bless!"* Wow! *How would you feel?* Would you want to tell others about it? Congratulations -- you are a recipient of **GRACE**. You received ***a gift you did not deserve!***

- Not only did Jesus enable you to avoid hell (something sinners deserve) but He has prepared the way for heaven (something none of us deserve). Do you see why this is good news?

<So how did God show His mercy in the OT?>

- **If we only experienced the JUSTICE of God, it would be a short story for all of us. But the other side of His holiness is His LOVE as demonstrated in His grace and mercy. God says, let Me help you find a way to pay this price that separates us!**

- **Through MERCY we are spared DEATH which we deserve for breaking His** laws, through **GRACE** we receive **LIFE**, which we do not deserve!

- **People often confuse grace and mercy and use them interchangeably. This is a mistake.**

Illust. Assume for a minute that you are caught speeding. You knew the law, you violated it, are guilty and deserve the fine. However, assume you are respectful and apologize. If the police officer says***: "Okay: I will let you off with a warning. Just be more careful next time,"*** you are the recipient of **MERCY.** You did **not get *the penalty you deserved***.

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- B**lood** in the OT is the mechanism God used to demonstrate His mercy.
- This is what **animal sacrifice was all about**. It was God's way to demonstrate His mercy.
- It is as if God said, *"If you will offer up this animal, I will allow its blood to be shed **instead of yours**, and you can have its death representatively take your place."*

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- Atonement is the mechanism of *reconciliation.*
- The Hebrew root word **Kaphar means "to cover."** Before Noah went into the ark, he was told to "cover" the ark with pitch so that all the *imperfections* would be covered up and the ark would be watertight (Gen 6:14).
- ***Spiritually*, our atonement through a *blood sacrifice* allows all of our *blemishes and imperfections* to be covered over so that when we stand before God we are seen as forgiven and perfect and Holy in His sight!**

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- God says, "On the day that animal sacrifices are made, blood atonement will be made for you!"
- When this happened, faithful worshippers were forgiven and made **HOLY**. As a result they could now be "set apart" or **sanctified.**

- In short, even though man broke God's laws, God's provision for atonement allows us to experience *spiritual reunion* with Him. This is called **"reconciliation."**

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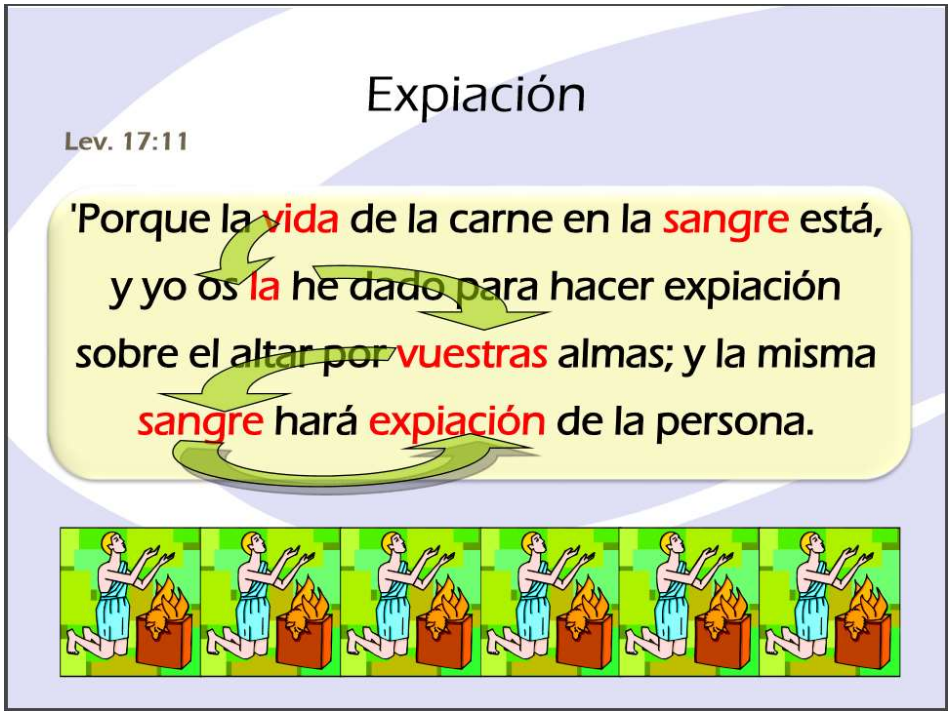

(The presenter should read this slide due to it being partially covered up by the arrows)

