

- A. One day. One very bad day. One terrible, horrible, no good very bad day. One tree, one fruit, one man, one woman. Add it all together and you have the most catastrophic day in history.
- B. Bible experts call it the Fall. Most normal people call it Where's my easy button?
- C. The Fall has locked the human race into a perpetual crisis. It will last until the root of the fall is taken out — until sin is removed, when Christ returns, and personally reigns over a redeemed and restored world.
- D. Until that day, planet earth remains a disaster area, every day is a state of emergency.
- E. It doesn't always look like it, but that's the way it is.
  - A. This fallen world is a morally broken pain machine. Until Jesus returns, nothing's going to change that.
- F. The world cannot be repaired until Jesus returns.
- G. But the human heart is another thing. You see, the same sin that infects the created order has infected the human heart.
  - A. *In the created order*, the Fall is reversed through the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - B. What was lost in the fall — that pristine paradise, perfect peace, no shame, no death, no stress, no sickness, and no tears — is regained at the Second Coming of Christ.
    - A. "The times of restoration of all things" (Acts 3:20,21).
  - C. *But in the human heart* — in your heart and my heart — the Fall is reversed through SALVATION.
    - A. What was lost in the fall — innocence, freedom from guilt and shame, unbroken community with God himself and with one another — is regained through salvation.
    - B. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- I. As we head into our Sixty Degrees event, I want to zero in on SALVATION today. The whole purpose of all this work is salvations. The whole purpose of all our High Impact Summer is salvations. The endgame of why we consecrated ourselves to Christ, of why we prayer walked, of why we served, of why we gave to end sex trafficking in Thailand... the purpose and goal is salvations.
  - 1. 1,000 of them... which, if you remember, was your choice. And mine. But you cheered it, so you shoulder the burden.

## II. Salvation

### A. *The Cause of Salvation: The Cross*

- 1. *But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (Galatians 6:14)*
- 2. *For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. (1 Corinthians 2:2)*
- 3. When Jesus came into the world, he did many things. He loved people. He taught people. He did miracles and healed people. He gathered disciples. He preached. He served. He gave. Jesus did a lot of things.
- 4. But none of these things were the cause of our salvation. Because if Jesus had done all these things, but if he had not shed his blood, died, and rose again, none of us could be saved.
- 5. Salvation is God's method of dealing with SIN, and sin isn't dealt with through physical healing, or moral improvement.
- 6. Sin is dealt with through the satisfaction of divine justice at the cross where Jesus died.
- 7. The singular saving work of Jesus Christ is his death and resurrection.
- 8. And the singular tragedy of the church today is that not one in 10 Christians could tell you that.
  - a) *Jesus, whom God has set forth as a propitiation by his blood... (Rom 3:25)*
  - b) *In Him we have redemption through his blood... (Eph 1:7)*
  - c) *Having now been justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him (Rom 5:9)*
- 9. It wasn't his love. It wasn't his miracles. It wasn't his healings. It wasn't his teachings.
- 10. It was his blood that is the ground of our salvation.
- 11. The problem of sin required the penalty of death. And so the Cross is the heart of the heart of the heart of our salvation.

### B. *The Result of Salvation: Eternal Life*

- 1. *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (Philippians 3:20)*
- 2. It is not popular to talk about salvation in these terms. The objection is that people aren't as concerned with what happens after they die. They are concerned with their everyday lives today.
- 3. Yes, it's both. And yes, salvation address both. This life and the next life. Both.
  - a) *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (Titus 2:11-13)*
- 4. Here's out to look at it. You know how PGE turns off the power on super hot days?

5. The Fall did that to the whole human race. The power of life got turned off at the source. This disconnection lasts for both time and eternity.
6. But when a person is saved, the power gets turned back on. This re-connection also lasts for both time and eternity. Eternal life started the day you got saved.
7. It is both quantity and quality. Not just the duration of life, but the kind of life too. The kind of life that has been implanted in you is a supernatural, God-given kind of life. It is called eternal life, abundant life, newness of life, the life of God, and the life of Christ.
8. No wonder the Bible says you are a new creation. Salvation is a very big deal. It is the implantation of a kind of life into you that will redefine you in this world, and outfit you for the world to come.

