

## B2B - Crossing over from death to life

(Romans 5:12-13; Ephesians 2:1-9 and Romans 10:9-11)

04-Feb-2018

### Recap

[PowerPoint 1-B2B]

This is 2<sup>nd</sup> part of our B2B series 9 weeks

[PowerPoint 2-B2B]

## B2B

- A 9 week series to equip us to share our faith in Jesus
- Why?
  - Because Jesus told us to (Matthew 28:16-20)
  - God doesn't want anyone to perish (2 Peter 3:9)
- Before we can share our faith we need:
  - To understand what being a Christian is
  - To know how we can be certain we are Christians
  - Know what's expected of a Christian
  - Know the importance of God's Word, Prayer, Christian Fellowship and Christian witnessing
  - Have some tools to help us share our faith in Jesus
- And we'll memorize some important Bible verses!

[PowerPoint 3-B2B]

## B2B

At the end of the 9-week series...

- You will be equipped to share your faith in Jesus
- In a position to take the next step by attending a **“maker of disciples” workshop** on Sat 28<sup>th</sup> April
- Attend our men’s breakfast on Sat 7<sup>th</sup> April
- Invite a friend or family member to a Movie Night – Lee Strobel’s **“The Case for Christ”**
- In a position to pray for God to provide a “seeking” person – you can share your faith with – one on one - using the green book **“Back to Basics – Discipleship Training guide”**

The B2B series - is not meant so we go door-knocking or evangelizing in the street - though some of us might do that

The main aim is to understand the basics of our faith and give us tools and confidence to share our faith - one on one

Using what we learn in this series and taking someone through this **green book** if you want - or using what we learn in this series and sharing your faith in whatever way is comfortable for you

For some the B2B series might simply give you a reality check of where you are at in your Christian faith - and how you could move forward in the future to share that faith

So last week - the principle we learnt was that in order to see more people become Christians - we have a job to do of passing on what we have learnt about Jesus to reliable people - who will in turn pass the message of Jesus on to others

And so we had our memory verse to learn last week

From 2 Timothy 2:2

[PowerPoint 4a-Memory Verse heading]

[Would anyone like to share the memory verse?]

(pause)

Let's see how they did...

[PowerPoint 4-Memory Verse NIV/GNT]

So the idea is for us to do one-on-one discipleship with someone who is committed, teachable and keen - like Moses disciplined Joshua - and Paul disciplined Timothy

### **Intro - Bad News then Good News**

So - when we do sit down with a Timothy or Joshua

We might start by asking - do you want the good news or the bad news first?

Whenever anyone asks me that - I always like to hear the bad news first...

Then I appreciate the good news more

[PowerPoint 5-Intro - bad news first]

And in the case of sharing our faith - it's best for us to start with the bad news

Why?

Because people won't appreciate the good news about Jesus until they see they a need for Jesus

Let me illustrate what I mean

*2 men board an international flight*

*The first man is given a parachute by the air stewardess and is told if he wears the parachute during the flight - it will improve his overall flight experience - he will enjoy his flight much more knowing he has the parachute on*

*So he puts it on - and during the flight - he starts to feel really uncomfortable and his back starts hurting him and he hasn't got much space squashed in his seat.*

*Then he notices all the passengers around him are laughing at him - so in frustration and embarrassment he takes the parachute off and throws it in the aisle*

*That's what happens when we tell people about Jesus the wrong way - and tell them with Jesus in your life you will be much more comfortable - and full of peace and happiness and joy. Then as soon as people ridicule them about following Jesus or as soon as they have problems in their life - which they surely will - they give up - it's all too hard - and Jesus hasn't made their life comfortable at all. It's not*

*their fault - they've been given the wrong message about Jesus - and they can't see any real need for Him in their life*

*Whereas the second man who boarded the plane is also given a parachute by the air stewardess - but he is told to make sure he wears this parachute - because this airline has the worst safety record on the planet - and there's a 100% chance - they are going to hit turbulence and the plane will crash - so he'll be able to jump out of the plane with his parachute and be saved*