- Blood = life. It keeps an animal alive.
- In the OT, when that blood was shed as a sacrifice, it made ***atonement*** (a covering or cleansing) for sin.
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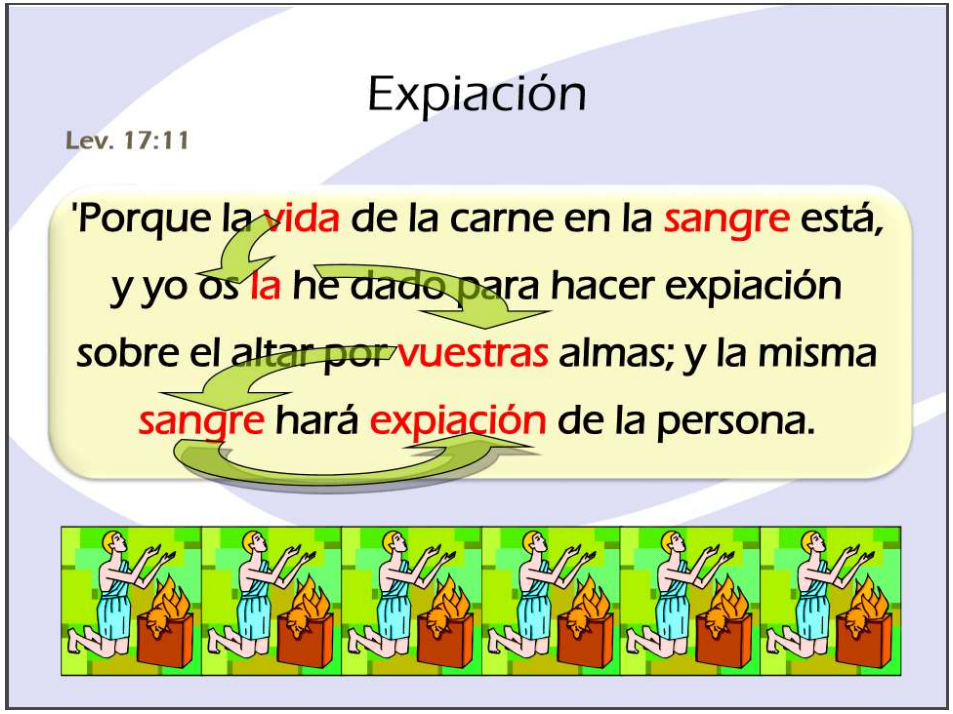

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Here is a "Big Picture" visual of how animal sacrifice worked.
(Start explaining the diagram with the dark image "sinner" as follows):

- Man is **spiritually dead** and separated from God. His sins are *figuratively* taken over and put on the animal (figuratively because the animal has no spirit, it cannot bear sin).
- The animal is killed on the altar. As a result, it is as if the sinner had died… so there is a ***representative death.***
- The sinner is now ***sanctified*** and holy, having received God's mercy. He is allowed to keep living.
- This also shows ***God's justice*** in that a death took place so that the penalty was paid. If the representative death doesn't take place, God's justice demands your death.

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- The biblical concept of **faith** is seen in these animal sacrifices. Faith was essential. ***It would all be meaningless if not done by faith from the heart!***
- However, one couldn't just believe in the animal sacrifice. The animal obviously ***had to be killed*** (Heb 9:22). **Without obedience, no mercy or benefit was received.**
- Similarly, the woman who believes in the doctor's orders and prescribed medicine must take the pills to get well.

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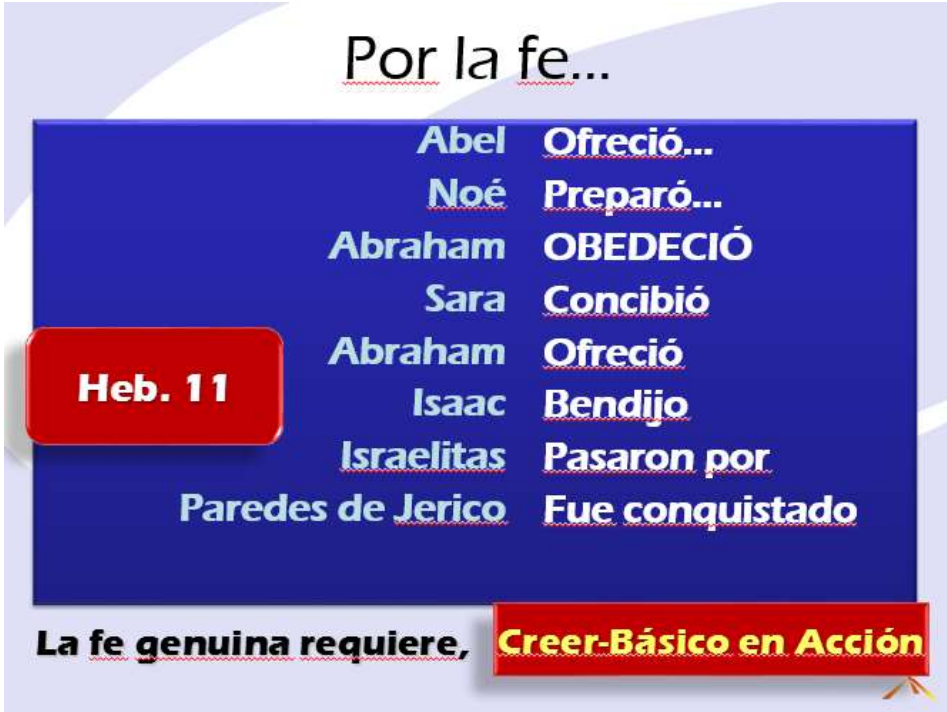

Notice what they all had in common. Heb **11 "Faith Hall of Fame"** list:

- **Abel offered up a more acceptable sacrifice. Noah prepared an ark to the saving of his own house. Abraham obeyed God and left Ur, etc.** What do they all have in common? They all demonstrated their faith by their actions.

