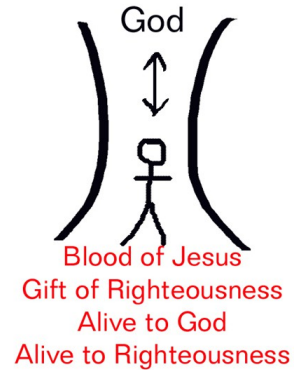
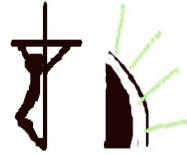


Stick Figure Gospel Presentation

by Robin Calamaio Copyright 1994, 2003, 2013, edit 2020

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This is the final drawing. Now let's go through this step by step. Make this your own.

But now you can just watch this!

Here is a video of [The Stick Figure Gospel Presentation](#). You can also print this article and that will help you follow along with the video even better.

History of This Method

One time, a preacher was asked which translation of the Bible he believed was best. He responded, "The one you will read!" Similarly, one might ask, "Which gospel presentation method is best?" Answer, "The one you will use!" Over the years, I have been involved in several gospel programs and have written, and read, many gospel tracts. This "Stick-Figure" presentation evolved over those years - I really do not even remember when, where or how. I finally formalized it for a congregation I pastored - to give them a simple way to share the good news message with others. I hope this benefits your work as well!

The End Game

This presentation can be done on any small piece of paper with these three stick drawings. Each drawing is accompanied with a simple explanation and appropriate Bible verses. When the final drawing has been explained, you will have presented each point of the gospel message (not missing anything) - and also what a person's response to that message should be!

The Set Up

This presentation is simple, spontaneous, and very nonthreatening to the hearer. In the past, while in a spiritual conversation with someone, I have simply asked, "Do you know the main point of the Bible - its central message?" The response is not too important as I immediately follow with the question/statement, "How about if I show it to you by a little drawing I use?" If the person is already a Christian, he/she will be interested in seeing this presentation and it will establish clear, common

ground between believers that can direct future conversations in important ways. If the person is not a Christian, exposure to the gospel is more important than any of us realize! With this easy approach, I can't think of a time anyone said they did not want to see the central point of the Bible explained - if for no other reason than for simple information. Few people want to remain ignorant when a simple proposal for learning is given. Then I start looking around for a scrap of paper and a pen, pencil, crayon - anything! I have pulled envelopes from wastebaskets, asked them for a pen - all kinds of various scenarios! This gives the feel of an "*un-canned*" presentation (which it is) and disarms the listener. Also, by using drawings on a piece of scrap paper, attention is directed on what is being drawn - not on me. In fact, as the presentation progresses, and we keep coming back to that little piece of paper, those drawings become more and more the focus of attention - and the the message in those drawings - and that is what we want!

Now, Get This!

It is critically important *to memorize verses* that go with each section of the presentation. God uses **His Word** to cause salvation and growth. We do not need to defend His word or try to make it have impact. Our job is to simply say it and He will cause the impact. Here are a few of His statements about His Word.

Isa 55:10,11 *"As the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth, and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth. **It shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it forth.**"*

1Pe 1:23 *"For you have been born again, not of seed which is perishable, but imperishable, that is **through the living and abiding word of God.**"*

Jas 1:18 *"In the exercise of His will, He brought us forth **by the word of truth**"*

As you learn the passages I have for each drawing, feel free to add other ones you know apply to each drawing. The more Scripture you have available inside of you, the more God will be able to use you. You may not use all the passages at any given time, but they become a reservoir from which to draw as each witnessing encounter occurs. The Holy Spirit will call ones to mind that He wants to use.

May God honor your efforts to profit others and expand His kingdom.

[Freely I give because freely I've been given!](#)

I hope you do the same.

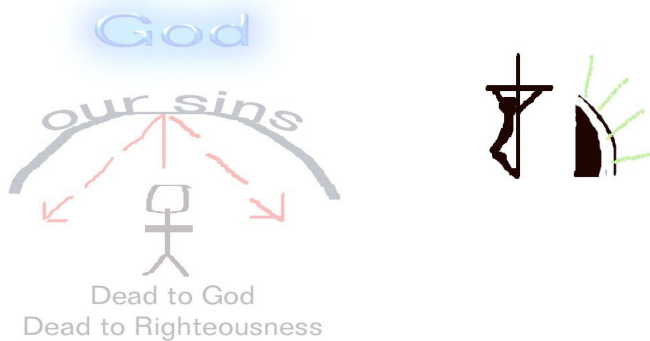
The Presentation - an Overview

These are the three main drawings.

Drawing 1: "Man's Condition" - The Bad News – Our Problem



Drawing 2: "God's Remedy" - The Good News – God's Solution to Our Problem



Drawing 3: "Man's Right Response" - Our Right Response to our Problem



Just as no two carpenters swing a hammer identically, so no two people will present the gospel in the same way. After a while, you will have favorite passages you use with the different segments of the presentation, but employment of these stick drawings will guarantee you move through the entire gospel message completely and methodically. Also, these visual aids will reinforce the presentation in the mind of your hearer - and that is great!

Now The Presentation - Step by Step

Drawing 1: “Man’s Condition” - The Bad News



Step 1 - Draw God and First Stick Person.

The Main Point: *Everyone knows there is “God.”* Don’t argue - just state it. He will reveal on Judgment Day when He had revealed Himself to each person - even the professing atheist.

Ps 53:1 *“The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt and have committed abominable injustice....”*

Ro 1:19-20 *“...that which is known about God is evident within them, for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”*

Step 2 - Draw Arch with “Our Sins” on it.