*During the flight - people start laughing at him - but he doesn't care - he's going to be safe when the plane crashes. Not only that the stewardess comes along with a jug of hot coffee and spills it all over the guy - but that just makes him cling to the parachute even tighter. Then the captain announces the plane is going to crash - so you'll need to jump out of the plane with your parachute. The passenger sitting next to the man with the parachute is busy drinking scotch and coke and watching the movie with his headphones plugged in. What does the man with the parachute say to his fellow passenger-?*

*Does he say: "If you put on your parachute - it will improve your flight experience and it's much better than the movie you're watching and the scotch and coke you're drinking?"*

*NO! He says - "mate - didn't you hear what the captain said - we're going to crash - we're going to have to jump - so put your parachute on right now- and get ready to jump - or you're going to die"*

I hope you can see - it's really important to tell people the bad news - properly - so they appreciate the good news

## The Bad News

The bad news is that sin (that's rebellion and disobedience against God's rules) entered the world through one man - Adam in the Garden of Eden-when he disobeyed God's instructions to not eat from the tree in the middle of the garden.

[PowerPoint 6 - Romans 5:12]

And because of Adam's sin - we all inherit sin - we are all born with sin

And because of sin - the punishment of death came to all people - because we all sin

Both physical death - because we all die one day

And spiritual death - because sin separates us from having a proper relationship with God

[PowerPoint 7-Separation]

Now you may come across people who will say - I'm a good person - I help people and I give to charity - I haven't really done much wrong in my life - I've led an honest life

Somehow - we need to show them that they've broken God's rules -

To understand what sin is - we need to measure our behaviour against God's rules

And that's what Paul means in Romans 5:13

[PowerPoint 8-Romans 5:13]

Sin was in the world from the time of Adam sinning in the garden right up until the time God gave Moses the 10 commandments - God's Law

And sin disturbed the relationship with God - but the extent of this disturbance was not fully understood until God gave the His Law - 10 commandments to Moses

Then God spelt out what was required

And sin continues despite God spelling out His requirements

So how will we convince people they are a sinner - and that we all sin?

Let me try this?

Hands up if you've ever told a lie?

Everyone!

That makes us all liars - doesn't it?

Hands up if you've ever stolen anything?

Now remember we've just established we're all liars

Hands up if you've ever been angry with someone?

Jesus says in Matthew 5:21-22 - if we're angry with someone - we will be judged by God in the same way as if we'd murdered someone

And have you ever looked at someone in lust?

Jesus says in Matthew 5:28 - if you look at someone lustfully - you've already committed adultery in your hearts

And what about - saying the Lord's name - when you bump your head or hit your thumb accidentally with a hammer - then you've blasphemed

We're not doing well at keeping God's commandments. Are we?

We're liars, thieves, murderers, adulterers and blasphemers

That's why the Apostle Paul can say in Romans 3:23

[PowerPoint 9a-Rom 3:23]

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

And also in Romans 6:23

[PowerPoint 9b-Rom 6:23a]

For the wages of sin is death...

It doesn't matter what we try to do we can't stop sinning

We all try to be good! But we've just seen we can't fully do it - can we?

Coming to church to tick a box - to say yep I've come to church - won't do it - we've still got all that sin around our neck

Giving our money to the church or to charities or to needy people - so we feel good about ourselves - still doesn't get rid of the sin - does it?

As our second reading from Ephesians 2

Says in v1 -

[PowerPoint 9c-Eph 2:1]

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

So we are spiritually dead

And as the prophet Isaiah says in Isaiah 53:6

[PowerPoint 9d-Isaiah 53:6]

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way;

So - we are like sheep gone astray - going our own way. Sheep usually go their own way when their either they get lost or when they get sick and go off to die.