- **Requires both belief and action.** Belief alone is no good, action alone is no good**.** It is not so much that we are saved by faith or works as much as it is that we are saved by a ***faith that works*** (it takes action)!

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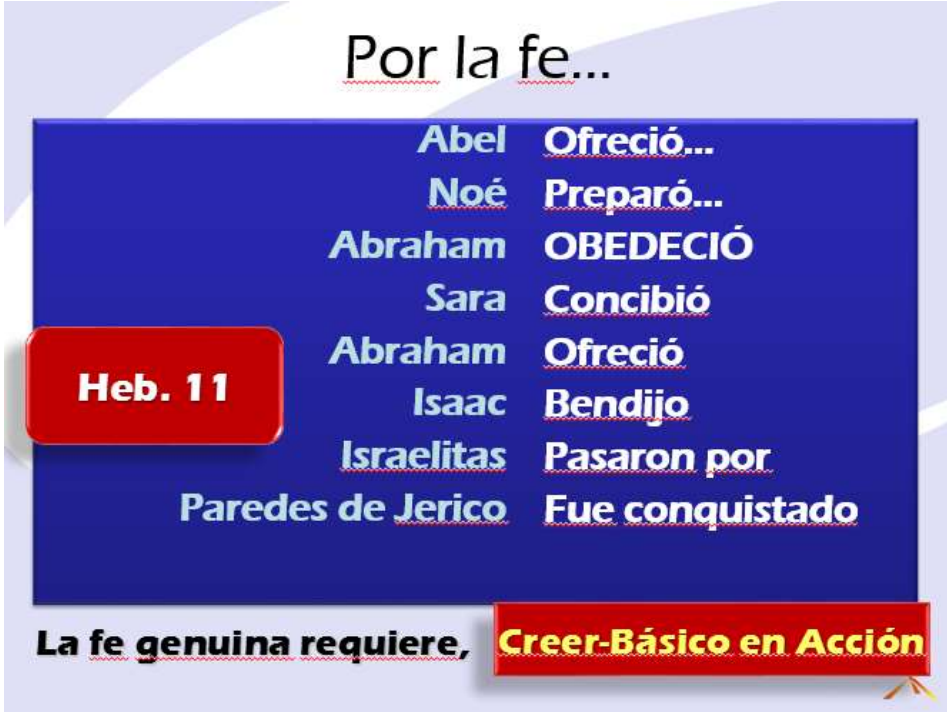

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- Here is this famous definition of faith and we see both components of faith in this verse---- **BELIEF-BASED ACTION!**

- What is it, works alone, or belief alone? It is a combination of the two.

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(v14) ¿Puede ese tipo de fe salvar al hombre?
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- James answers his own question. **Faith without action is dead.** Again, faith is shown *by its actions*….. (Presenter reads…phrases from the slide).
- Vs19 says it all. The *devils themselves are all believers*…..that is why they tremble! They are obviously not saved.
- They are like the person who believed in gravity, but disregarded it and jumped anyway.
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(Read off each point on the chart above...)

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- Thousands of years go by with millions of innocent animals being slain representatively. Why?
- **God was preparing for this moment in time.**

<This is certainly one of the <u>most climactic moments in history</u>. John the Baptist is baptizing and looks up and sees Jesus approaching for the first time and he announces Him to the people.

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- Why did he call Jesus an animal? What was he communicating to the Jewish mind by calling Jesus an animal? Particularly a *lamb*?
    - **God's lamb**. God's sacrifice!

- In calling Jesus "God's sacrifice"….we can learn that Jesus did not die accidently, or because things went bad and He was unable to set up the kingdom at that time. No this was all a part of **God's eternal purpose!** The very **purpose of a sacrifice is to DIE.**

- **<u>Jesus lived a sinless life.</u>** If he had committed even one sin he could not have died for our sins, because He would have had to die for His own sins! This is why the NT emphasis on His *sinlessness* is so important.
- Jesus is the perfect spirit being. Unlike bulls and goats, He could be a fitting substitute or sacrifice that could save man from sin!

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5 Él fue traspasado por nuestras rebeliones,
y molido por nuestras iniquidades;
sobre él recayó el castigo, precio de nuestra paz,
y gracias a sus heridas fuimos sanados.
6 Todos andábamos perdidos, como ovejas;
cada uno seguía su propio camino,
pero el SEÑOR hizo recaer sobre él
la iniquidad de todos nosotros.

8. Después de aprehenderlo y juzgarlo, le dieron muerte;
nadie se preocupó de su descendencia.
Fue arrancado de la tierra de los vivientes,
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Who is this obviously about?

