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## Evangelism Update 09-02-07

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### Note from Jim:

I apologize for the newsletter going out late this week. We took the family camping with some friends on the coast over Labor Day weekend. I did, however, get the following picture while we were there to share with you.



I couldn't resist offering a tract to the T-rex. It was under the mistaken impression that it lived 70 million years ago.

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**Scripture of the Week:**

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. (Titus 2:11-14, NASB)

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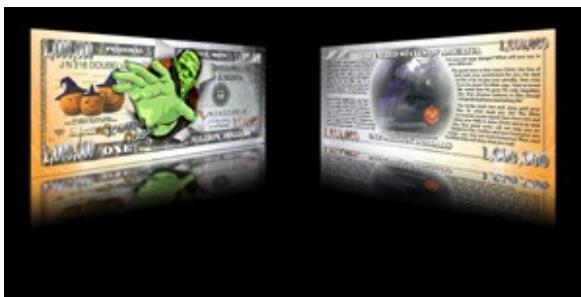
**Quote of the Week:**

"As long as there are millions destitute of the Word of God and knowledge of Jesus Christ, it will be impossible for me to devote time and energy to those who have both." (J. L. Ewen)

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**Recommended Resource:**



"Creepy Cash" is the new Halloween tract available from [CustomTractSource.com](http://CustomTractSource.com). Grab a few packs to give out to the trick-or-treaters that will be coming to your door.

Tract Text: *Are you ready to be scared? It's funny how at Halloween we delight in being frightened. Many*

people think it's fun to be "scared to death"! But death itself is a very scary thought. What do you think will happen after you die? The Bible says, "It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." Take this quick test to see how you'll do on Judgment Day...Ever lied? Ever stolen? Ever used God's name in vain? Ever looked with lust? (God considers lust the same as adultery.) If you're guilty of these, you've broken God's moral Law, the Ten Commandments. God sees you as a liar, a thief, a blasphemer, and an adulterer at heart. The punishment for breaking His Law is death, and eternity in hell.

Can you see your danger? What will you say in your defense? The good news is that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took your punishment for you. He died on the cross to pay your penalty, then rose from the dead. The Bible says, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." You broke God's law and Jesus paid your fine. So what must you do? The Bible commands you to repent (turn from sin) and place your faith in Jesus Christ alone to save you. Your good works will not help you on Judgment Day. Confess and turn from your sins today—you may not have tomorrow! Then read the Bible daily and obey what you read. Please visit [www.TheGoodPersonTest.net](http://www.TheGoodPersonTest.net)

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## Questions & Objections:

This Q&A comes from [The Evidence Bible](#).

**Q.** Could you be wrong in your claims about Judgment Day and the existence of hell?

**A.** The existence of hell and the surety of the judgment are not the claims of fallible man. The Bible is the source of the claim, and it is utterly infallible. When someone becomes a Christian, he is admitting that he was in the wrong, and that God is justified in His declarations that we have sinned against Him.

However, let's surmise for a moment that there is no Judgment Day and no hell. That would mean that the Bible is a huge hoax, in which more than forty authors collaborated (over a period of 3,000 years) to produce a document revealing God's character as "just." They portrayed Him as a just judge, who warned that He would eventually punish murderers, rapists, liars, thieves, adulterers, etc. Each of those writers (who professed to be godly) therefore bore false witness, transgressing the very commandments they claimed to be true.

It would mean that Jesus Christ was a liar, and that all the claims He made about the reality of judgment were there-fore false. It would also mean that He gave His life in vain, as did multitudes of martyrs who have given their lives for the cause of Christ. Add to that the thought that if there is no ultimate justice, it means that the Creator of all things is unjust—that He sees murder and rape and couldn't care less, making Him worse than a corrupt human judge who refuses to bring criminals to justice.

Here's the good news, though, if there is no hell: You won't know a thing after you die. It will be the end. No heaven, no hell. Just nothing. You won't even realize that it's good news.

