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**WIN ONE!** Decatur, IL

**INTRODUCTION.**

A. Scripture text: **Romans 6:22-23**.

B. The church cannot merely exist; it must either grow or begin to die. Growth is not easy, sometimes painful, but necessary for all living things. Death can be slow and easy but is not pleasant in any form.

C. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. He died because the lost are truly lost. Without the gospel they will die in their sins (Rom. 6:23).
For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

D. There are many good and valid reasons to preach the gospel, this lesson, focuses on 3 of them.

I. **REASON ONE: EVANGELISM SAVES.**

A. To evangelize is to "preach good things," or "to share good news." A preacher is a herald, and proclaimer (in both public and private) the good news that he has.

B. Some things will not save:

1. **The Law of Moses** (Gal. 2:16; 5:4).
**(Gal 2:16)** nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.
**(Gal 5:4)** You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

2. **Good works under the NT** (Eph. 2:8-9; Lk. 17:10).
**(Lk 17:10)** "So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done *only* that which we ought to have done.'"
**(Eph 2:8-9)** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

3. **Prayer by itself** (1Pet. 3:12; Ac. 10:2,4; 10:48).
**(Ac 10:2,4)** a devout man, and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the *Jewish* people, and prayed to God continually… **4** And fixing his gaze upon him and being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.
**(Ac 10:48)** And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.
**(1Pet 3:12)** "FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE UPON THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL."

4. **Visions and other miracles** (2Th. 2:14; 1Cor. 1:21).
**(1Cor 1:21)** For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.
**(2Th 2:14)** And it was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

5. **Self-abasement of the body** (Col. 2:23).
These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, *but are* of no value against fleshly indulgence.

C. Preaching the gospel saves; the gospel gives instructions on how to wash away sins (Ac. 3:19; 22:19).
**(Ac 3:19)** "Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;
**(Ac 22:19)** "And I said, 'Lord, they themselves understand that in one synagogue after another I used to imprison and beat those who believed in Thee.

D. Peter says that "baptism now saves you" (1Pet. 3:21). The emphasis is to be put on the "now" as it brings one into the proper relationship with God and X.
And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

E. Baptism saves because of the resurrection of JC (Rom. 6:3-4).
Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? **4** Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

## II. REASON TWO: EVANGELISM IS COMMANDED BY CHRIST AND THE APOSTLES.

A. People became Xians on the first Pentecost after the death of X. They were added to the number of the saved. See KJV, the saved are in the church, and the church is the saved (Ac. 2:47).
praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

B. The NT church grows by preaching the gospel to the lost (Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16).
**(Mt 28:18-20)** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
**(Mk 16:15-16)** And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. **16** "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

C. When one reads the book of Acts two things are always present when people become Xians; preaching and baptism (Ac. 2:38; 22:16).
**(Ac 2:38)** And Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
**(Ac 22:16)** 'And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

D. To call Jesus our Lord and Master means heeding the command to preach! (Mt. 7:21).
"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.

## III. REASON THREE: THE BLESSINGS OF ROM. 6:22.

A. Scripture text: Rom. 6:22.
But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

B. Paul says four things happen (directly relate) to the one who becomes a Xian.

1. **One is freed from sin** (Rom. 7:9-11; Ac. 2:38; 22:16).
**(Ac 2:38)** And Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
**(Ac 22:16)** 'And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'
**(Rom 7:9-11)** And I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive, and I died; **10** and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; **11** for sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it killed me.

2. **One becomes enslaved to God** (Rom. 6:17-19).
But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, **18** and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. **19** I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as* slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in *further* lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.
When you're baptized, you're "hooked" for life, a life of service.

3. **One is sanctified** (1Cor. 6:11).
And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.
Set apart for a purpose--slavery to X and His commands.

4. **The prospect of eternal life** (Ti. 1:2).
in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,
A promise of God given long ago.

**CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

A. Preaching the gospel means sharing the good news about Jesus and His power to save. Look at the good news when these two passages are put together.
   1. In baptism one is clothed with X (Gal. 3:27).
      For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
   2. All spiritual blessings are in X (Eph. 1:3).
      Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

B. When we see that evangelism:
   1. Saves people by the blood of X.
   2. Is commanded by X and His apostles.
   3. Results in many wonderful blessings for those who are saved we can say with Ananias, "why do you tarry (wait)?"

C. Let's get busy preaching the gospel so that people can be saved.

D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.