**AMBASSADORS BOOT CAMP 2.0**

**“It’s All About Which Gate You Choose”**

O

ne day we will all stand before our Creator. Are we ready? Either we are, or we aren’t. God’s Son revealed the lone key to being ready: *“Go in the narrow gate because the gate to hell is wide, and the road that leads to it is easy, and there are many who travel it.* ***BUT*** *the gate to life is narrow, and the road that leads to it is hard, and few find it.”*(Matthew 7:13,14, GNT**)**

Let’s start a carpool to heaven, okay? We could call ourselves *Ubercomers.*

**Your Two Most Decisive Questions**

#1: Jesus asks, **“Who do you say I am?” (Matthew 16:13-17, p. 69, GNB)**

#2: **Is your name written in the Lamb’s Book of Life?**

In the Bible’s last book, Revelation, the oldest apostle, John, describes an astounding vision he’s given: *“Then I saw a great white throne and the One who sits on it. … And I saw the dead, great and small alike, standing before the throne. Books were opened, and then another book was opened, the book of the living. … And all were judged according to what they had done. Then death and the world of the dead were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. Those who did not have their name written in the book of the living were thrown into the lake of fire.”* (Revelation 20:11-15, GNB)

God’s messenger, Paul, says Jesus’ followers are ambassadors who represent God: *“When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He’s not the same anymore. A new life has begun! All these new things are from God who brought us back to Himself through what Christ Jesus did. And God has given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into His favor and be reconciled to Him. For God was in Christ, restoring the world to Himself, no longer counting men’s sins against them but blotting them out. This is the wonderful message He’s given us to tell others. We are Christ’s ambassadors. God is using us to speak to you: we beg you, as though Christ Himself were here pleading with you, receive the love He offers you—be reconciled to God. For God took the sinless Christ and poured into Him our sins. Then, in exchange, He poured God’s goodness into us!” (2 Corinthians 5:17-21, TLB)*

This is not something we can earn, Paul clarifies: *“For it is by God’s grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts,* ***BUT*** *(is)* ***GOD****’s gift, so that no one can boast about it.”* (Ephesians 2:8-9, GNB)

When’s the best time to share the gospel with someone? Paul’s advice: *“preach the message, proclaiming it (whether the time is right or not), to convince, reproach and encourage as you teach with all patience. The time will come when people … will turn away from listening to the truth.”* (2 Timothy 4:2-4, GNT)

**DISCUSS: What sort of “unsound doctrine” do people desire?**

**Sin 1.0**

In her excellent book, *JESUS IN ME*, Billy Graham’s daughter, Anne Graham Lotz, writes, “… Adam and Eve had perfect bodies, perfect jobs, perfect health, perfect resources, perfect relationships, a perfect environment – yet they were dissatisfied. They wanted the one thing they’d been told they could not have. They disobeyed God and took it. … Sin entered not only their lives **BUT**also every person born into the human race since, except for Jesus.

“After God pronounced judgment on our first parents and before He removed them from His presence, He killed, or sacrificed, an animal and clothed them in its skin. … He knew that … the only way people would ever be brought back into a personal, right relationship with Himself would be through the shed blood of the Lamb, His own Son. … God made it very clear that without the shedding of blood, there would be no forgiveness.“

 **The Essence of the Gospel**

 ***“****For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish* ***BUT*** *have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,* ***BUT*** *to save the world through Him. … “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever disobeys the Son will not have life* ***BUT*** *will remain under God’s judgment.”* (John 3:16,17,36)

**“Pass It On!”**

What is this Good News that we need to be communicating to those under our roof, next door and worldwide? Billy Graham’s daughter articulates it gracefully.

“As the Son of God, Creator of everything, Jesus … came to earth to be born in a stable… Instead of being adored, He was betrayed, blasphemed, despised and rejected. In the end He was crucified. **BUT** He rose from the dead to save anyone and everyone who comes to Him, offering them forgiveness of sin and giving them, instead of judgment and hell, eternal life and Heaven. Through the sacrifice of His own life, He is able to bring us to a deep conviction of our own sin, confession and reconciliation with Himself.”

**DISCUSS: Since this is the Best News ever, why can telling it be awkward?**

Anne explains, “For the most part, the disciples were an uneducated, untrained, eclectic band of men from a rural, nondescript area of the world. How could they convince anyone that Jesus of Nazareth was relevant? How could they convince Jewish scholars … that … Jesus was the … Messiah? How could they convince the Jewish public … that Jesus of Nazareth was God in the flesh, the redeemer of Israel? How could they convince the Roman world, which worshipped many gods, that there was one true, living God and His name is Jesus? …

**DISCUSS: How can we persuade anyone to follow Jesus?**

Anne continues: Jesus clearly explained that it’s not our responsibility to convince people. He told His disciples, speaking of the Holy Spirit, ‘When He comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin, righteousness and judgment. When He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all Truth.’

“You and I have not been commanded to be successful as we tell others about Jesus. … We are commanded simply to be faithful in declaring the Truth. Praise God! The burden of responsibility belongs to the Holy Spirit when it comes to convincing others of the Truth of their own sin and need for a Savior.”