We are like all like lost sheep - lost from God

And we're like sick sheep - sick with the disease of sin - which will kill us

And there's still more bad news

You may have heard the saying - *there are 2 certain things in life - death and taxes*

The Bible disagrees because in

Hebrews 9:27 it says:

[PowerPoint 9e-Hebrews 9:27]

The 2 certain things in life - are death and then God's judgment on our sin

So it's like we're on the plane - the plane's going to crash - we have no parachute - we're going to die

Only it's worse - we not just going to die - we're going to be judged by God and be found guilty of our sin and rebellion against Him and be separated from God forever - no access to God - no favours from God - God's turned his back on us

That's the bad news

Separated from God

[PowerPoint 10-Separation]

(pause)

We need a bridge don't we?

To get back to God

[PowerPoint 10a-Bridge/Cross]

## **The Good News**

So if we're like sick sheep who have gone astray we need a shepherd

And that's where the Good news comes in

See Ephesians 2:4

Because of God's great love – and because He is rich in mercy

He has brought us back from the dead - so to speak

By sending Jesus - the Good Shepherd - to pay for our sins by His death on the cross

Jesus' death on the cross is the bridge to bring us back from death to life

And puts us back into a right relationship with God

Jesus' death pays for our sin - and replaces it with forgiveness

And Jesus' resurrection - replaces our death (physical and spiritual) with life with God forever - eternal life

Why would God do that?

Because of grace - God's underserved favour

[PowerPoint 11-Grace]

As Ephesians 2:8-9 says

<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.

It is God's grace that saves us

All we have to do is have faith in Jesus - that He's done this for us

We can't save ourselves

We can't work our way back into favour with God - we've already proven we all can't stop sinning

And if we did work our way back - we'd be patting ourselves on the back and boasting - and taking away from what Jesus has done and completed on the cross

No instead - God made Jesus sin

As the Apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:21

[PowerPoint 12a-Good News 2 Cor 5:21]

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

So the Good News is - Jesus takes our sin and swaps it for righteousness - so that we are right with God

Christianity has a unique claim - it says that the only way to Heaven, the only way to be right with God the Father - the only way to eternal life - is through Jesus, the Son.

That's one of our two memory verses this week:

From John 14:6

[PowerPoint 12b-John 14:6]

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

We sang about this earlier - Jesus is the only way to Heaven

## Response

So we've heard the Bad News

And we've heard the Good News

There needs to be a response

1. First - If you haven't already received Jesus into your heart and put your faith in Him as the only way to be saved from sin and death - and receive forgiveness and eternal life.

[PowerPoint 13-Jesus at the door]

[Picture by William Holman Hunt]

Then Jesus is knocking at the door (Rev 3:20) - all you have to do is **open the door** and let him in - and have that personal relationship with Him. If you have already accepted Jesus into your life - you need to share the Bad News and then the Good News with someone. It's not a secret

2. Second - **Share the Good News about Jesus - the Bridge** - which is our 2<sup>nd</sup> memory verse - John 5:24

[PowerPoint 14=John 5:24]

**24** "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

3. Third - we must understand our response needs to be as in our third passage from Romans 10:9-11

[PowerPoint 15a-Romans 10:9-11]

We need to declare with our mouth Jesus is Lord, and **believe in our heart** in His resurrection - and then we will be saved. It's our **faith in Jesus** that makes us justified - pronounced not guilty of our sin - just as if we never sinned. But notice - the response does not stop there. See v10 - it is with our mouth we **profess our faith** and are saved. So - are we using our mouth - or are we remaining silent? V11 says - no one will be put to shame for believing in Jesus - people can laugh at us all they like - like they laughed at

the guy with the parachute on the plane - but he knew he was safe when the plane crashed - and we know we are safe in Jesus arms - no matter what

[PowerPoint 15b-1 John 5:12]

Because the bottom line is - Whoever has the Son [the Bridge] has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:12)

Let's pray

You should have received The Bridge to Life illustration - which is a tool you might want to use to share with people...