

**BIRMINGHAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
DOTHAN CAMPUS
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Spring 2020

PT5637 Personal Evangelism

Professor: Dr. W. Charles Lewis

Class Hours: 2

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COURSE PURPOSE

This course provides training in personal evangelism introducing students to various styles under special supervision.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will be able to distinguish the evangelist from the other gifted persons mentioned in Ephesians 4:11.
2. The student will be able to articulate the content of the Gospel and where to find it in Scripture.
3. The student will be able to define what is the work of the evangelist.
4. The student will learn the role of the Triune God in evangelism and the importance of prayer in evangelism.
5. The student will learn four methods of presenting the Gospel and how to employ each method.
6. The student will learn how to present his/her personal testimony and to help others do the same.
7. The student will present the Gospel message to a non-Christian.
8. The student will learn how to follow-up with new converts.

COURSE TEXTS

Packer, J. I. **Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God** ISBN 1596440902

Cecil, Douglas M. **The 7 Principles of an Evangelistic Life** ISBN 0802409245

Newman, Randy **Questioning Evangelism** ISBN 082543324X

Moyer, Larry **Dear God, I'm Ticked Off** ISBN 0825431751

COURSE REQUIRMENTS

1. Quizzes, a review of the course material will be administered via quizzes.
2. Book Critiques (4): write a critical paper of 2 pages (**1 page for certificate students**) on each book. As you read ask yourself these questions:
 - a. What is the book about as a whole? (**Description**)
 - b. What is the author saying in detail and how is it said? (**Interpretation**)
 - c. Is the book true, in whole or on part, is it applicable to your situation? (**Criticism**)
 - d. What is the significance of the book? (**Personal, Spiritual, Academic** formations and application for your life)
 - e. Do you agree/disagree with the author? (**Foundational Reasons**)
 - f. As you write these critiques your goal is to answer these questions concisely and achieving master's level requirements. This is not a book report.

3. Gospel Presentations. Based on the information/demonstration presented in class, present the Gospel to a non-Christian. The instructor or fellow classmate will serve as a training partner. Two (2) Gospel presentations (**1 for certificate students**) are to be given.
4. Personal Testimony. Prepare your personal salvation testimony and present it as though you were sharing it at an evangelistic Church service.
5. Witness Experience. Share the gospel with a non-Christian. Look for evangelistic opportunities on a daily basis.
6. Final

COURSE GRADING

1. Quizzes	10%
2. Book critiques	40%
3. Gospel presentation	10%
4. Personal Testimony	10%
5. Witness Experience	15%
6. Final	15%

COURSE FORMATS & STYLE STANDARDS

All papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including title page. Any paper not conforming to these standards will automatically be dropped one letter grade.

Proper planning and timely completion of assignments is crucial.

COURSE OUTLINE

1/21	Introduction/Evangelism and the Great Commission
1/28	The Ministry of the Evangelist
2/4	The Definition of Evangelism/The Message in Evangelism
2/11	The Pauline Approach to Evangelism
2/18	The Power of the Gospel
2/25	NO CLASS
3/3	Jesus and Nicodemus
3/10	Jesus and the Woman at the Well
3/17	Prayer and Evangelism
3/24	Methods of Evangelism
3/31	Methods of Evangelism
4/7	NO CLASS

4/14	Evangelistic Follow-Up
4/21	Final Exam

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chester, Tim and Steve Timmis. *Total Church: A Radical Reshaping around Gospel and Community*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.

Chester and Timmis are church leaders in the United Kingdom. In the first five chapters, the argument is made that evangelism most effectively takes place when Christians develop authentic community with other believers that is centered around honest gospel conversations and where the individuals invite others to share in the life of the community. In other words, evangelism is not something that is done individually, but corporately. This book will challenge many of your assumptions about church and the nature of evangelism. **Popular**

Koukl, Gregory. *Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

Koukl's book simplifies the goal of evangelism, "Instead of trying to get to the cross in every encounter, just aim to put a stone in someone's shoe. Try to give the person something to think about. Be content to plant a seed that might later flourish under God's sovereign care." In *Tactics*, Koukl discusses how you to have conversations with your friends that puts a stone in their shoe. This book is both easy and practical. **Popular**

Metzger, Will. *Tell the Truth: The Whole Gospel Wholly by Grace Communicated Truthfully and Lovingly*. 4th edition. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1981.