Anne asks, “What have you done that you feel puts you beyond the realm of God’s forgiveness and redemption? If He could forgive the people who had stood by and did nothing when Jesus was arrested, tried, tortured, then crucified, … why do you think He won’t forgive you?“

### “How Can I Be Sure?”

Jesus’ friend, John, has God’s answer to this life-or-death question: *“The testimony is this: God has given us eternal life, and this life has its source in His Son.  Whoever has the Son has this life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I am writing this to you so that you may* ***know that you have eternal life—****you that believe in the Son of God.”* (1 John 5:11-13)

Are you saved? It’s too important to not know for sure. It’s been said, “You’d better be right; eternity is a long time to be wrong.” As my friend, Beau Crosetto puts it, “Does anybody here want to start a relationship with Jesus today?”

His Deal

November 20, 2019

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**AMBASSADORS BOOT CAMP**

**Marching Orders**

***“****The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ … God looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. Everyone has turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.”* (Psalm 53:1-33)

*“The fruit of those who are right with God is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.”* (Proverbs 11:30, New Life Version)

 *“… (God) has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”* (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

*“In the assembly of all your people, Lord, I told the good news that you save us. You know that I will never stop telling it. I have not kept the news of salvation to myself; I have always spoken of your faithfulness and help. In the assembly of all your people I have not been silent about your loyalty and constant love.”* (Psalm 40:9-10, GNT)

*“You, Lord, give perfect peace to those who keep their purpose firm and trust in You.”* (Isaiah 26:3, GNB)

 ***“****Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. And now we believe and know that you are the Holy One who has come from God.’”* (John 6:68,69, GNT)

*“Jesus answered (Thomas, His doubting disciple), “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; no one goes to the Father except by Me.”* (John 14:6, GNT)

*“Salvation is to be found through (Jesus) alone; in all the world there is no one else whom God has given who can save us.”* (Acts 4:12, GNT)

*“****BUT NOW*** *God’s way of putting people right with Himself has been revealed. It has nothing to do with law, even though the Law of Moses and the prophets gave their witness to it. God puts people right through their faith in Jesus Christ. God does this to all who believe in Christ because there is no difference at all:*

*everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence.”* (Romans 3:21-23, GNT)

***“BUT*** *those who depend on faith, not on deeds, and who believe in the God who declares the guilty to be innocent, it is this faith that God takes into account in order to put them right with himself.”* (Romans 4:5, GNT)

***“BUT GOD*** *has shown us how much He loves us—it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!”* (Romans 5:8, GNT)

*“For sin pays its wage—death;* ***BUT GOD****’s free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord*.” (Romans 6:23, GNT)

*“There is no condemnation now for those who live in union with Christ Jesus.”* (Romans 8:1)

*“If you confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised Him from death, you will be saved. For it is by our faith that we are put right with God; it is by our confession that we are saved.”* (Romans 10:9-10)

*“Whoever will call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* (Romans 10:13)

***“****The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ … God looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. Everyone has turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.”* (Psalm 53:1-33)

***“****May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. In order to set us free from this present evil age, Christ gave Himself for our sins in obedience to the will of our God and Father.”* (Galatians 1:3-4, GNT)

***“****You were at one time spiritually dead because of your sins and because you were Gentiles without the Law.* ***BUT GOD*** *has now brought you to life with Christ. God forgave us all our sins; He canceled the unfavorable record of our debts with its binding rules and did away with it completely by nailing it to the cross.”* (Colossians 2:13,14, GNT)

*“ … praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.”* (Colossians 4:3-6, GNT)

*“But when the kindness and love of God our Savior was revealed, He saved us. It was not because of good deeds that we ourselves had done,* ***BUT*** *because of His mercy that He saved us, through the Holy Spirit who gives us new birth and new life by washing us. God poured out the Holy Spirit abundantly on us through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that by His grace we might be put right with God and come into possession of the eternal life we hope for.“* (Titus 3:4-7, GNT)

*“This is a true saying, to be completely accepted and believed: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I am the worst of them,****BUT GOD*** *was merciful to me in order that Christ Jesus might show His full patience in dealing with me, the worst of sinners, as an example for all those who would later believe in Him and receive eternal life.”* (1 Timothy 1:15-16)

*“God in his mercy has given us this work to do, and so we do not become discouraged. We put aside all secret and shameful deeds; we do not act with deceit, nor do we falsify the word of God. In the full light of truth we live in God's sight and try to commend ourselves to everyone's good conscience. For if the gospel we preach is hidden, it is hidden only from those who are being lost. They do not believe because their minds have been kept in the dark by the evil god of this world. He keeps them from seeing the light shining on them, the light that comes from the Good News about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.”* (2 Corinthians 4:1-4, GNT)

*“Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you …”* (1 Peter 3:15b)

*“The Lord is not slow to do what He has promised, as some think. Instead, He is patient with you because He does not want anyone to be destroyed but wants all to turn away from their sins.”* (2 Peter 3:9, GNT)

***“****The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had: He always had the nature of God, but He did not think that by force He should try to remain[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+2%3A5-11&version=GNT#fen-GNT-32423a)*] equal with God. Instead of this, of His own free will He gave up all He had and took the nature of a servant. He became like a human being and appeared in human likeness. He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death—His death on the cross. For this reason God raised Him to the highest place above and gave Him the name that is greater than any other name. And so, in honor of the name of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth and in the world belowwill fall on their knees, and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.”* (Philippians 2:5-11, GNT)

His Deal

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**“Not All Roads Lead To Heaven”**

ROBERT JEFFRESS

 (Notes taken from his message on Nov. 3, 2019

The majority of Christians in America’s evangelical churches believe that there is more than one way to God. They deny that ours is an exclusive faith in an inclusive world.