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- This is an incredibly accurate portrayal of what Jesus went through on the cross … Notice…
- Vs 8 ***"to whom the stroke was due."*** To whom was it due? ***Us***, we are the ones who sinned, not Jesus!
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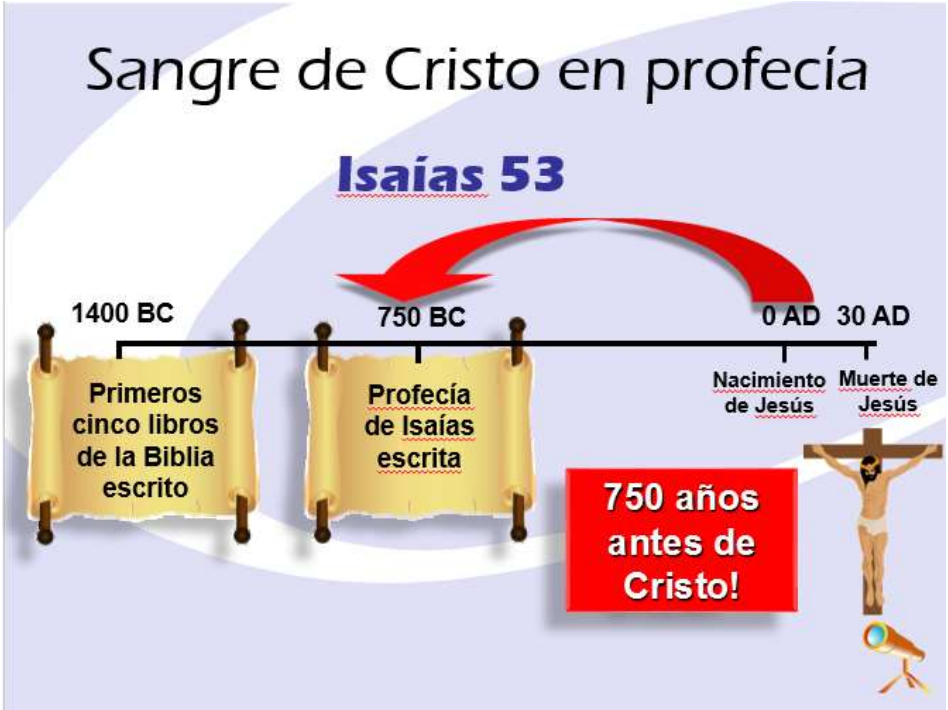

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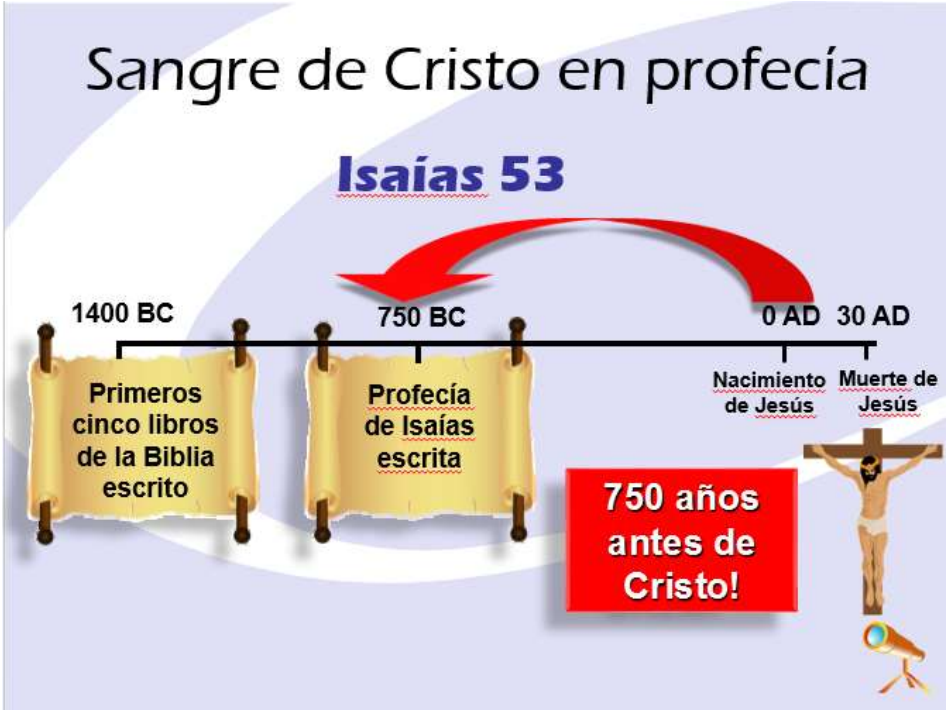

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Notice: We are in the NT era now, so there are no more animals!

- We see Christ on the cross *bore our sins* that we might *die to sin.*
- Christ collectively took all the sins of mankind on the cross, paid the judicial price on our heads for us, so that we could be sanctified.

- Illust. **Imagine all the sins from Adam to the cross, and from the cross to the present, and from the present to the end of time, and all of those sins were borne by Jesus in His body on the cross in one *huge nauseous mass.***

Amazing! It was during this time from 12 Noon – 3:00 P.M. that the world was plunged into darkness. *Jesus went through this time of darkness so that ultimately He could become the light of the world.*

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- Rev 20:6 "Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection, over them the **second death** has no power!"
    - As stated earlier, the **first death** is when our spirits *separate from our bodies*. It will be overcome when *all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth.* (Jn 5:28)
- The real mission of Jesus is not just to save us from physical death, but *spiritual death.* He wanted us not to have to be separated from God eternally! <u>That is the most *serious penalty* for sin that Christ paid for us on Calvary.</u> He experienced the **second death on the cross** when He bore our sins and literally *became sin for us.* (2 Cor 5:21)
- Sin always brings about **separation from God** (Isa 59:1-2), which is why Jesus cried out in Matt 27:46, ***"My God, My God, why hath thou forsaken me?*** Jesus was quoting Ps 22:1. He knew this dreaded moment was coming. ***"The soul that sinneth, it shall die."*** (Ezekiel 18:20)
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How are we saved?

