

Introduction to Evangelism MS508 (Summer 2008)

IMPORTANT: THIS 5-DAY INTENSIVE COURSE IS DESIGNED FOR AND LIMITED TO NON-RESIDENT RTS STUDENTS. ALL RESIDENT RTS M.DIV. STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE THIS COURSE IN THE FALL TERM (13-WEEK INTERACTIVE FORMAT).

I. Purpose of the Course

This course is designed to give you an introductory overview of the ministry of evangelism. The emphasis will be on helping you develop a more biblical and theological understanding of evangelism and equipping you to be more effective in your personal evangelism and in your ministry leadership roles as an equipper and facilitator of evangelistic ministries.

II. Course Objectives

A Mind for Truth: Developing Your Understanding & Knowledge

- To understand and articulate a biblical theology of evangelism.
- To understand the role of the church in evangelism, especially as it relates to church planting, growth, and multiplication.
- To understand the cultural barriers to the gospel in a secular society.
- To understand the role of discipleship, spiritual multiplication, and transferability in evangelism.
- To understand the nature of the gospel and the essential elements of an evangelistic presentation.
- To be acquainted with the literature, programs, and resources presently available for equipping Christians to be more effective in evangelism.

A Heart for God: Developing Your Affections and Inclinations

- To have a deep, personal conviction concerning the biblical priority of evangelism in Christian ministry.
- To have a broken heart for the lost, especially for those who are presently in your network of relationships.
- To have a personal commitment to pray for evangelistic ministries and for the lost, especially for those who are presently in your network of relationships.

A Life for Ministry: Developing Your Behavior and Skills

- To learn how to present the gospel effectively to individuals, groups, and large gatherings.
- To learn how to start and lead an evangelistic program in the ministry of a local church.
- To be a personal soul winner, “doing the work of an evangelist” (2 Tim. 4:5) as a way of life.
- To be involved in a ministry of spiritual multiplication that is “winning, building, and sending” those who will “win, build, and send” others.

III. Course Format

The course is designed with three major components: 1) pre-class assignments, 2) classroom sessions on campus (August 11-15, 2008) and 3) post-class assignments. Classroom sessions may include: lecture (including guest lecturers), student reports and presentations, video presentations, self-study exercises, motivation activities, and small group interaction. Occasionally, individual and small group work sessions may be conducted during the class time. Group study outside of class is strongly encouraged.

Contact Information: You can reach me through my administrative assistant, Joyce Sisler, at 407-366-9493 x219 or jsisler@rts.edu.

IV. Course Texts

Required Reading:

Barrs, Jerram, *The Heart of Evangelism*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books, 2001

Keller, Timothy, *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*, Penguin Group, 2008.

Hybels, Bill and Mittelberg, Mark, *Becoming a Contagious Christian*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishers, 1996.

Metzger, Will, *Tell the Truth: The Whole Gospel to the Whole Person by Whole People*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 3rd Edition, 2002.

Miller, C. John (Jack), *A Faith Worth Sharing*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1999.

Packer, J.I., *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2001.

Highly Recommended (Assigned in Class & On Reserve in the RTS Library):

Kennedy, D. James, *Evangelism Explosion*. (4th edition) Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2002. (Selected readings assigned – on reserve).

V. Course Requirements

A. Pre-Class Assignments

1. Evangelism Reading & Reports (30%)

You are required to read thoughtfully (not simply skim) the *Required Texts* (approximately 1200 pages) above. You will be asked on the *Final Examination* to indicate in writing the percentage of the required texts you have read thoughtfully.

Standard Reading Reports (1-2 pages)

In addition, you are required to write a 1-2 page (max) reading report (single spaced, 12 pt. font) on the books by: 1) Barrs, 2) Keller, 3) Hybels, 4) Metzger and 5) Packer. See the *Reading Report* form in the *Appendix* for the format and key questions to answer. Completion of the *Reading Report* signifies you have thoughtfully read each book in its entirety.

Miller Reading Report (5 maximum pages)

For the Miller book you are required to express *at least one* life application principle related to evangelism (one paragraph minimum) *from each of the ten chapters* in the book. This assignment must not exceed five typed pages.

Due Date

These reading reports are due at the beginning of the first class on August 11, 2008. Reports not turned in by the due date and time will be considered late and will result in a final grade reduction of 5% per report.

IMPORTANT NOTE For a summer intensive course (5-day) it is very important that all students read the *Required Texts* before class begins so there can be thoughtful interaction with the professor and other students during the classes.

Pre-Class Assignments *Continued*

2. Personal Outreach Project (10%)

Students are required to spend a total of twelve (12) weeks (minimum) intentionally building relationships with non-Christians. Of those twelve weeks, a minimum of six weeks must take place before class begins (August 11, 2008) and a minimum of six weeks must take place after the class concludes (August 15, 2008) and before the *Outreach Project Report* (below) is written.

Personal Outreach Project Goals

- a) **Identify** a minimum of at least two non-Christians in your present network of relationships. At least one of these people must be geographically near (you can meet with them face-to-face). The names (at least first names) and brief descriptions of these people will be shared on the first day of class and on the *Outreach Project Report* (below).
- b) **Pray** for the people on your list weekly during these weeks. Students are strongly encouraged to fulfill their weekly prayer commitment by recruiting someone to pray with and for them at a regular time each week.
- c) **Show** them Christ's love. Initiate a friendship. Find out their needs. Establish a common ground. Listen, care, and build a relationship—try not to see such people as merely a class project.
- d) **Invite** a non-Christian on your list to join you for some activity such as a meal, a movie, a concert, a sports event, exercising together, an outreach event, a worship service, etc.
- e) **Share** your personal story (testimony) and/or the gospel as God gives you the opportunity. Help them take their next steps toward a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- f) **Be accountable** and share your experiences (whether positive or negative) in the class sessions and in the *Personal Outreach Report* (below).