Here's the bad news if the Bible is right and that there is eternal justice: You will find yourself standing before the judgment throne of a holy God, who has seen every sin you have ever committed. Think of it. A holy and perfect Creator has seen your thought-life and every secret sin you have ever committed. You have a multitude of sins, and God must by nature carry out justice. Ask Him to remind you of the sins of your youth. Ask Him to bring to remembrance your secret sexual sins, the lies, the gossip, and other idle words. You may have forgotten your past sins, but God hasn't. Hell will be your just desert (exactly what you deserve), and you will have no one to blame but yourself. This is the claim of the Bible. If you don't believe it, it is still true. It will still happen.

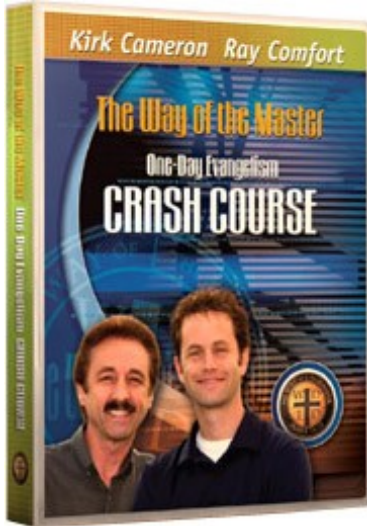
Yet, there is good news -- incredibly good news. We deserve judgment, but God offers us mercy through the cross. He paid our fine so that we could leave the courtroom. He destroyed the power of the grave for all who obey Him. Simply obey the gospel, and live. By doing that you will find out for yourself that the gospel is indeed the "gospel truth." Jesus said that if you obey Him, you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free (see John 8:31,32).

Get on your knees today, confess and forsake your sins. Tell God you are truly sorry, then trust the Savior as

you would trust yourself to a parachute. Then you will find yourself in a terrible dilemma. You will know for certain that hell is a reality. When you get up the courage to warn people you care about, they will smile passively, and say, "Could you be wrong in your claims about Judgment Day and the existence of hell?"

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### One-Day Way of the Master Training:



We would be glad to host a Way of the Master evangelism training for your church or small group. This one-day seminar is a proven, effective way to help people overcome their fear of witnessing and show them how to reach out to the lost. We will quickly equip those who attend to simply and effectively share their faith with family, friends, and strangers. What makes our training unique is when the classroom training is over, you have the option to hit the streets and immediately start to use the new tools you have just learned. The seminar consists of the following activities:

- Three powerful interactive messages that will equip the attendees in how to share the gospel effectively and biblically with anyone, anytime, anywhere.
- Quick Tips on how to have fun sharing your faith while overcoming your fears.
- Quick Tips on how to effectively witness one-2-one using the Way of the Master.
- Hands-on, in-the-trenches training with proven leaders.

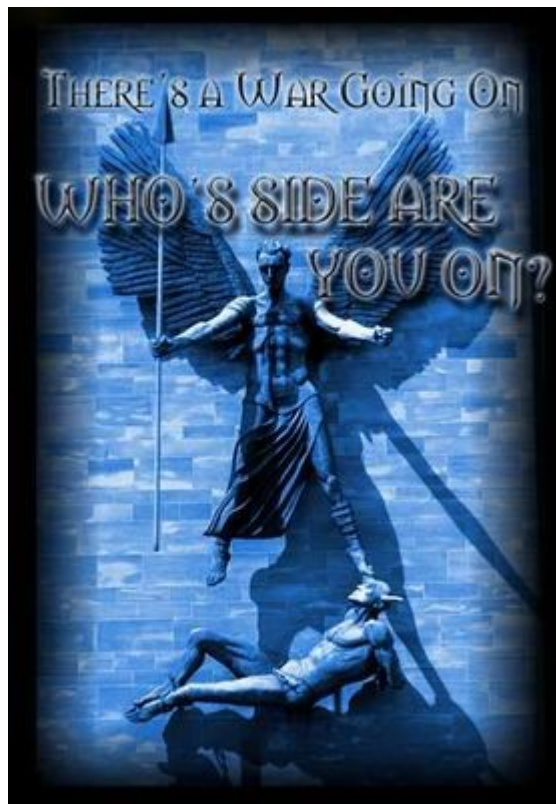
The One-Day Way of the Master Training is **FREE** for the host and to all who attend.