- Through our **faith** in what Christ did and His work on the cross.
- The sacrifice allowed Him to be a **propitiation** (a substitute offering which turned away the wrath of God)
- We receive it through **faith, in His blood.**

<There is more. It gets better. After being in the grave for three days there is the . . .>

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WHO DIED?

- As we take a look at all the elements of the plan of redemption it is obvious that **Jesus died** paying the judicial price for our sins….

- ***Representatively*** – **the sinner died** with Him, through faith, paying our judicial price for sin as well.

- Therefore, we should not be surprised to see this type of language found throughout the NT.

- Rom 6:6 "Our **old** self was crucified ***with Him*** that **our** body of sin might be done away."

- I Peter 2:24 "that ***we*** might die to sin."

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Notice these are things written by Christians referring to a point in time in the past when they died with Christ (past tense)

Read these versus above which show the death of the believer.

- **Gal 2 :20 Paul portrays this as if he were hanging on the cross <u>with</u> Christ.**
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- This is the gospel message: ***Christ died in my place when He died for me.*** These four points become important requirements connected with the death of Christ. (Read them off the red rectangle.)

- After hearing the gospel message (that by dying with Him by faith and accepting God's grace, a person can have their sins forgiven), **what would be the first question you would ask?**

<Hint - One word.>

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<Hint - One word.>

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Now if you ask this to people today you get a lot of different answers. Why?

Different gospels. THE CONFUSION DOESN'T COME FROM GOD. Do you suppose that God would put in place the scheme of redemption and have millions of animals killed over thousands of years just to prepare the way for His son (the Lamb of God), and then have Christ go through the anguish, suffering, and cruel death on the cross – to die in my place – and then leave us in confusion as to when Christ's death became mine? Can you believe it? That God would make this some fuzzy mystery? **The confusion doesn't come from God.** It comes from man.

- We need a Bible answer, not an answer based on human reasoning, tradition, or human emotion. **We want God to answer the question and we want to accept His answer.**

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The error that Paul answers is, **"Is grace a license to sin?" In answering that error he answers our four questions for us.>**

Here is one of our **four questions:**

At what *point do Christians die to sin?*

<He answers that in our next verse for us....>

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WHEN does a Christian die to sin?

- There is a clear answer to the question of the point when a Christian dies to sin: when he/she **is baptized into His death!**

- It makes sense doesn't it? Christ shed His blood in His death, and the power is in the blood. **One contacts the blood of Christ when one is baptized into His death where His blood was shed!**

- That is the point…immersion in water, which symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. It is the point at which one ***dies with Christ and is baptized into His death.***

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- ***When or how*** does this happen? Again, when we were baptized into His death our sins were removed, we are then able to arise into a new life - "*newness of life.*" (Rm 6:4)

- Other places refer to this as a **new birth.** (Jn 3:5) ***"Except one be born again of the water and the spirit you cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven."***

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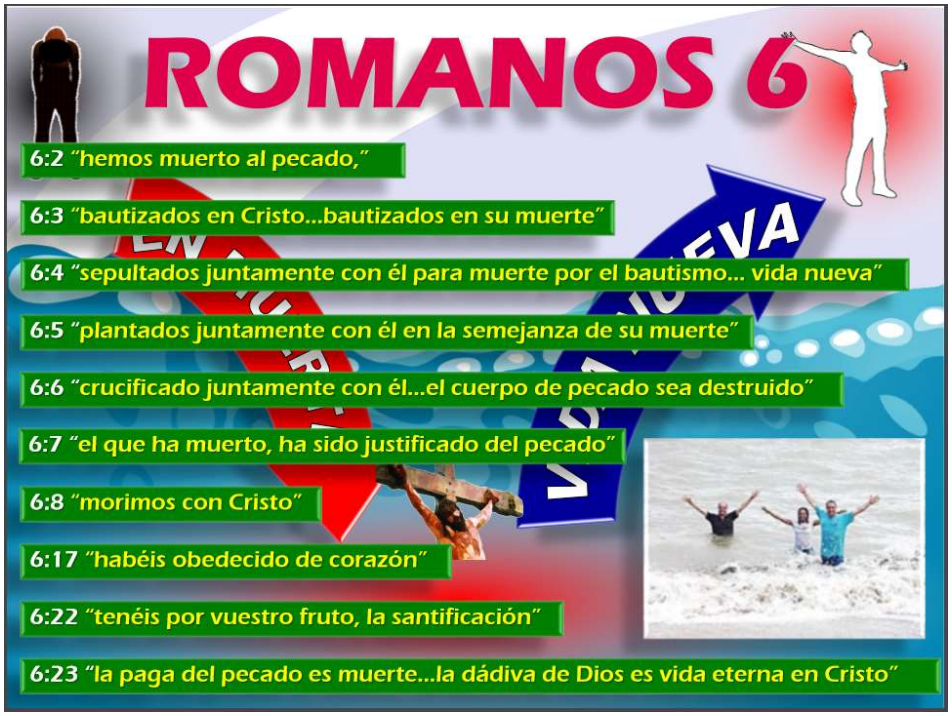
- Here is the answer to question #2: At what point are **we united with Him in His death?**

- Again: when we are baptized into *the likeness of His death*, and also the *likeness of His resurrection*.