If you reject Jesus’ statement of “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; no one goes to the Father except by Me” (John 14:6), these doctrines are destroyed:

1. The nature of Truth itself

According to researcher George Barna, 68% of adult Christians reject the concept of absolute truth in favor or relativism. 91% of Christian teens do also.

1. The inspiration/infallibility of the Bible

Questioning its inerrancy began when the serpent asked Eve, “Did God really say …..”

1. The deity of Jesus Christ

Jesus rejects universalism. Matthew 7:14

Jesus rejects pluralism. John 14:6

Jesus validates the requirement of personal faith. John 6:40

1. The necessity of the atonement

If that’s true, the cross was unnecessary. Luke 22:41

1. The reality of hell

Matthew 7:13,14

1. Evangelism and missions
2. The most loving thing we can do for anyone is giving them the Gospel.

“Amazing Grace” sung by Il Divo, 4:32

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYMLMj-SibU>

**AMBASSADORS BOOT CAMP**

**Resources**

PeaceWithGod.net

JesusCares.com

*Steps to Peace with God* by Billy Graham

BiblicalEvangelism.comTheIncrease.com

SportsSpectrum.com

TheGoal.com

*The Case for Faith* by Lee Strobel

*The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel

*Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis

*More Than A Conqueror* by Josh McDowell

*Beyond Awkward* by Beau Crosetto

*HOW GOOD IS GOOD ENOUGH* by Andy Stanley

*BELIEVING GOD* by Beth Moore

*KNOWING GOD* by J.I. Packer

*WHEN SKEPTICS ASK* by Norman Geisler and Ron Brooks

*LETTERS FROM A SKEPTIC\* by Dr. Gregory A. Boyd and Edward K. Boyd

*EVIDENCE FOR GOD* by William A. Dembski and Michael R. Licona

*IF YOU’RE THERE, GOD, I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS* by Stephen Gaukroger

DIFFICULT QUESTIONS. THOUGHTFUL ANSWERS. www.rzim.org

**ONE VERSE EVANGELISM**

<https://www.navigators.org/resource/one-verse-evangelism/>

"When we let fear for our own psychological and social comfort hold us back from sharing the gospel, we are saying that we are the center of our own world.  We are more concerned for ourselves than for others, more concerned about preserving our image than about obeying our Lord's command.  All of us, from time to time, will be ashamed to testify.  But the Holy Spirit will always be there to give us the love, and the self-discipline to overcome."  John Guest

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**Hell? Yes.**

Jack Graham

Luke 16:21-28

“Uncomfortable Truth” (notes taken from this message in his “INVISIBLE”) series

<https://resources.jackgraham.org/resource-library/sermons/an-uncomfortable-truth>

It’s inconvenient but incontrovertible. It makes no difference what others may think, believe or say; unrepentant sinners will spend eternity in a place the Bible calls hell.

Some Christians are embarrassed to speak of hell. Jesus wasn’t. He talked about hell twice as much as He talked about heaven.

Jesus never called the story of the rich man and Lazarus a parable. He never gave names to the people He spoke of in parables as He did in this story. So we may assume that it really happened and that hell is a real place.

Matthew 7:21-23 includes the most frightening verse in the Bible, v. 7: “Depart from Me. I never knew you.”

Hell is a literal lake of fire, says Jesus (Matthew 5:22, 10:28, 23:33).

If there’s no hell, why did God send His only Son to die for the sins of the world?

God is just, so there must be a hell since the consequence of sin is judgment.

The grace of God has appeared to all men (Titus 2:11).

God doesn’t want anyone to languish in hell. It was created for Satan and his angels, not for humans. (2 Peter 3:9)

Anyone who winds up in hell will have had to struggle to do so by ignoring the prayers and pleading of believing friends and family – and all the other ways God has used to woo them to Himself.

1. Are you saved? Is there evidence of that?
2. Spend the rest of your days honoring God because He has saved you for a bright and glorious future.
3. Be bold in your witness because the gospel is true. Ask God to give you divine appointments. Knowing that many of our friends and relatives are going to hell should break our hearts.

# Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I’m found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come,
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home.

**(Read or sing during the instrumental bridge.)**

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

**(Read or sing during the instrumental bridge.)**

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease
I shall possess within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

Amazing grace, How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I’m found,
Was blind, but now I see.

“Amazing Grace” sung by Il Divo

4:32

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYMLMj-SibU>