Helpful Suggestion: Consider interviewing a non-Christian.

Explain to an unchurched friend, neighbor or stranger that this is simply a ten-minute interview and is part of one of your seminary (or graduate school) classes. All answers are voluntary and confidential, although you are required to write a brief paper reporting some of the answers given in the interview. Develop your own questions and report your findings.

B. In-Class Assignments

Gospel Presentation Exercises (10%)

During the class sessions the student will participate in six *Gospel Presentation Exercises* designed to increase the student's confidence in personal evangelism by sharpening his/her verbal gospel presentation.

The student will be required to share in class all six of the *Gospel Presentation Exercises* (from memory) with another person. Students will be required to turn in a *Gospel Presentation Exercise Sheet* (six sheets will be provided) giving written evidence of completing all the assigned exercises. The person hearing the student's presentation must give evaluation ratings and sign the sheet for credit to be given.

C. Post-Class Assignments

1. Personal Outreach Project Report (10%)

Upon completion of the required six-week post-class Outreach Project (above) the student is required to write a *Personal Outreach Project Report*. The student will receive credit for completing the *Personal Outreach Project* by submitting a written report (three to five single-spaced pages) by October 10, 2008, including:

- A. The names and descriptions of each person.
- B. A description of the relationship developed with each person, including a description of the invitations issued to each person. The desire is for the student to have at least one meaningful encounter (hopefully many more) with a non-Christian during the twelve week period. If after three *sincere* invitations to some event, meal, etc., have been made (even if there has been no positive response) this requirement is fulfilled.
- C. The results/lessons learned from these outreach experiences. (Sections B and C should be the bulk of your paper.)
- D. A specific description of your faithfulness in weekly prayer - in accessing the throne of grace on behalf of these people.

2. Gospel Presentation Paper (20%)

The goal of the *Gospel Presentation Paper* is to help the student develop a transferable gospel presentation the student can use for personal evangelism and for training others in evangelism. The *Gospel Presentation Paper* is the sum-total of the five *Gospel Presentation Exercises*. The *Gospel Presentation Paper* is also due October 10, 2008.

There is no page limit on the *Gospel Presentation Paper*, but it must include:

- A. Your personal testimony (three minutes maximum when spoken).
- B. A presentation of the gospel in prose (as you would present it verbally, not in outline form) that includes:
 - The 4 major biblical concepts of:
 - God
 - Man
 - Christ
 - Repentance and Faith
 - At least one Scripture verse to support each major point within each of the 4 concepts.
 - At least one illustration to support each major point within each of the 4 concepts. (Follow the *Five Key Dynamics* outline to help determine where Scripture verses and illustrations are necessary.)
- C. A model prayer of repentance and faith in Christ. (See model in *Five Key Dynamics*)
- D. A suggested follow-up plan for a new Christian. (Browse the RTS bookstore and/or web.)
- E. The name of a gospel booklet (tract) the student approves as a useful tool for witnessing and/or equipping others to witness.

Things to consider: On one level, think of this assignment as an opportunity to develop a transferable evangelism presentation that you can use in a church training program.. On another level, think of this assignment as a personal letter to a non-Christian family member or friend (you may even want to send your assignment to someone or write it with someone in mind). However, do not over-tailor your presentation as to make it ineffective for broader future use.

3. Final Examination (20%)

The final exam will be comprehensive and essay in format, including all class reading assignments and lectures. The exam will be given to the student in a sealed envelope on the last day of class and is due October 10, 2008. No Bibles or any other books, notes, laptops are allowed when taking the exam. The time limit for the exam is 3 hours (maximum) and the exam must be proctored. The exam proctor must sign a *Proctor Confirmation Statement* that must be submitted with the final exam on the due date for credit to be received. Further information about the final exam will be provided during the last class period.

VI. Grading

Grades will be assigned according to the RTS grading system: 100-97=A, 96-94=A-, 93-91=B+, 90-88=B, 87-86=B-, 85-83=C+, 82-80=C, 79-78=C-, 77-75=D+, 74-72=D, 71-70=D-, below 70=F.

Late Assignments Policy

Please do not ask my teaching assistant or me for permission to turn in an assignment late. All late assignments will automatically be penalized. If you have truly been providentially hindered from completing an assignment on time (such as a death in the immediate family), turn in a written request for waiving the late penalty with the assignment to my administrative assistant, Joyce Sisler. No assignments will be received after October 17, 2008.

Grading Percentages:

Pre-Class Assignments (Due before class August 11, 2008)

- Evangelism Reading & Reports (30%)
- Personal Outreach Project: First Six Weeks (5%)

In-Class Assignments

- Gospel Presentation Exercises (10%)

Post-Class Assignments (Due October 10, 2008)

- Personal Outreach Project: Second Six Weeks (5%)
- Personal Outreach Project Report (10%)
- Gospel Presentation Paper (20%)
- Final Examination (20%)

READING REPORT GUIDELINES

Your Name
Course Title & Number
Professor
Date

Please limit your report to one typed, single-spaced page, and one paragraph per topic (*Overview, Critique, Application*).

Title of Book **Complete Bibliographic Reference**

Overview—Give a brief overview of the book, including its theme, perspective and approach.

Critique—Offer a brief critique of the book, including elements of strength and weakness.

Application—Offer some specific application to your own ministry— demonstrating the value and relevance of the material in this book.

Best Quote—Be sure to include the page number where the quote can be found.

Did you read the entire book thoughtfully (not merely skimmed)? Yes ___ No ___ % Read (0-100) ____