- Here is the answer to question #2: At what point are **we united with Him in His death?**

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- Here is the answer to question 3: When are we ***crucified with Christ?***

- ***Again:*** When we are **baptized into Christ….and into His death.**

- What is the result? Read verse 6. **"Our body of sin is done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin!!"**

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- The **Judicial price of death** has been paid by Christ…..

- Notice here the reference is to the sinner, who, when he/she repents and lives by faith, dies to his/her old life, and is **united with Christ's death**--then he is freed from sin and its bondage!

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- The whole purpose of Christ coming to this earth and being the Lamb of God is so that those who come to Him could **die with Him** and have our sins removed.
- *Here is the answer to question #4:*
- ***When or How* do I die with Christ*?* <u>When I am baptized into Christ and into His death…</u>**

The following is optional material if needed:

Notice what the Bible says about the blood of Christ:

- It Cleanses us from all unrighteousness (I John 1:7)
- It Obtains for us forgiveness of sins (Eph 1:7) We are redeemed by His blood (Col 1:14)

Identical or similar things are said about Baptism: Cleanses/washes away sins(Acts 22:16) Obtains forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38) Served as a good conscience/doth now save us (I Peter 3:21)

<u>CONNECTION OR CONTRADICTION?</u> Nothing but the blood of Jesus saves us, but the act of faith as we respond to the gospel is the point when we connect to His blood, because that is where He shed His blood in His death (Jn 19:34)!

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- **Christians must determine to serve God and make the decision to sin as little as possible.**

- In other words, you've just been cleaned up. **Don't go out and get dirty again!**

- **We can do whatever we set our minds to do. It happens at the point of conviction. When one repents and makes a U- turn. It is a change in life!**

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- Vs 17 tells us how this works…. It is not some superstitious act where we could just grab people and put them under the water and they would be saved after we said the "magic words" over them.

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- A PERSON must become *obedient from the heart*--- baptism is an ***act of faith!*** In essence, once one has received the "free gift" – (eg. similar to the check one has been given, if one believes in it, then by faith they will endorse it and take it to the bank.)

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Notice: One here must be obedient to that "form of teaching" to which you were committed.

- Ex. I can't obey a series of facts – like the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ, but I can obey a form of those facts….when I ***participate in the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ*** when I am buried with Christ and arise to walk with Him in newness of life!
- Remember, it is not enough to just believe the Gospel, one must **obey it** (2 Thess 2:1-7)! This is how one applies the blood of Jesus to his or her account in heaven, to cover (atone) for his sins.

Optional material if you think would be helpful:

IMPORTANT ANALOGY: Think of baptism as the "Believer's Wedding Ceremony." The important thing is that you have love and faith in the person who you want to marry. But you are not married and do not become one with that person, until you exchange your vows and go through the marriage ceremony. Similarly, we must love Christ, and be touched by the gospel, and decide to become one with Christ. All of this comes to fruition when by faith we go through the ceremony by which we become one with Christ! Once you become one with Him in the watery grave of baptism, you now live with Him and for Him and take on His name!

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In summary … (Explain this chart).

- This Spiritually dead man is buried into Christ's death…sins are removed in baptism and he/she is united with Christ's death…

- **SANCTIFICATION** occurs---he is made *holy*…. Can be set apart to God's service. Simultaneously, with the sins washed away …

- **JUSTIFICATION** occurs…. The price of sin is no longer on his head.

Finally, the key objective is achieved.

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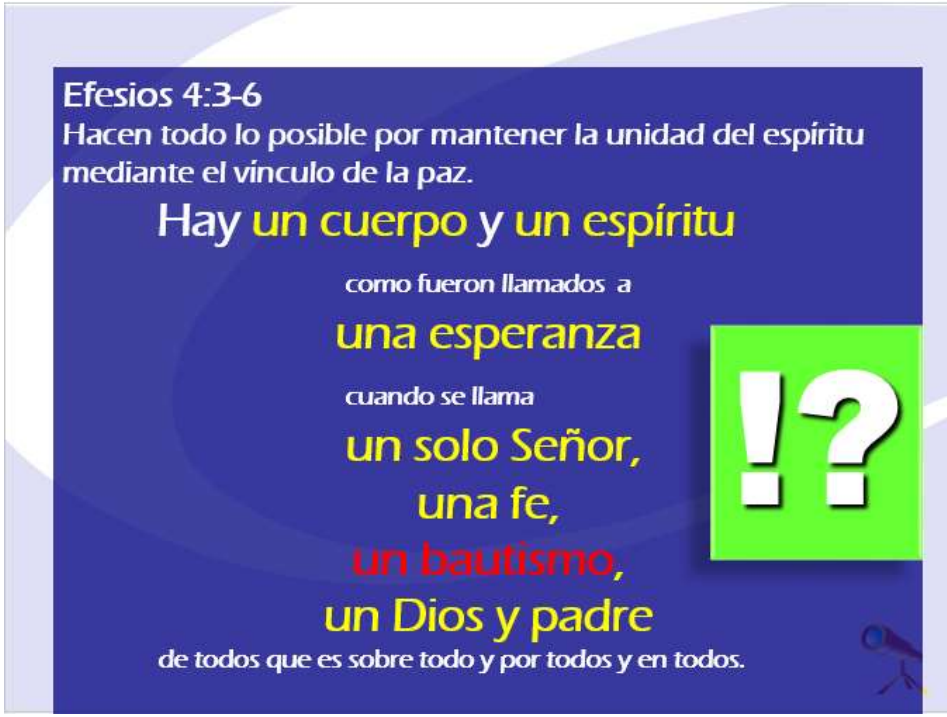

