



## Evangelism Update 09-10-06

This newsletter has been formatted for HTML capable email clients (like Outlook Express, Thunderbird, or Hotmail). If you're using a text-only email client, I suggest reading the Evangelism Update at the Newsletter link on our website: <http://OR.thegreatnews.com/grantspass/>

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### Note from Jim:

Care for a little conviction? Take the time to click the link below and watch this 4-minute video.

<http://webpages.charter.net/fool4given/interview.wmv>

Be ready for it, it packs a bit of a surprise ending.

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### Scripture of the Week:

"Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, 'Lord, open up to us!' then He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know where you are from.' Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets'; and He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.' In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out." (Luke 13:24-28, NASB)

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### Quote of the Week:

"We who preach the gospel must not think of ourselves as public relations agents sent to establish good will between Christ and the world. We must not imagine ourselves commissioned to make Christ acceptable to big business, the press, the world of sports or modern education. We are not diplomats but prophets, and our message is not a compromise but an ultimatum." (A.W. Tozer)

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### Basic Training Course:

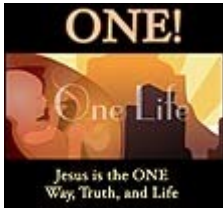


We would be glad to host the eight-session *Way of the Master* Basic Training Course for your church or small group. It's an excellent resource to equip Christians to share their faith simply, effectively; the way Jesus did! All we would need is an investment of your people's time. There is no financial commitment required from you or the church. We just want to help believers overcome their fears and do what our Lord asked us to do; seek and save that which is lost!

More info on the Basic Training Course: <http://www.wayofthemaster.com/btc/>

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### Evangelism Resource:



"One" -- a wonderful presentation about life and Christ

[http://www.kids4truth.com/english\\_one.htm](http://www.kids4truth.com/english_one.htm)

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### Questions & Objections:

**Q.** I've been finding John 3:16 being used to support saying "God loves everyone!" Does He? He loathes sin. Sinners are under God's wrath, but does He hate the unsaved? How would you respond to this?

**A.** John 3:16 appears to mean "world" in a global or widely encompassing sense. However, the problem is in our human difficulty to understand this reference to "love" within the context of God's divine nature.

Part of the error in the "God loves everyone" concept is to come from a mindset that we're all God's children. Actually, scripture tells us there are two spiritual fathers:

*You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44, NASB)*

*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name. (John 1:12, NASB)*

It's quite simple. If you're not a child of God (given that right through Christ) you're a child of the Devil.

Further, God's love is not some coddling, pampering love as we might like to take it. This love is balanced against His justice by His wisdom. His divine sense of justice leads to righteous indignation and wrath, while His love extends us mercy and grace through the cross. However, this in no way means we have wide access and a variety of means to reach forgiveness. The way is very, very narrow ... as narrow as a single man (Christ Jesus).

I'm starting to love witnessing out of John chapter 3. It's really worth looking at these four verses to see John 3:16 in context.

*Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the*

*kingdom of God." (John 3:3, NASB)*

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16, NASB)*

*"He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." (John 3:18, NASB)*

*"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (John 3:36, NASB)*

So, in this same chapter we're shown that unless we've come to the Son (through the narrow gate of repentance and faith) we remain under the wrath of God... already condemned or judged.

Now, look at these verses...

*God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day. (Psalm 7:11, NASB)*

*Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. (Ephesians 2:3, NASB)*

*You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (James 4:4, NASB)*

Until we bow at the cross to be washed in the blood of the Lamb, we are enemies of God... children of wrath.

God does not "hate" in the same fleshly way that we know it. He does not sin in anger (Eph 4:6). We want to be careful and not fall into that ditch. His anger and His hatred are in righteous indignation. However, we also don't want to fall into the other ditch of saying He looks upon the world in some blind love, as we would know it. God has two primary facets to His nature: justice and love. He balances these two within His divine wisdom ... which meet ultimately at the cross.

I have no problem with a verse that says God "loves" the world. My God is long suffering and rich in mercy. He says so Himself, without compromising His justice.

*Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations." (Exodus 34:6-7, NASB)*

Where I get nervous or I have problem, is with people who try to use that verse (or similar verses) as an escape clause or to soften God's nature and water-down the gospel. Unfortunately, a lot of people get hung up on "God so loved the world..." that they think it somehow cancels out judgment. They halt at John 3:16 and don't move on to 3:18 ... let alone 3:36.

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### **Weekly "Fishing" Update:**

I got a call from Greg on Saturday saying he'd been "fishing" at an all-city garage sale in Jacksonville. From what he tells me, he was able to pass out several hundred [gospel tracts](#) as well as engage in a few one-2-ones. What

an opportunity! I thank God for you, bro.

Here in Grants Pass, I was on solo patrol. I started by preaching open air to a couple dozen people in and around the playground at Riverside Park. It was a good crowd and I gave them the full count of the gospel. Two teen girls stood there the whole time, actively engaging me during the open air. Afterwards they brought me a bottle of water. I had two or three other people also offer encouragement and thank God for me being out there. Praise Him!

I've uploaded the MP3 of the open air to our website. You can find and listen to it on our [audios page](#).

The Sons of Thunder motorcycle ministry was hosting a homeless bar-b-q over at the big pavilion. I stopped by to say "hi" and found Eli there. I sat with him for a bit and got to share the gospel with a couple of his friends. Once that broke up, I did a tract sweep of 6th St and gave out a good number of [NZ Smart Cards](#). As I headed back to the park, I recognized Robert from the homeless bar-b-q. I hadn't talked with him before, and He really just wanted someone to listen as he shared about a bad relationship he'd just come out of. He talked for a while, and I was hoping for a chance to witness to him. However, three teen boys showed up and began to make him anxious. The best I could gather, they wanted money from him. I diffused the situation a little by showing them each the [Curved Illusion](#) cards. Robert then slipped away. I didn't get a chance to share the gospel with him as I'd wanted, but all four of them left with a gospel message in hand. I also have an open door with Robert, and pray I'll be able to pick back up with him should the Lord bring him across my path again.

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#### Prayer Points:

- Pray for the seed that was sown.
- Mark Sumpter missed our "street fishing" on Saturday because of the flu. Pray for a rapid recovery.
- "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).
- **DMV O/A** (Recurring)  
*Wednesdays*  
Open Air preaching at 8:45am to the people waiting for the DMV doors to open.
- **Seed Sowing at Fall Wine Stroll**  
*Grants Pass, OR / September 16*  
"Fishing" downtown during this semi-annual Grants Pass event.
- **Seed Sowing at Asian Cultural Festival**  
*Grants Pass, OR / September 16*  
We'll also hit the park and "fish" amongst the people this event will draw. Maybe we'll get to witness to Buddhists.
- **[Seed Sowing at Oktoberfest 2006](#)**  
*Wolf Creek, OR / September 30*  
Take a "fishing" trip to Wolf Creek and street witness at this popular celebration.
- **[Seed Sowing at Art Along the Rogue](#)**  
*Grants Pass, OR / October 7*  
Last year I was able to open air preach to about 300-400 people. Big time fishing opportunity right there are 6th & H St.

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

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