

Wretched Worldview

**Gospel Clarity:
Defining the Good News**

Essay Test Answer Key

Essay Test Answer Key

These answers are not meant to be comprehensive, but to serve as a general guideline.

1. What is the biblical gospel and what is the biblical response to the gospel? Be concise in your answer.

Answer should be similar to: Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, came to earth to die for sinners. He lived the perfect life, fulfilling all the requirements of the Law in word, thought and deed. His death on the cross was a sacrifice to pay the penalty for the sins of the world. He was resurrected three days later, defeating sin and death. God will save all who repent from their sin (turn from it) and put their trust in Jesus Christ alone (they believe He died in their place, for their sin, cancelling their debt of sin against God completely and forever). When they repent and trust in Christ, their sin will be forgiven, God will credit them with Jesus' righteousness, and they will be granted eternal life.

2. What is purpose of using the Law in evangelism?

Answer should be similar to: The purpose of the Law is to help people see themselves as sinners before God and to reveal the seriousness of their sin. It humbles them so they can be receptive to the gospel. Just as a doctor gives a patient their diagnosis before the cure to help them understand and appropriate it, so the Law diagnoses a person's hopeless condition so they will be able to understand and appropriate the gospel by repenting of their sin and trusting in Jesus Christ.

3. List the five wrong responses to the gospel and explain why each is unbiblical.

1) Say "Yes" to Jesus.

This response doesn't include repentance or faith, which is also commanded in Scripture. Biblical faith is not a mere assent to gospel facts, but a wholehearted submission to, an embracing of, and a putting on of Jesus as our Savior.

2) Make Jesus your Lord and Savior.

This response is wrong because we don't make Jesus anything! He IS Lord and Savior. In fact, He is Lord of lords and King of kings. And that is true regardless of people's response or lack of it.

3) Ask Jesus into your heart.

This is wrong because it's not biblical. Jesus does not dwell within us because we ask Him to. He does so once we've repented and put our trust in Him.

4) Make a decision for Jesus.

While repentance does include a change of mind regarding Jesus and our sin, our decision does not save us. God saves us because of what Jesus did in our place. That's it.

5) Accept Jesus.

This is a wrong response because Jesus doesn't need our acceptance, we need His! And He accepts us when we repent of our sins and put our trust in Jesus alone for our salvation.

4. Name the two components of the gospel. Under each one, list and explain at least 3 statements that come from forgetting that part of the gospel.

1) We are very bad sinners who hate God.

Possible statements include:

1) When I was your age...

We're implying that we were less sinful than we really were when we were younger. This could be because time has erased our memory of the truth, and/or because we have an opinion of ourselves that is higher than it should be. Either way, we're forgetting that we were wretched little sinners just like everyone born in Adam.

2) Kids these days...

Similar to statement 7.

3) How many times do I have to tell you?

This implies that sin is easy to conquer, and therefore obedience shouldn't really be a problem. We're forgetting that due to our sinfulness we need to be constantly told and re-told what is right and even then, we will continue to sin!

4) What's the matter with you?

God never asks this of us because He knows what the matter is - we're sinners! Even though Christians have a new nature, they still battle the flesh and its desires.

5) I can't believe you did that.

When we forget the first part of the gospel, our reaction to the sin of others is often anger, exasperation, or worse!

6) How dare you?

This statement reveals not only gospel amnesia, but self-righteousness!

7) I'm disgusted with you.

Similar to statement 2. Reveals gospel amnesia, self-righteousness and contempt for a fellow sinner.

2) Jesus is a very great Savior who saves rebels.

Possible statements include:

1) I feel guilty.

Our feelings do not determine the truth which is that all of our sins past, present and future, have been forgiven. The debt of our sin has been paid. And not only do we not bear the guilt of our sin anymore, but we now bear Christ's righteousness. His perfect life is credited to us!

2) I hate myself.

Hating ourselves is a direct contradiction to God's love for us, which He displayed in sending His Son to die for us.

3) Do you have any idea how much I love you?

Because God has done everything for us, we shouldn't keep a tally of what we've done for others. By comparison, it's pretty miniscule!

4) The least could you do is...

This is a statement that indicates we expect others to meet our needs, something God has already done for us in Christ. When we remember the second part of the gospel, it frees us up to demand nothing from others.

5) Say you're sorry to your sister.

When we force our children, or others, to apologize against their will we're not modeling the gospel. God's kindness leads us to repentance, not His anger or threats of punishment.

6) You don't deserve to...

When we say this we reveal we're forgetting that we ourselves don't deserve the

amazing Savior that God has graciously provided for us.

7) I don't pray/go to church/read my Bible unless I...

If we avoid God and/or those things that help us grow in our relationship to Him because we're feeling guilty or unworthy due to our sin, or if we try to atone for our sins through works righteousness, we reveal that we have gospel amnesia. Because Jesus paid our sin debt and gave us His righteousness, our sins are gone and there is nothing to atone for or feel guilty about.

5. What is dangerous about telling people God has a wonderful plan for their life?

Answer should be similar to: It allows people to assume that what *they* consider wonderful is what God wants for them: material comfort, wealth, good health, happy families, etc. According to the Bible, God does not necessarily give us the life we want, He gives us the life we need in order to be conformed to the image of Christ. This may include suffering (Jesus promised it) and other things that don't look or feel wonderful from an earthly perspective.

6. According to Joel Beeke in his book, *Puritan Evangelism*, what is missing in today's modern evangelism? What is the result?

Answer should be similar to: The preaching of holiness is missing. It's treated as something separate from salvation. Today's gospel message is often reduced to an appeal to self-interest; that is, it mentions forgiveness of sin and assurance of eternal life, but omits the teaching of sanctification as part of salvation. The result is people think they can be saved apart from their lives showing evidence of regeneration – holy living.

7. How can you apply what you learned in this DVD to your evangelism? If you don't regularly share the gospel with people, has this DVD made an impact on your thinking or motivation to do so? Please explain.

Answer should be well thought out and supported with Scripture, if necessary.