\*\* The Way of the Master has been commended by Franklin Graham, Dr. D. James Kennedy, David Wilkerson, Bill Gothard, John MacArthur, Ravi Zacharias, David Jeremiah, Joni Eareckson Tada, Josh McDowell, and many other Christian leaders.

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### Weekly "Fishing" Report:

*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12, ESV)*



Street Fishing on Saturday was interesting ... to say the least. We prayed and then Dave, Darrin and I headed down 6th Street for Riverside Park. At the park Dave stopped and attempted to strike up a one-2-one, so Darrin and I made a sweep around the playground and gave tracts to the adults there. I tracted a couple sitting at one of the tables and after I'd gone by, the young man (Ashley) called after me "Hey! What is this?" He looked at the back of the tract and then said loudly "Come here and talk to me!" I wasn't going to turn down a potential one-2-one, so I headed over to him. He looked again at the What If? tract asking "What is this?" I told him we were challenging people to think with the questions on the back, but the most important one was 'What if this was your last day on earth? What happens after you die?' He said he wanted to talk about it, but then said we should do it away from the children. That seemed a little odd, but I followed him over onto the lawn by the soccer fields. Dave and Darrin saw it and moved to where they could keep an eye on us, but kept their distance and prayed.

The encounter was unusual from the start. He launched into accusing me and saying that handing him the tract was like assault because it mentions hell. I really never take a tract back once I've given it out. If someone tries to give it back to me -- depending on how they're acting -- I'll either encourage them to give it to someone else or tell them I've given them God's Word and it's up to them to do with it what they will. However, for some reason this time I found myself telling him "if it bothers you, just throw it away." I said for example that I get handed things that may bother me or that I don't agree with like a flyer for homosexual marriage or an ad for a some concert and I'll just throw them away. However, he wouldn't let go of it and just kept holding the tract.

He challenged me with "How dare you claim to know what happens after death!" So I tried to reason with him regarding judgment. God exists (building = builder, creation = creator) and we have a conscience showing we've done wrong against him. Ashley didn't want to hear it. Each time I started making logical sense like this, he'd take a 90-degree turn and head off to another topic. It felt like I was having two different conversations. Sometimes he'd be civil and polite, like when I asked his name and he actually shook my hand, then other times he'd be animated and antagonistic. I want to stress he wasn't drunk or acting like a druggie. His pupils weren't dilated, but were actually quite small. His eyes were red around the edges but it looked like more from lack of sleep than being high. He was pretty much like your run-of-the-mill 20-something college student, but there was something very tense about him.

Then I realized this was a whole different encounter when he leaned toward me and declared "I am the Holy Spirit! I am the Creator! Right now I've very disappointed in what you are doing." Now I've met a few people that

have said they're God or that we each have God or the divine within us. However, I've never heard someone actually say it like he did. I said "No, you're not." He paused and asked "What'd you say?" I answered "No... you are not." He leaned toward me and said "What?!" With a little indignation, I said "No man can look upon the face of God and live, and I'm looking right into yours." Though he'd challenged pretty much everything else I'd brought up, he just let that pass.

The conversation ranged across topics like a fencing match. Each time he sensed I'd gained a firm foothold in my response, he'd swing 90-degrees and head off to another one. Adding to the chaos was the very real sense that I was dealing with more than just the flesh-and-blood man before me. At one point, Ashley said "This is so psychological! You're only talking to people like this because you're afraid of death." Suddenly I felt fear trying to sweep in. It hit me that I had no idea what he may have in his pockets. I caught a brief mental image of him sticking me with a knife, but then the Holy Spirit took hold with an incredible steadfast assurance. Our Lord is faithful and he is on the throne; he would either take care of me there or he'd take care of my family afterwards. I answered "No, I'm not afraid at all. Death has no sting because I know what's waiting for me out there." He waived his arms and shook his head in frustration.

I'm still not sure why (perhaps a prompting from the Spirit), but at least a half dozen times I went against my usual rule and kept telling him to just throw the tract away, but he still wouldn't. As he continued to veer off and shift from topic to topic, we came around to whether or not the Bible is true. I started to build a case for scripture but he didn't want to hear it. He wouldn't get past the fact that it talked about hell. I told him if we could trust it being unlike any other book (66 books by 40 authors over 1,500 years), plus being archaeologically sound, scientifically sound, and prophetically true we come to a point where we can trust it on the reality of hell.

