



**Sharing Christ – Part 1**  
**Various Scriptures**  
**GCSP – 05/23/2009**

In modern warfare, the laser-guided missile systems used today are remarkably accurate in hitting their intended targets. Precision airstrikes from these systems help minimize collateral damage, meaning the lives of innocent civilians can be spared more often than not. The only problem with this or any weapon system is they rely on the accuracy of the intelligence information on the ground. If the information is faulty then the wrong target will be hit with surgical precision.

In August of 2008, NATO forces launched such an attack in Afghanistan on what they thought was a Taliban hideout. The information they received for the location of the hideout was actually false. The missiles found their target and almost 100 innocent victims lost their lives, including many children. The man who provided the information was tried, convicted, and sentenced to death by an Afghan court just three months ago.

There are many other similar tragedies on record and all of the ones I know of were because of faulty information not faulty weapons. Sometimes the faulty information was given on purpose and sometimes the information was probably just not reliable enough to trigger the attack. But in the rush to eliminate high value terrorist targets which rapidly move from location to location, it appears that sometimes decisions have to be made with less than desirable information.

When bad information is acted upon it can have dire consequences. And as tragic as it is to hear about innocent civilians being torn apart by a bomb intended for terrorists, I am afraid that another kind of bad information that is prevalent today has a far greater impact than just the loss of human life.

Turn with me in your Bibles to the Book of **Acts**.

**Acts 16:25-34**

Let's pray.

The urgent question that is asked in our passage is, "**Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**" Satan has perverted the answer to that question and this bad information has spread throughout a great portion of the worldwide church. This faulty information has so permeated the church that it is not out of the realm of possibility that more than half of those who claim to be Christian have actually never experienced genuine saving faith. And if this figure is even close to being accurate that means millions of unsuspecting church-goers will stand before the Lord on Judgment Day and hear Jesus say, "**I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness**" (**Matthew 7:23**).

Faulty information will have an unimaginably devastating affect on millions of lives. In abject horror they will say, "**Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast our demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?**" (**Matthew 7:22**). And just as a quick side note: If prophecy and casting out demons and miracles were not meant for the church after the original Apostles died, or after the

canon of Scripture was complete, why would Jesus use them as examples of common activities in the church when He obviously knew these words would be preserved for the church today? Maybe that's a study for another time, but the point for tonight is that many well-intentioned people will have a false conversion; they will point to a prayer or a life of good deeds or a time they remember walking down a church aisle during an invitation, but genuine salvation was never attained.

How tragic will that day be? How horrifying would it be to live your life thinking you were saved and then find yourself standing before Jesus and being cast into the Lake of Fire? What went wrong? What was missed? What deception has been perpetrated that will cause so many to be in this unimaginable position on Judgment Day?

So the question the prison guard asked must be asked by all of us: "**What must I do to be saved?**" For if you do not accurately know the answer to that question how can you possibly know if you are saved? How can you be sure?

We have all heard phrases like, "Accept Jesus as your personal Savior"; "Ask Jesus into your heart"; "Invite Christ into your life"; and "Make a decision for Christ" but none of these are found in Scripture or are even based on a Biblical salvation. Instead these phrases are a product of a diluted gospel message and not the gospel according to Jesus. I call it the gospel of easy-believism – which is really no gospel at all.

The Apostle Paul says in **Galatians 1:8-9**, "**But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed. As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!**"

So what is this easy-believism, or gospel "light", that is so pervasive today? What is the bad Intel that the church is swallowing hook, line, and sinker?

For the rest of our time tonight we are going to look at the bad Intel and then we are going to look at examples from Scripture, including how Jesus shared the gospel message. We will then be able to compare the "gospel" message that is shared by most Christians today, and preached in most churches today, with the true gospel message Jesus preached and the Apostles preached.

The primary piece of bad Intel is the separation of Jesus as Savior and Jesus as Lord. I have heard many in the churches I have been part of say things like, "I accepted Jesus as my Savior on such and such a date, but I didn't make Him Lord of my life until years later, or just recently."

**1 Corinthians 12:3** says, "**Jesus is Lord.**" Jesus constantly emphasized His lordship all throughout His ministry. No place in all of Scripture can you justify salvation apart from lordship. There is no such thing as being saved apart from Jesus being the Lord of your life. Jesus proclaimed this to His disciples, to His enemies, and to casual inquirers. He never toned down the message of requiring complete and unconditional surrender. You simply cannot divorce lordship from salvation. When Jesus called for us to follow

Him, He wasn't looking for part-time companions who liked to get in on His miracles. He was calling for people to yield completely and unreservedly to His lordship.

So what is true lordship? What is that Jesus means by complete surrender? Let's start by understanding what the word "lord" means.