C. *The Entrance to Salvation: The Gospel*

1. *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, (Ephesians 1:13)*
2. *For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, (1 Corinthians 15:3, 4)*
3. If salvation is a beautiful palace, the gospel is its doorway. And there's only one door.
4. When we evangelize, we are basically pointing out the doorway, and inviting loved ones to step through.
5. The heart of the Gospel message can be communicated in five simple words. Five monosyllables: *Christ died for our sins*. This is the Gospel. Any presentation, teaching, sermon, or invitation that does not proclaim and explain this little sentence is simply not the Gospel. Let's break it down.
6. "Christ died..." —that part is HISTORY.
  - a) CHRIST died.
    - (1) This man, this God-man, this friend of sinners. This one who embraced sinners, and shattered conventions.
    - (2) More courage in his little finger than most exhibit in a lifetime.
    - (3) More wisdom than all the academic elites of today combined.
    - (4) More power than all the suns of the cosmos since the beginning of time.
    - (5) Jesus is the incomparable person. There's no one like him.
    - (6) He served, he gave, he loved. No sin was found in him. The Son of God and the Son of Man.
    - (7) He hid his glory. He shielded his power. Almighty God shrouded in true humanity an energy and force that in the blink of an eye could have destroyed his enemy. No one else could have done what he did.
    - (8) Jesus Christ, the man whose sandals trod the dusty streets of Nazareth, who walked through planet earth as the most humble, yet explosive, personage of history... this one died. Christ died.
  - b) If you had been there, you would have seen this. You would have seen the beatings, seen the soldiers nail Him to the cross. You would have seen the crown of thorns. You would have heard Him cry out, "It is finished" and you would have seen Him die and breathe His last.
    - (1) Christ died... that event is history. But what does it mean?
7. "For our sins..." —that part is THEOLOGY.
  - a) Jesus died as a payment for our sins. He died in our place. This is the theology of substitutionary atonement. In theology, it is called vicarious atonement.
  - b) It means that His death counts for you.
    - (1) Good news — God punished Him instead of punishing you.
    - (2) Good news — He was your scapegoat.
    - (3) Good news — He was your sacrifice.
    - (4) Good news — He was the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world, and that includes you.
    - (5) Good news — eternal life, and abundant life, can be yours freely and without payment, paid in full when Christ died for your sins.
  - c) When Jesus died, your sins were transferred to Him and judged. The one thing that kept you from God — the stain and guilt of sin — was paid in full.
  - d) Jesus, by his shed blood, pressed rewind and undid the horrible effects of the fall.
8. I started by talking about a horrible day called the Fall. But there's a better day, a gloriously horrible day, called the Cross — the day the Son of God was nailed to a cross... the day of our Redemption. The day the Fall met its match.
9. The Gospel is the good news that Jesus died for your sins, and when He did that, He so completely satisfied the justice of God that you can be totally forgiven and embraced by God forever and ever, all because of Him. Therefore you are invited, called, and summoned to believe in Him and receive Him as your Savior.
10. The entrance to salvation is this beautiful, glorious, gory, sad, wonderful Gospel that Christ died for our sins.
11. So, what do we do with that? We step through the door by simple faith.

D. *The Invitation to the Salvation: Faith*

1. *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, (Ephesians 1:13)*
2. *God has appointed Him as the means of propitiation, a propitiation accomplished by the shedding of His blood, to be received and made effective in ourselves by faith. (Romans 3:25, Phil).*
3. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.
4. Salvation happens when a person transfers all their faith from anything else to Christ. We stop believing in our religious rituals, good works, moral performance, service, self-sacrifice, or anything else, and start resting our full weight on Jesus Christ.
5. When a worried man asked the early apostles what they should do to be saved, they told him, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31). That’s all we need to say too.
6. All the clichés only get in the way. They confuse the gospel, and muddy the crystal clear waters of grace.
  - a) Ask Jesus into your heart? No. That’s not in the Bible.
  - b) Give your life to Christ? No. That’s not in the Bible either. Plus, it’s backwards. God gives, you receive.
  - c) Commit your life to Christ? No. Commitment is your good works. The only commitment that matters is Christ’s commitment to you to the point of death.
7. It’s just believe. And when you understand it, it’s too easy and it’s scandalously simple. The way to walk through the door is faith alone in Christ alone.
  - a) No human effort plays any part when it comes to getting saved. No life-change. No moral improvement. No religious ritual.
    - (1) It’s not about your performance... it’s about believing in the Savior who shed his blood and died. Did he do enough or not?
8. Salvation is never about changing our behavior to gain God’s approval.
  - a) Faith is not a good work. Faith is an un-work. You stop trying, and start trusting instead. Faith is not giving anything to God.
    - (1) You don’t give your life to Christ, he gave his life for you.
    - (2) You don’t give your heart to Christ, he’s the giver you’re the receiver.
  - b) Faith is not changing your life. Faith is receiving a gift, it is saying yes, it is simple enough for a child, and profound enough for the deepest thinker.
9. And the one and only thing required is that your unsaved friend believes. At that very moment a sinner becomes a saint. At that very moment, the fall is undone in one more precious person’s life.
  - a) I started out by talking about a horrible day called the Fall.
  - b) But then I talked about an awful and wondrous day called the Cross, which is packed with enough divine omnipotence, justice, and grace to unwind the Fall.
  - c) And now there is this third day, called the day of your salvation, that a wonderful, glorious, everlasting, absolutely fantastic, ver good day the gospel of God kisses a sinner’s face and they are born again.
10. The last aspect of salvation for today is:

E. *The Mission of Salvation: Evangelism*

1. *For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10:13-15)*
2. *And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. (Mark 16:15)*
3. Evangelism is the ceaseless work of God in drawing sinners to Himself through the proclamation of the Gospel by Christians who are living and sharing their faith. God loves lost people and wants them found.
4. You have probably noticed that God didn’t sweep you into heaven the minute you were saved. He left you here in this fallen world for many reasons. One of the main reasons is so you can participate in evangelism.
  - a) *Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:20)*
5. You are an Ambassador of Christ! That’s amazing! What a privilege! What an exalted rank! God evangelizes through you. Your neighborhood, your family, your school, your workplace, your city.
6. You stand in for Him. You speak for Him. You represent Him. God trusts you with His Gospel message in this fallen world. What is the core of our ambassadorship? It is “as though God were pleading through us...”
7. Let that sink in. God is pleading through you. Almighty God is using you — your voice, your love, your intellect, your actions — to “implore” sinners “on Christ’s behalf.”

8. What are we imploring sinners to do? “Be reconciled to God.” That is why we are ten days away from Sixty Degrees.

### III. Sixty Degrees

- A. Sixty Degrees is eight days of evangelistic meetings and events. We will have a festival-like atmosphere with music, and full kid's ministry.
1. The Goal is salvations.
    - a) Will you join me in praying that 1,000 men, women and kids come to meet Jesus as their Savior.
  2. The Emphasis is apologetics.
    - a) Apologetics is the art and science of showing how our faith makes sense. In other words our goal will be to dismantle strongholds of unbelief!
  3. Our Program will be 8 meetings, starting October 7.
    - a) Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday.
    - b) They will all be different, and we'd love for you to come to as many as you can... even if it is inconvenient. And please invite unsaved friends.
  4. Our Style will be something like a TED talk.
    - a) Instead of one long talk, there's been several short talks. Each talk no longer than 18 minutes.
    - b) Speakers, testimonies, music, videos, all with an apologetics slant.
  5. Our Hope is you will pray for and invite fiends and family members who don't know Christ.
    - a) Last weekend, I asked you to figure out who you'll be praying for. Today, after service, you can go outside, and write their name on a card, so we can all pray for them too. Much prayer, much power.
  6. Our Events will be outside, where we don't have caps on seating, because we will be using a Jumbotron.
    - a) Please, if you can, bring your own chairs...
    - b) We will have a grid layout for seating, and help people keep a nice distance.
      - (1) If you can't sit outside for whatever reason, we will have limited inside seating (video), but you have to register for those seats ahead of time.
      - (2) Listen, eternal souls are at stake. Now is not the time to get whiny or huffy about these issues of distancing and masks. Save that for later, please.
      - (3) If you wearing a mask would make a difference in a person's eternal salvation, would you?
  7. Our Kids, birth through Fifth Grade, will have their own activities in the Ministry Center.
    - a) Fun activities. Gospel messages. Beginning apologetics for them too.
  8. We are going to use mainly secular music on the weeknight events.
    - a) Why? Because they don't get it when Christians start clapping and waving their arms and singing love songs to Jesus.
    - b) But there are some really good secular songs that ask important questions about life and human value and worth. We want to build bridges to the minds of secular people and win a hearing for the gospel.
    - c) We are going to create a safe and comfortable atmosphere for people who feel weird coming to church.
  9. We need you to pray, starting now, for Sixty Degrees to be mightily used of God. Much prayer, much power.
  10. Practice outside service next week.

### IV. Conclusion

- A. *Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men... (2 Corinthians 5:11)*
1. If we believe that outside of Christ, there is no hope...
  2. If we believe that an eternity without Christ is unspeakably sad and painful...
  3. If we believe that the Fall has locked the human race into a perpetual crisis...
  4. If we believe in the justice of God and death for sin...
  5. If we believe that people need the Lord...
    - a) ...and that people need salvation...
  6. And if we believe that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...
- B. Then it is impossible to possess a molecule of human compassion without being gripped by at least a desire to give our hearts to the cause of salvation.
- C. I am going to finish with this quote. It is from the founder of the Salvation Army, William Booth. He was responding to the lame excuse that some Christians feel they are not “called” into the mission of spreading the gospel.

*“Not called!” did you say? “Not heard the call,” I think you should say. Put your ear down to the Bible, and hear Him bid you go and pull sinners out of the fire of sin. Put your ear down to the burdened, agonized heart of humanity, and listen to its pitiful wail for help. Go stand by the gates of hell, and hear the damned entreat you to go to their father's house and bid their brothers and sisters and servants and masters not to come there. Then look Christ in the face – whose mercy you have professed to obey – and tell Him whether you will join heart and soul and body and circumstances in the march to publish His mercy to the world. ~William Booth*