Here we have a very important list. **Seven things upon which Christians must be unified. Why is baptism on this list?** If baptism were just optional, not very important, just something you do as a sort of fuzzy symbol reenacting the DBR of Jesus, why is it on this list? It is up there with *one lord, one faith, one spirit, one father… amazing…..* **Why is this given such a place of importance?**

- If we understand from Rom 6 that baptism is the ONLY PLACE where one is **united with Christ, contact His blood, and become one with him…it becomes clear.** Baptism is where we are put into Christ, and have our sins forgiven…so this is of monumental importance!

- Notice there is only **ONE baptism**, just like there is only one gospel. It is not the gospel, but it is the *response to the gospel,* where each individual taps into its power by faith.

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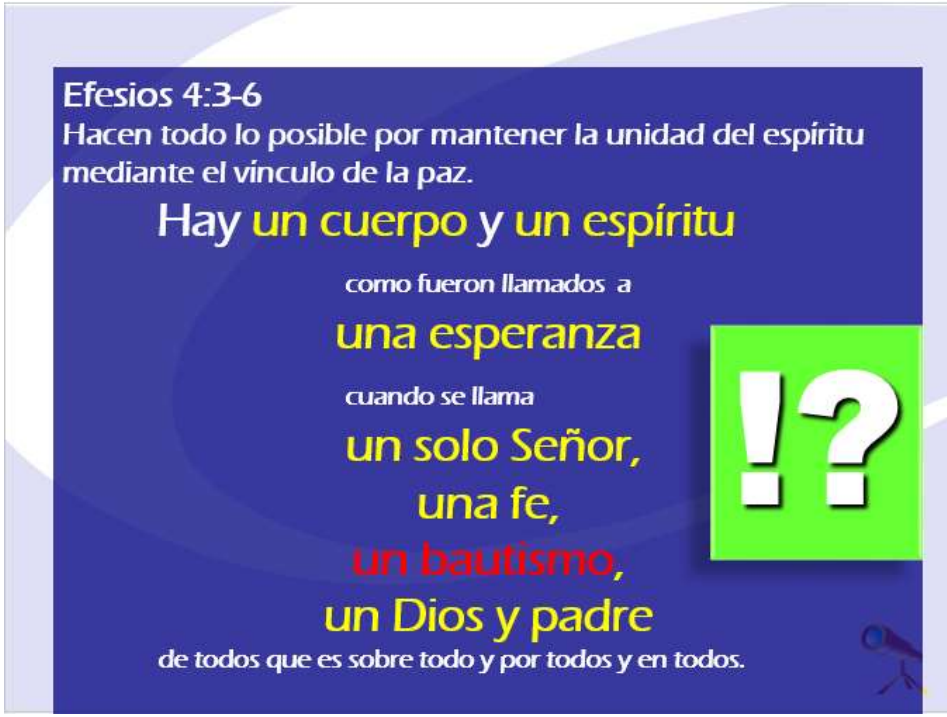

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  Peter could have answered their question in all sorts of ways…. (See above)

- **Why are so many possible answers given today?** Because over the centuries so many **DIFFERENT gospels have emerged. This is so sad, because there is only ONE GOSPEL and we must get this right!**

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This is the clear simple response…

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- In the OT period, through faith in God and animal sacrifices that looked forward to the coming of Christ, sins were forgiven sort of "on credit," awaiting the coming of the Messiah.

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- Let's go back to Jesus' final commands that he gave to His followers before he ascended up into heaven….

- We started off by saying that Jesus commanded that **the gospel be preached**, but if you complete the command you see he also said ***"He who believes and is baptized shall be saved."***

- Christ knew how important this was… it was not just by virtue of keeping this command, per se, but by virtue of ***accepting the gift of salvation by grace, and being united with Him.***

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- **REMEMBER: Every person has in their life, a <u>cross and a throne</u>.** The call of the gospel is for those who have been their own tin god, sitting upon their own throne and turning up their nose at Jesus on the cross, to humbly get off the throne of their lives and enthrone Jesus there instead, so they can then take up His cross and follow Him!

- **<u>Won't you accept the promise and gift of God's son today</u>? And be baptized for the remission of your sins by faith in the blood of Christ?**

- If you believe in Christ and have faith in His blood, and are willing to repent of your sins and confess His name… then you are ready to die with Him and have your sins removed, and enter His kingdom and live a life of faithful loving obedience to Christ as king and have every confidence that you will spend eternity in heaven.

