

The plan of salvation

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Our Problem – SIN

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.
Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death...Romans 6:23a

God's Only Solution – Jesus Christ

...but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 6:23b

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Romans 5:8

My Response – Receive God's gift

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. Romans 10:9-10

*But to all who believed him and accepted him,
he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12*

*Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door,
I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. Revelation 3:20*

Admit that I am a sinner and need God's forgiveness.

Believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose again for my sin.

Confess that Jesus Christ is the only way to God and commit to live for Him for the rest of my life.

Dear God: I admit that I am a sinner. I have done many things that don't please you. I have lived my life for myself. I am sorry and I turn from my sin. I ask you to forgive me. I believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sin and rose again to save me, and give me eternal life. You did what I could not do for myself. I come to you now and ask you to take control of my life, I give it to you. Help me to live every day in a way that pleases you. I love you, Lord, and I thank you that I will spend all eternity with you. I pray this in my Savior's name, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Previous sermons in this series are available in audio at: concordiawesleyan.com

Share The Faith

Live Authentically



Love Unconditionally



Lead Wisely



"Telling Your Story"
I Peter 3:15-16

Pastor David Redmond
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We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too. I Thessalonians 2:8 (NLT)

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. I Peter 3:15,16 (NIV)

1. Know the _____ of your story.

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord... I Peter 3:15 a (NIV)

Lord = "someone or something having power, _____ity, or influence."

You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone.

³ *You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. II Corinthians 3:2-3 (NIV)*

2. Be prepared to _____ those who _____.

*...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you...
I Peter 3:15b (NLT)*

3. Share the _____ you have in _____.

...to give the reason for the hope that you have. I Peter 3:15c (NIV)

In those days you were living apart from Christ... You lived in this world without God and without hope. Ephesians 2:12a,c (NLT)

Share Christ not only in your words, but your _____, attitude, and _____.

...But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1 Peter 3:15d, 16 (NIV)

Live Authentically – Love Unconditionally – Lead Wisely

Philip *found Nathanael and *said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip *said to him, “Come and see.” John 1:45-46 (NAS)

“Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did!
Could he possibly be the Messiah?” John 4:29 (NLT)

A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!” John 9:24-25 (NIV)

Everyone who know Christ as Savior has an
“I _____; but _____” story.

How To Tell Your Story:

What my life was like before I met Christ:

BEFORE - Acts 26:1-11

In those days you were living apart from Christ... You lived in this world without God and without hope. Ephesians 2:12 (NLT)

“I used to believe that I ought to do everything I could to oppose the very name of Jesus the Nazarene. ¹⁰ Indeed, I did just that in Jerusalem. Authorized by the leading priests, I caused many believers there to be sent to prison. And I cast my vote against them when they were condemned to death. ¹¹ Many times I had them punished in the synagogues to get them to curse Jesus. I was so violently opposed to them that I even chased them down in foreign cities.” Acts 26:9-11 (NLT)

Events and people that helped me find

Christ: HOW - Acts 26:12-18

But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!) Ephesians 2:4-5 (NLT)

“One day I was on such a mission to Damascus, armed with the authority and commission of the leading priests. ¹³ About noon, Your Majesty, as I was on the road, a light from heaven brighter than the sun shone down on me and my companions. ¹⁴ We all fell down, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is useless for you to fight against my will.’ ¹⁵ “Who are you, lord?” I asked. “And the Lord replied, ‘I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. ¹⁶ Now get to your feet! For I have appeared to you to appoint you as my servant and witness. Tell people that you have seen me, and tell them what I will show you in the future. ¹⁷ And I will rescue you from both your own people and the Gentiles. Yes, I am sending you to the Gentiles ¹⁸ to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God’s people, who are set apart by faith in me.’”

Acts 26:12-18 (NLT)

How my life is different now:

SINCE - (What has changed?) Acts 26:19-32

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰ For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NLT)

“And so, King Agrippa, I obeyed that vision from heaven. ²⁰ I preached first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that all must repent of their sins and turn to God—and prove they have changed by the good things they do. ²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do—” ²⁸ Agrippa interrupted him. “Do you think you can persuade me to become a Christian so quickly?” ²⁹ Paul replied, “Whether quickly or not, I pray to God that both you and everyone here in this audience might become the same as I am, except for these chains.” Acts 26:19-20;27-29 (NLT)

“If a story is in you, it has got to come out.” (William Faulkner)