

## **The Gospel:**

### **GOD**

God is our holy Creator and righteous Judge. He created us to glorify Him and enjoy Him forever, but we have all sinned, both in Adam as our representative head, and in our own individual actions (Romans 5:12, 3:23).

### **MAN**

We therefore deserve death – spiritual separation from God in hell (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:3) – and are in fact born spiritually dead, helpless in our sins (Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:6-8; Ephesians 2:1) and in need of God to impart spiritual life to us (Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 3:3).

### **CHRIST**

But God, in His great love, sent His Son Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man (Philippians 2:5-11). Jesus lived a sinless life and died the death that we deserved, and He raised Him up for our justification, proving that He was God's Son (Romans 5:1, 1:4).

### **RESPONSE**

If we would have Christ's perfect righteousness credited to us, and the penalty for our sins accounted to Him, we must repent of our sins and believe in Jesus for salvation (2 Corinthians 5:21; Mark 1:14-15).

### **SUMMARY**

“The good news is that the one and only God, who is holy, made us in His image to know him. But we sinned and cut ourselves off from him. In His great love, God became a man in Jesus, lived a perfect life, and died on the cross, thus fulfilling the law himself and taking on himself the punishment for the sins of all those who would ever turn and trust in Him. He rose again from the dead, showing that God accepted Christ's sacrifice and that God's wrath against us had been exhausted. He now calls us to repent of our sins and trust in Christ, we are born again into a new life, an eternal life with God. Now that's good news.” (From *The Gospel & Personal Evangelism*, Mark Dever)

## Diagnosing Your Evangelistic Condition

(Taken from *Speaking of Jesus* by J. Mack Stiles; written 1995)

I'm convinced that the gift of evangelism is not needed in order for a person to be a faithful witness of Christ. These three areas (availability to non-Christians, prepared and equipped minds, and right motivation) are the critical mix for evangelism and the foundational framework for my understanding for evangelism. Our job description for real-life evangelism is to be equipped, available, and motivated.

Each of these three categories in evangelism is important. Without one of the three, evangelistic efforts can be as unstable as a three-legged stool missing a leg. I've put three categories together as an evangelism diagnostic tool. Here's how to use it.

*Step One:* Ask yourself about your strengths and weaknesses in the following areas when it comes to sharing your faith. Circle + as strong and – as weak:

- **Motivated** (I have a heartfelt desire to share the good news of Christ): + or –
- **Available** (I have social contact with non-Christians): + or –
- **Equipped** (I can effectively explain the message): + or –

*Step Two:* Take your three answers and find your “diagnosis” on the below chart. The chart gives these three categories some shape. Negatives in one or more areas cripple our efforts to share our faith. The chart demonstrates how our strengths and weaknesses influence each other. There is some overlap in each category. For example, motivation might change depending on how well I'm equipped for sharing my faith in a certain situation.

Wouldn't it be nice if a + or a – would really define our strengths and weaknesses? It is more accurate to say that each category represents a continuum rather than something we have or don't have. Motivation, for example, goes up and down depending on whom I'm talking to. People are far more complicated than a chart. This is just a working picture.

Motivated	Available	Equipped	Evangelism Diagnosis
-	-	-	<i>Sequestered</i>
-	+	-	<i>Apathetic</i>
-	-	+	<i>Academic</i>
+	-	-	<i>Frustrated</i>
-	+	+	<i>Daunted</i>
+	-	+	<i>Isolated</i>
+	+	-	<i>Reckless</i>
+	+	+	<i>Engaged</i>

*Step Three:* Now match your diagnosis to the chart on the next page to get a sketch of a basic prognosis and treatment for your growth in evangelism. I've divided each section into six parts:

1. Diagnosis: From above chart
2. View of evangelism: A person's outlook on sharing the faith
3. Symptoms: What the diagnosis means for most
4. Type: A description of who this person may be
5. Prognosis: How this person's evangelistic efforts or Christian life may look like if left untreated
6. Treatment: A prescription for change and growth

As I look around, there seem to be a lot of people who are in desperate need to hear the Christian message. They're going over the dam, as it were. So get ready for a rescue. Make sure you don't confuse your job description with the Holy Spirit's. Figure out the things that need to happen to you to become an engager of the world around you. Make yourself available, equipped and motivated.