- But, if you reject this gift there will be no hope for you… there is no other basis upon which God will forgive sin…nothing but the blood of Jesus!

Do you want to die with Christ today?

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If the answer is yes, I am ready…. **count the cost…(Lk 14:25-32).** Remind them that baptism is not the end, it is just the beginning. Jesus in the Great Commission made it clear that there is to ***be teaching after baptism in order for one to understand the work and worship in the Kingdom.***

- **One can't have Christ and reject His body, which is the church family!** (Col 1:18) They need to continue to die with Christ and that means to die to sin and live for Him. Otherwise, this new relationship is meaningless.

- Remember: Baptism is the point where one comes to be "wed" to Christ and wear His name. It is the day you make your commitment to Him to serve Him and "be faithful until death" (Rev 2:10). The church family is here to help you. That is God's plan and we must make a commitment to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

- Keep in mind that once you "obey the gospel" you are added to the ***church universal.*** A separate decision needs to be made concerning where you choose to worship -- at which **local church** you choose to place your membership.

Would you like to become a part of the congregation here and worship with us as well, as a part of your commitment?

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Final thoughts for the presenter from Brent Hunter:

The last one third of the **Big Picture** booklet by Ken Craig contains excellent material which further validates and provides Biblical evidence which complements what has been shared in this condensed "flip chart version."

If your truth seeker needs additional information to be convinced of these truths, set up another time to go over the material entitled: **The Four Testimonies.** It deals with the following: **1. What *Jesus taught. 2. W*hat the *apostles taught* (the testimony of the epistles) 3. What the *apostles practiced* (the power of actual historical example), 4. What the *early church taught and practiced.***

It is also recommended that you have extra copies of the Big Picture booklet handy so that you can present one to the person after you have shared the presentation. I suggest you write something in the front and date it as a personal memento of the presentation. Booklets can be ordered from www.deward.com. If you buy a box at a time you can get a good discount price from Dan DeGarmo. A great guy! Give him a call at 740-412-7866 for bulk orders.

For further help and guidance in sharing the Big Picture, please go to the Kirkland church of Christ website at: www.Kirklandchurchof Christ.com and click on the "Big Picture Resources" tab. There you will find a handout on "**Sharing Ken Craig's The Big Picture of the Bible," "Asking for a Decision," "Counting the Cost of Discipleship,"** along with other motivational audio files and practical lessons that you will find helpful and encouraging in motivating individuals and congregations to be more evangelistic.

I believe the problem with evangelism today is not **"*motives* but *motivation*,"** and not **"*want to* but *know-how*."** These resources help to provide the **motivation** and this flip chart with the notes helps to provide the **"know-how."** My hope and prayer is that this will aid in making the sharing of the gospel *duplicable*. That is the key and follows the model laid out for us in 2 Tim 2:2. Also, check out some of the testimonials on the site, it will brighten your day!

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to you in your evangelistic efforts. My email is: cbhunter53@gmail.com. May God bless you in your efforts at sowing the seed and sharing the gospel! Remember***: "He who wins souls is wise"*** (Prov. 11:30). Amen!

Final thoughts for the presenter from Brent Hunter:

The last one third of the **Big Picture** booklet by Ken Craig contains excellent material which further validates and provides Biblical evidence which complements what has been shared in this condensed "flip chart version."

If your truth seeker needs additional information to be convinced of these truths, set up another time to go over the material entitled: **The Four Testimonies.** It deals with the following: **1. What *Jesus taught. 2. W*hat the *apostles taught* (the testimony of the epistles) 3. What the *apostles practiced* (the power of actual historical example), 4. What the *early church taught and practiced.***

It is also recommended that you have extra copies of the Big Picture booklet handy so that you can present one to the person after you have shared the presentation. I suggest you write something in the front and date it as a personal memento of the presentation. Booklets can be ordered from www.deward.com. If you buy a box at a time you can get a good discount price from Dan DeGarmo. A great guy! Give him a call at 740-412-7866 for bulk orders.

For further help and guidance in sharing the Big Picture, please go to the Kirkland church of Christ website at: www.Kirklandchurchof Christ.com and click on the "Big Picture Resources" tab. There you will find a handout on "**Sharing Ken Craig's The Big Picture of the Bible," "Asking for a Decision," "Counting the Cost of Discipleship,"** along with other motivational audio files and practical lessons that you will find helpful and encouraging in motivating individuals and congregations to be more evangelistic.

I believe the problem with evangelism today is not **"*motives* but *motivation*,"** and not **"*want to* but *know-how*."** These resources help to provide the **motivation** and this flip chart with the notes helps to provide the **"know-how."** My hope and prayer is that this will aid in making the sharing of the gospel *duplicable*. That is the key and follows the model laid out for us in 2 Tim 2:2. Also, check out some of the testimonials on the site, it will brighten your day!

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to you in your evangelistic efforts. My email is: cbhunter53@gmail.com. May God bless you in your efforts at sowing the seed and sharing the gospel! Remember***: "He who wins souls is wise"*** (Prov. 11:30). Amen!

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