There are two different Greek words that are translated as lord in the New Testament. Both are used in describing Jesus as well as others who had sovereign authority. The two words speak of someone who has power, ownership, and an unquestionable right to command. It refers to one who has absolute power over his subjects. Both words are translated as "Lord" and both are translated as "Master" in the New Testament.

Jesus took these titles Himself to make sure there was no mistaking who He is. In **John 13:13**, Jesus says, "**You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am.**"

Jude, the half brother of Jesus, says in **verse 4** of his epistle, "**For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.**" Both Greek words are attributed to Jesus as we see in the translation, "**Master and Lord.**"

Both words are very powerful and both words are used extensively in reference to the master-slave relationship. A master has absolute dominion over his slaves; they are duty bound to obey all of their lord's directives, and not merely because they choose to do so but because they have no rightful liberty to do otherwise. Slaves have no rights. Slaves do not choose to obey, they just obey.

Turn with me in your Bibles to the Gospel of **Luke**.

### **Luke 6:46-49**

Jesus rebukes anyone who calls Him Lord but does not obey His commands. It is ludicrous to attribute the qualities of Lord to Jesus but then to not treat Him as such; and any time we disobey Scripture we are not treating Him as Lord. Instead we are aligning ourselves with the Pharisees, of whom Jesus said, "**This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me**" (**Matthew 15:8**).

What did Jesus mean when He said this of the Pharisees? He meant that the Pharisees only gave lip service to their spiritual lives. They claimed to be followers of God but their hearts betrayed them. They were no better off than the vilest of sinners; as a matter of fact the vile sinners have a much greater chance of coming to genuine salvation than those who play the game and look and act like a Christian.

The Pharisees of Jesus day and those who are their offspring today are deceived into believing they are on the right road to heaven. But Jesus also said, "**Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it**" (**Matthew 7:13-14**).

Let's get back to this master-slave relationship so we truly understand lordship.

I spoke about this briefly in a sermon a couple of years ago. The Greek word for slave is the word "*doulos*." There is no other meaning or translation for this word; it simply means slave and only slave. Unfortunately, the overwhelming majority of English Bible translations all the way back before the King James Version was ever printed have perverted the true meaning of this word by translating it as servant of bondservant.

The word slave has some horrible and nasty connotations, which is primarily why the translators have softened its use in the Bible. No doubt, the practices and severe abuses we know about in regards to human slavery add to our discomfort and disdain of the term slave, and rightfully so. Being a servant is much more tame and appealing than being a slave.

The problem is there are at least six Greek words that can and should be translated as servant, but *doulos* is not one of them. So when Jesus asks, "**Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?**" He is truly asking why we call Him Lord and yet refuse to take on the role of slave.

Now I know some of you struggle with this concept. I know some of you only view your relationship with the Lord as child and friend; and this is true if you are a genuine Christian, but it does not cancel out or negate our primary role as slave. So don't close your mind and don't dismiss what the Holy Spirit needs to teach us tonight, because if you miss this you will be highly susceptible to falling for the same easy-believism that is contrary to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Service and slavery are two completely different things. *Doulos* speaks of slavery, pure and simple. The words used for servant or servanthood imply you have total discretion whether or not to serve. The uses of the words for servant, clearly gives the servant the choice, which truly gives the servant the autonomy and the sovereignty. Servants do not have lords or masters by the pure definition of the words. A servant voluntarily gives service to someone while a slave belongs to someone.

**1 Corinthians 6:19b-20a** says, "...**you are not your own for you have been bought with a price...**"

**2 Peter 2:1** speaks of Jesus as the "**Master who bought them.**"

**Revelation 5:9** says that Jesus "...**purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.**"

Turn with me in your Bibles to the Book of **Romans**.

**Romans 14:7-9**

We are not servants of the Lord we are owned by Him. He paid the price with His blood and His life. Jesus horrendously suffered and died on the Cross of Calvary so that He could purchase us from enslavement to sin and the devil, and present us to the Father. But the fact remains that He purchased us and we belong to Him.

Listen to the terminology used in Scripture as it speaks of the genuine children of God: We are chosen, we have been bought, we are owned by the Master, we are subject to the Master's will and control over us, we are totally dependent upon the Master for everything in our lives, and we will ultimately be called to account, evaluated, and either chastened or rewarded by the Master. Now tell me, does that sound like words used to describe a servant or a slave?