Diagnosis: Motivated (+ or -); Available (+ or -); Equipped (+ or -)

<p><b>Diagnosis:</b> <i>Sequestered</i> (- - -)</p> <p><b>View of evangelism:</b> Not interested</p> <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Faith is adopted rather than personal</p> <p><b>Type:</b> Cultural Christian – completely isolated from the secular world</p> <p><b>Prognosis:</b> Marginalized Christian life</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> Make a commitment of faith apart from the Christian subculture</p>	<p><b>Diagnosis:</b> <i>Apathetic</i> (- + -)</p> <p><b>View of evangelism:</b> “My religion is a personal thing.”</p> <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Sleeping giant of the church world; no functional difference from non-Christians in the workaday world</p> <p><b>Type:</b> Churchgoer who does not see evangelism as important</p> <p><b>Prognosis:</b> Assimilation by the secular world</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> Embrace your faith and come to know Christ’s love for others; look at what the Bible says about sharing with others</p>
<p><b>Diagnosis:</b> <i>Frustrated</i> (+ - -)</p> <p><b>View of evangelism:</b> Confused by what to say and who to say it to</p> <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Has a heart to share Christ</p> <p><b>Type:</b> Many church members</p> <p><b>Prognosis:</b> Deliberating guilt</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> Look for a mature Christian role model, learn a biblical approach to evangelism and build bridges to the secular world.</p>	<p><b>Diagnosis:</b> <i>Academic</i> (- - +)</p> <p><b>View of evangelism:</b> Sees evangelism as an intellectual exercise</p> <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Knows the gospel and sociological trends; doesn’t know a non-Christian</p> <p><b>Type:</b> Cloistered Christians</p> <p><b>Prognosis:</b> Treating non-Christians as a problem or project</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> Pray for love; take concrete actions to build bridges to the secular world</p>
<p><b>Diagnosis:</b> <i>Daunted</i> (- + +)</p> <p><b>View of evangelism:</b> Frightening or tiresome</p> <p><b>Symptoms:</b> In a strong position: knows the secular world and basics of the gospel; lack of motivation hinders efforts</p> <p><b>Type:</b> The fearful or burned-out; many fulltime Christian workers</p> <p><b>Prognosis:</b> May share out of guilt or obligation</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> Dare to share</p>	<p><b>Diagnosis:</b> <i>Reckless</i> (+ + -)</p> <p><b>View of evangelism:</b> Exciting job to be done</p> <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Motivation and contact with the secular world give real potential; may support manipulative evangelistic schemes</p> <p><b>Type:</b> Excited new Christians</p> <p><b>Prognosis:</b> Sharing false things about the Christian life</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> Become equipped by developing a biblical approach to the secular world.</p>
<p><b>Diagnosis:</b> <i>Isolated</i> (+ - +)</p> <p><b>View of evangelism:</b> Wants to share, but has five church potlucks this week</p> <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Could engage the world, but doesn’t know non-Christians on a social basis</p> <p><b>Type:</b> Busy church workers</p> <p><b>Prognosis:</b> Missing the action</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> Gain an audience; become available. Take steps to make friends with a non-Christian</p>	<p><b>Diagnosis:</b> <i>Engaged</i> (+ + +)</p> <p><b>View of evangelism:</b> Giving away the faith</p> <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Shares the gospel effectively, using a biblical approach; available to people who do not know Christ; motivated by love</p> <p><b>Type:</b> All types</p> <p><b>Prognosis:</b> Good (but watch out for pride)</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> Keep following Christ</p>

## **Steep you Seed**

Here is link to full sermon to the Spurgeon message with the parable of the sower who steeped his seed. : <http://www.biblebb.com/files/spurgeon/0288.htm>