Underneath it all I wasn't as concerned about being right as I was with conveying the concern and compassion that motivated me to share my faith. I tried to reason with him by using the example of a fatal disease and how he wouldn't appreciate the cure unless he first recognized his symptoms and the severity of his condition. I told him "I'm trying to show you how you can be saved" and he came back with a very unusual response ... "and I'm trying to save you." I told him I'd show him a difference between us and asked if he thought he was a good person. He naturally answered yes. I said that's the difference, because I'd say I wasn't. I'm a wretched sinner. Probably a worse one than him. I've lied, stolen, lusted, practiced witchcraft and more. He then actually took a pleading tone, saying "See ... you don't have to look at yourself that way. You don't have to think you're a sinner." I thought back to how he'd said he was trying to save me. It honestly felt like an evangelist for Christ and an evangelist for Satan we're squaring off there at the park.

I said I simply believed what I found in scripture and that's why I'm out there warning people and sharing my faith. I asked him for any proof what-so-ever that there were errors or contradictions in the Bible. He said he couldn't think of any right then, but asked for my email address. I wrote it on the back of a tract and gave it to him. We stopped there and he left with his girlfriend ... now carrying two tracts.

Meanwhile, in the midst of praying over my encounter with Ashley, Dave had noticed a young man (Kits) sitting at a picnic table and watching the two of us. His interest in our exchange provided a springboard into a one-2-one and Dave had a chance to share the gospel with him. Please, pray for Ashley and Kits.

The three of us regrouped and spent some time in needed time in prayer. We then headed 6th Street and passed by the Dutch Bros coffeehouse giving out a number of tracts before heading back to our cars. That's when the second bizarre encounter occurred. I was putting things away in my trunk when I heard someone making a loud woop-woop sound and yelling "Look, a holy man! There's a holy man over here!" ([Click here](#) to hear an example of the sound.)

There was a young man with a bicycle sitting on a bench across the intersection from us. He was making the odd sound and yelling to a group of forty or so street kids gathered in the shade on the other side of the parking lot behind him. "Holy men are here! Come see the holy men!" He was probably in his early twenties, thin, wearing all black. He wasn't a homeless vagrant or someone that appeared otherwise insane. He also didn't act drunk or high. However, something definitely had him stirred up over our presence across the street. He continued calling for the others to "See the holy man!" between his woop-woop sounds. It felt like the encounter Paul and Silas had with the demon-possessed woman in Acts.

*As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are*

*servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." (Acts 16:16-17, ESV)*

Some of the street kids had come over to his corner to check things out and this seemed to prod him on a little more. He said loudly that he'd get the license plate numbers for the holy men and hopped on his bike to ride over to us. I guess he didn't know I could hear his comment about the license plates because he tried to coyly make small talk with Dave about his car being a hatchback while he checked it out. He then scooted up behind me and just stared. I turned and calmly asked if there was anything I could do for him. He quickly took off, hissing under his breath "Stop being so bold and holy on the streets." I tried to let him know there's nothing holy or good about me that doesn't come from Christ, but it was drowned out by the loud woop-woops he was making as he rode away.

We closed in prayer and left it in God's hands. I'm not worried about this guy getting the numbers. We've been parking our cars in that same place while street fishing for two years, the plates are there if they want them. Plus, our Lord is sovereign and there's no threat someone can pose that God doesn't allow (see John 19:11). It's just interesting that we had two such encounters in the one afternoon. Praise God if our witness is being seen as enough trouble to the kingdom of darkness that it's starting to show itself.

Keep us in prayer. May Jesus be glorified in what we do.

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#### **Prayer Points:**

- Pray that God will be glorified in everything you do this week.
  - "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38, NASB)
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#### **Calendar:**

- **Downtown Fishing Hole** (Recurring)  
*Saturdays*  
Street witnessing (3pm to 6pm) downtown along 6th Street. Meet in the Budget Internet parking lot (4th St & F St).

If you would like to join us, [email us](#) your contact info.

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'til the nets are full...