The Apostle Paul in **Romans 1:1**, **Philippians 1:1**, and **Titus 1:1** calls himself the *doulos*, or slave of Jesus Christ. James calls himself the *doulos* of Jesus Christ, even though he was His half-brother, in **James 1:1**. In **2 Peter 1:1**, Peter calls himself the *doulos* of Jesus Christ. Jude, another half-brother of Jesus calls himself the *doulos* of Jesus in **verse 1**. And the Apostle John calls himself the *doulos* of Jesus in **Revelation 1:1**. Every true disciple of Christ in the early church fully understood this concept; they all acknowledged that they were indeed slaves of the Master.

Jesus says in **Matthew 25:21**, "**Well done, good and faithful *doulos*; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your Master.**" Again He says in **Matthew 10:24-25**, "**A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a *doulos* above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the *doulos* like his master.**"

The church today has lost this concept or has purposely buried it. Instead we focus on prosperity and material success, we promote through clever marketing and advertising campaigns in our churches that Jesus can fulfill your felt needs and help you achieve personal satisfaction, and we consume books that supposedly teach us how to have "Your Best Life Now." All of this has inevitably led to many "churches" now telling us that you get to define what truth is by yourself. The entire Postmodern and Emergent church theology teaches that even the truth of the Bible is up for debate.

All of these ideas are at odds with the Biblical truth that genuine Christians are slaves who are totally subject to the will of Jesus Christ because He is our absolute Master.

Yes, Jesus later calls His disciples His friends but He also defines His friends as those who do what He says. Again, our relationship as Jesus' friends does not diminish or relinquish our position as His slaves. He is a gentle and loving Master but He is the absolute and sovereign Master nonetheless.

This is not a popular message; and I would venture to guess that it does not sit well with some you listening to this tonight. And when you consider this concept in your witnessing efforts, you have to be wondering if anyone would respond to such a position. So let's quickly look at how Jesus witnessed.

Turn with me in your Bibles to the Gospel of **John**.

### **John 4:7-18**

Wow, how's that for seeker friendly? Call the woman an adulteress to her face in response to her interest in eternal life.

**John 6:35-40; 50-52; 60; 66**

Wow again, how many preachers would purposefully drive thousands of people away? This was a seeker friendly church's dream to have thousands of people seemingly looking for the way of salvation. Yet instead of preaching a candy-coated message of repeating a simple prayer to be saved, Jesus speaks of eating flesh and drinking blood to weed out those who are not truly called and committed to the life of a disciple.

Turn with me again in your Bibles to the Gospel of **Luke**.

**Luke 18:18-23**

Again, talk about a ripe opportunity. How many of you have had people walk up to you on the road and ask what they should do to inherit eternal life? And even if it did ever happen did you do everything in your power to discourage them? Did you send them away without taking them through the Roman's Road or showing them **John 3:16** or taking them through the sinner's prayer?

**Luke 19:1-10**

What's different here? Why did salvation come to Zaccheus and not the thousands who followed Jesus and the ruler who asked how to inherit eternal life? The difference is genuine repentance. Repentance is more than just confession; it is purposefully turning away from your sin and turning to the good works of obedience to God and His Word.

If we would have continued reading the story of the woman at the well, we would have seen her repentance and how she immediately became a witness as she brought the whole town out to see Jesus.

If you remember the first passage we looked at tonight in **Acts 16**, the jailor was repentant and he set about to wash the wounds of those he had beaten.

The gospel message preached today is not the gospel at all because it is a message of confession and not of repentance. It is a message of believe in Jesus and not a message of submission to the lordship of Jesus. It is a message of accepting Jesus as your Savior, your get-out-of-hell-free card, and not a message of becoming a slave to the Master.

Beloved, if all it took was belief then the demons would be saved, because **James 2:19** tells us the demons believe. Believing in God and believing in Jesus is just a beginning point – salvation only comes to those who truly repent and submit to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

The Bible tells us that Christians will be known by their fruit and the Biblical definition of fruit is obedience to the Word of God. If you are basing your salvation on a prayer you prayed yet your life is not really any different than it was before that prayer, then I lovingly say to you your salvation is not genuine. If you walked an aisle when you were younger and repeated a prayer fed to you by someone else, but you are completely indifferent to reading the Bible, doing what it says, and attending church, then I again lovingly say to you your conversion was false.

I am not saying if you ever sin again you are not saved, but I am saying that your life will not be known by the sins you commit. If someone saw you before you were saved

and then saw you again some time after you were saved but cannot see a lick of difference in your life, the Bible is clear that salvation is not present. There will be a difference in your life. Sin will affect your life in a greater way than it used to. Your life will be marked by a hunger for God's Word and a readiness to repent every time you sin. You will have a desire to become holy and you will have a genuine concern for the lost.

Does submission to Jesus as the absolute Lord and Master of your life concern you?  
Does being called a slave repulse you?

Small is the gate and narrow is the way. Don't be deceived by the easy-believism that is not the gospel at all.

Let's pray.