Will Metzger, a campus minister at the University of Delaware since 1965, has written a book that successfully blends a sound, God-centered theology of evangelism with a practical concern for how Christians of all stripes can be witnesses in the settings in which God has placed them. The most recent editions of this book come with appendices that include evangelism training material (e.g. how to prepare your testimony, how to ask good questions, evaluating gospel presentations) and a study guide for working through the book. This book comes *highly* recommended. **Popular**

Stetzer, Ed. *Planting Missional Churches: Planting a Church that's Biblically Sound and Reaching People in Culture*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2006.

Ed Stetzer looks at the how and why of congregational evangelism. While Stetzer's focus is on church planting, there is still much that existing churches can glean as they seek to engage their neighborhoods with the gospel. Stetzer is the president of LifeWay research, the pastor of a church plant, and a contributor to *Outreach* magazine. **Popular**

Blackburn, W. Ross. *The God Who Makes Himself Known: The Missionary Heart of the Book of Exodus*. New Studies in Biblical Theology. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012.

From the publisher, "The Lord's commitment to make himself known throughout the nations is the overarching missionary theme of the Bible and the central theological concern of Exodus... From a careful examination of Exodus, Blackburn demonstrates that (1) the Lord humbled Pharaoh so the world would know that only God can save; (2) the Lord gave Israel the law so

that its people might display his goodness to the nations, living in a state of order and blessing and (3) the Lord dealt with Israel's idolatry severely, yet mercifully, for his goodness cannot be known if his glory is compromised.” **Academic**

Dever, Mark. *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007.

Mark Dever has spent a great deal of time thinking and writing about the Church. His short book on evangelism (128 pages) answers seven of the most basic questions about evangelism: why don't we evangelize? What is the gospel? Who should evangelize? How should we evangelize? What isn't evangelism? What should we do after evangelism? Why should we evangelize? **Popular**

Kostenberger, Andreas J. and Peter T. O'Brien. *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth: A Biblical Theology of Mission*. New Studies in Biblical Theology. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001.

From the publisher, “According to Andreas Köstenberger and Peter O'Brien, this significant theme [of mission] has rarely been given its due attention in biblical theology. Motivated by their passion to see God's mission carried out in today's world, they offer a comprehensive study of the theme of mission. In *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth* they explore the entire sweep of biblical history, including the Old Testament, the second-temple period, each New Testament Gospel, Paul and his writings, and the General Epistles and Revelation.” **Academic**

Packer, J. I. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1961.

A classic book on the theology of evangelism from a Reformed perspective. **Academic**

Reid, Alvin. *Evangelism Handbook: Biblical, Spiritual, Intentional, Missional*. Nashville: B & H Publishing Group, 2009.

From the cover, “*Evangelism Handbook* is a thorough guide to the daily ministry of sharing Christ. Writer and professor Alvin Reid is particularly concerned about how the Western Church is currently practicing evangelism—its failure to reach the hardcore unchurched and its trend of losing young people faster than it can win them. With a contagious passion for the lost, Reid organizes and presents his research and experience of effective modern evangelism in four clear actionable categories.” These four categories are biblical, spiritual, intentional, and missional. **Academic**

Stiles, J. Mack. *Speaking of Jesus: How to Tell Your Friends the Best News They Will Ever Hear*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

From the cover, “Evangelism isn't about exhibiting superhuman courage or perfecting specialized techniques or exercising extraordinary eloquence. Rather, this book will open your eyes to how ordinary people in commonplace situations can use everyday language to reveal the simple news about Jesus.” **Popular**