### **Below is actual excerpt that was referred to:**

"I will give but one other reason, lest I should weary you, and that certainly is not my desire, but to quicken you rather than to weary you. Beloved, there is one reason why we should pray, those of us who are engaged in the Lord's work in any way, because it is prayer that will ensure success. Two laborers in God's harvest met each other once upon a time, and they sat down to compare notes. One was a man of sorrowful spirit, and the other joyous, for God had given him the desire of his heart. The sad brother said, "Friend, I cannot understand how it is that everything you do is sure to prosper: You scatter seed with both your hands very diligently, and it springs up, and so rapidly too, that the reaper treads upon the heels of the sower, and the sower himself again upon the heels of the next reaper. I have sown," said he, "as you have done, and I think I can say I have been just as diligent; I think too the soil has been the same, for we have labored side by side in the same town. I hope the seed has been of the same quality, for I have found mine where you get yours—the common granary. But alas, my seed, friend, mine never springs up. I sow it. It is as if I sowed upon the waves, I never see a harvest. Here and there a sickly blade of wheat I have discovered with great and diligent search, but I can see but little reward for all my labors." They talked long together, for the brother who was successful was one of a tender heart, and therefore he sought to comfort this mourning brother. They compared notes, they looked through all the rules of husbandry, and they could not solve the mystery, why one was successful and the other labored in vain. At last one said to the other, "I must retire." "Wherefore?" said the other, "Why this is the time" said he "when I must go and steep my seed." "Steep your seed?" said the other. "Yes, my brother, I always steep my seed before I sow it. I steep it till it begins to swell, and germinate, and I can almost see a green blade springing from it, and then you know it speedily grows after it is sown." "Ah," said the other, "but I understand not what you mean. How do you steep your seed, and in what mysterious mixture?" "Brother," said he, "it is a composition made of one part of the tears of agony for the souls of men, and the other part of the tears of a holy agony which wrestles with God in prayer:—this mixture if you drop your seed in it, hath a transcendent efficacy to make every grain full of life, so that it is not lost." The other rose and went on his way, and forgot not what he had learned, but he began to steep his seed too; he spent less time in his study, more time in his closet; he was less abroad, more at home, less

with man, and more with God. And he went abroad and scattered his seed, and he too, saw a harvest, and the Lord was glorified in them twain. Brethren, I do feel with regard to myself, and therefore, when I speak of others I speak not uncharitably, that the reason of the nonsuccess of the ministry in these years, (for compared with the days of Pentecost, I cannot call our success a success) lies in our want of prayer. If I were addressing students in the college, I think I should venture to say to them, set prayer first in your labors; let your subject be well prepared; think well of your discourse, but best of all, pray it over, study on your knees. And now in speaking to this assembly, containing Sabbath-school teachers, and others who in their way are laboring for Christ, let me beseech you whatever you do, go not about your work, except you have first entreated that the dew of heaven may drop on the seed you sow. Steep your seed and it shall spring up. We are demanding in our days more laborers—it is a right prayer; we are seeking that the seed should be of the best sort, it is a right demand, but let us not forget another which is even more necessary than this, let us ask, let us plead with God, that the seed be steeped, that men may preach agonizing for souls. I like to preach with a burden on my heart—the burden of other men's sins, the burden of other men's hard-heartedness, the burden of their unbelief, the burden of their desperate estate, which must ere long end in perdition. There is no preaching, I am persuaded, like that: for then we preach as though—

"We ne'er might preach again,  
As dying men to dying men."

And, oh, may each of you labor after the latter fashion in your own sphere, ever taking care to commit your work to God."

# SUFFICIENCY IN CHRIST

Colossians 4:2-6

Share Christ

# Today, Oct. 8, 2011

Diagnosing Our Evangelistic Condition

Brief Review

Read Colossians 4:2-6

Big Idea

Pray Properly, Walk Properly, Talk Properly

Application

“Wrapping it Up”

# HANDOUT – *SPEAKING OF JESUS*

**MOTIVATED**

**AVAILABLE**

**EQUIPPED**

Diagnosing  
Our  
Evangelistic  
Condition

# SOME BACKGROUND/CONTEXT



Place

People

Problem

## PROBLEM: HERESY/FALSE DOCTRINE

- Jesus is not God
- Jesus was not a man
- Jesus is not enough for salvation
- “Higher knowledge” required
- Legalism
- Mysticism
- Asceticism
- Worship of angels
- Disunity

PAUL'S REPLY

**CHRIST  
IS  
ALL**

PAUL'S REPLY

CHRIST  
IN  
YOU

Our Position  
Impacts  
Our Practice

Tuesday, October 18, 11

## COLOSSIANS 4:2-6 ESV

*2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.*

## COLOSSIANS 4:2-6 ESV

*5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.*

*6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*

# Colossians 4:2-6

“Big” Idea

Colossians 4:2-6

**SHARE JESUS CHRIST**

“Big” Idea

Colossians 4:2-6

**SHARE JESUS CHRIST**

*HOW?*

“Big” Idea

Colossians 4:2-6

**SHARE JESUS CHRIST**

*HOW?*

Pray Properly

“Big” Idea

Colossians 4:2-6

**SHARE JESUS CHRIST**

*HOW?*

Pray Properly

Walk Properly

“Big” Idea

Colossians 4:2-6

**SHARE JESUS CHRIST**

*HOW?*

Pray Properly

Walk Properly

Talk Properly

“Big” Idea

## COLOSSIANS 4:2-4 ESV

*2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.*

Pray Properly

## COLOSSIANS 4:5-6 ESV

*5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.*

*6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*

Walk Properly  
Talk Properly

# PAUL ON *SPEAKING OF JESUS*

**MOTIVATED**

**AVAILABLE**

**EQUIPPED**

Diagnosing  
Paul's  
Evangelistic  
Condition

# APPLICATION: PRAY PROPERLY

Pray Properly  
Walk Properly  
Talk Properly

# APPLICATION: PRAY PROPERLY

**Pray for Opportunities  
(specifically and generally)**

Pray Properly  
Walk Properly  
Talk Properly

# APPLICATION: PRAY PROPERLY

Pray for Opportunities  
(specifically and generally)

Pray for “us” (Matthew 9:35-38)

Pray Properly  
Walk Properly  
Talk Properly

# APPLICATION: PRAY PROPERLY

Pray for Opportunities  
(specifically and generally)

Pray for “us” (Matthew 9:35-38)

“Steep Your Seed”

Pray Properly  
Walk Properly  
Talk Properly

# APPLICATION: WALK PROPERLY

Pray Properly  
Walk Properly  
Talk Properly

# APPLICATION: WALK PROPERLY

How is your walk?

Pray Properly  
Walk Properly  
Talk Properly

# APPLICATION: WALK PROPERLY

How is your walk?

How involved with “outsiders”?

Pray Properly  
Walk Properly  
Talk Properly

# APPLICATION: WALK PROPERLY

How is your walk?

How involved with “outsiders”?

How could better use your time to be “fishers of men”?

Pray Properly  
Walk Properly  
Talk Properly

# APPLICATION: TALK PROPERLY

Pray Properly  
Walk Properly  
Talk Properly

# APPLICATION: TALK PROPERLY

How is your talk?

Pray Properly  
Walk Properly  
Talk Properly

# APPLICATION: TALK PROPERLY

How is your talk?

How equipped are you to “answer”?

Pray Properly  
Walk Properly  
Talk Properly

# “WRAPPING IT UP”

Tuesday, October 18, 11

“WRAPPING IT UP”

**CHRIST  
IS  
ALL**

Tuesday, October 18, 11

“WRAPPING IT UP”

**CHRIST  
IN  
YOU**

Tuesday, October 18, 11

“WRAPPING IT UP”

**CHRIST**

Tuesday, October 18, 11

“WRAPPING IT UP”

**MANY ARE**

**WITHOUT**

**CHRIST**

Tuesday, October 18, 11

Colossians 4:2-6

**SHARE JESUS CHRIST**

Pray Properly  
Walk Properly  
Talk Properly

“Big” Idea