The Main Point: *Everyone does wrong things.* God calls this sin. These sins create a barrier between each individual and God.

Eccl 7:20 *“Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.”*

Ro 3:23 *“All have sinned and come short of God’s standard”*

Draw the arrows bouncing back as you get near the end of this next verse.

Isa 59:1,2 *“Behold! The Lord’s hand is not so short that it cannot save, neither is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you so that He does not hear.”* (Draw arrows bouncing back.)

The prayers of people in the natural state (unsaved, outside of Christ, unbelievers) cannot get through that sin barrier.

Illustration: When the sky is completely overcast, we know there is a sun, but we cannot see it. In a similar fashion, sin makes a “complete overcast” between each individual and God. The Bible says we know God exists (Ro 1:18-20), but sin creates a lethal barrier between each person and God. We cannot “see” Him.

Step 3 - Write, “Dead to God” and “Dead to Righteousness”.

The Main Point: *This is man’s natural condition.* This is not a pretty picture. But no one will ever respond to good news unless he/she understands *the bad news first*. Only people who know they are sick look for a cure. Don’t rush through or soft peddle this. Just state the case. God will back it up. That is what He does. Our job is to simply present His material.

Concerning being, “Dead to God”:

Eph 2:3 “*We are, by nature, children of wrath ... excluded from the life of God (Eph 4:18) ... dead in our trespasses and sins*” (Eph 2:18).

Ps 53:2,3 “*God has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there is anyone who understands, who acts wisely, who seeks after God. Every one of them has turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.*”

We are *dead* in our sins – thus, we are **Dead to God**.

Concerning being “Dead to Righteousness”:

Ro 8:7 “*The mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so*”

Ro 3:10 “*There is none righteous, not even one*”

Isa 64:6 “*All our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment*”

Ro 6:20 “*When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regards to righteousness*”

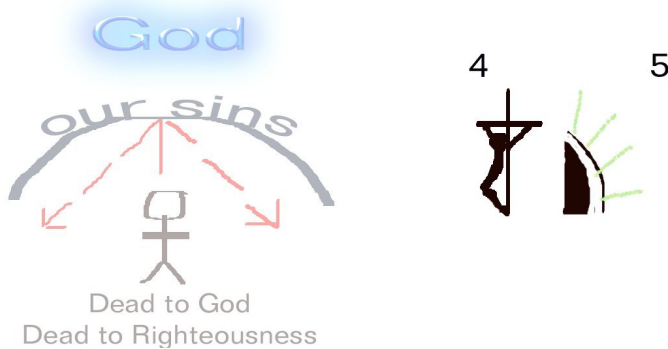
We will not, even cannot, do genuine righteousness before God. Thus, **Dead to Righteousness**.

The Bible teaches that sin deceives us *and* hardens us (Heb 3:13), blinds us (Deut 16:19), enslaves us (Jn 8:34), and dominates us (Ro 6:16-20). But, that’s not all! “*The payment for sin is death ... so death spread to all people, because all have sinned*” (Ro 6:23 and 5:12).

This is The Bad News ... it is really bad news. Fortunately, this is not the end of the story.

Add some your own notes in the space below.

Drawing 2: “God’s Remedy” - The Good News



Step 4 - Draw a cross with the silhouette of Jesus upon it.

The Main Point: *Jesus' life and death.* God, through Moses, preached to us what He expects of us (the Ten Commandments and the rest of the moral Law). Unfortunately, that damns us all as we fail to live up to it. So, God decided to practice what He had preached. He became a Man. That is who Jesus is.

Php 2:6-8 “...although He existed in the form of God, (He) did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

He obeyed His own Law perfectly - and never sinned. When Jesus was framed and murdered, God the Father took advantage of an opportunity. He requires life for sin (“the life of all flesh is in its blood” [Lev.17:14]) but where sin does not exist, death has no rightful claim. Death had no legitimate claim to Jesus - because sin was absent. But, on the cross, Jesus had our sins piled upon Him, and because His blood was pure, it could pay for them all. That is why I say, “Jesus died for me.” In His death, His blood paid for my sins.

2Co 5:21 “He (the Father) made Him (Christ) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf.”

1Pe 2:24 “He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, in order that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.”

1Pe 3:18 “For Christ also died for sins, once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God”

Isa 53:5,6,10 and 12 “He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities ... the Lord (YHWH) has caused the iniquity of us all to fall upon Him ... the Lord (YHWH) was pleased to crush Him as He render(ed) Himself as a guilt offering ... He Himself bore the sin of many and interceded for the transgressors.”

Col 2:13,14 “And when you were dead in your transgressions ... He (the Father) made you alive together with Him (Christ), having forgiven us all our transgressions, having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us, and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross”

Step 5 - Draw the edge of the empty tomb and rays of light coming out of it.

The Main Point: *Jesus Physically Rose From the Dead.* His death is not, “*The End.*” After being stone cold dead, on the third day, Jesus physically walked out of the grave - *alive*. Actually, death had no rightful claim to Him (or His body) because He had no sin of His own - and death is ***imposed because of sin***. All the sins that were placed upon Him while He was dying (our sins) were paid for the moment He died. So, there He stood on the other side of death’s door *with no sin* - so it was impossible for Him *not* to physically come out of that grave! Death had no rightful claim to Him - or His body!

Ac 10:40,41 “*God raised Him up on the third day, and granted that He should become visible, not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us (the disciples), who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.*”

1Co 15:1,3 and 4 “*Now I (Paul) make known to you, brethren, the gospel ... that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures (as had been predicted in the Old Testament), and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (as had been predicted in the Old Testament)*”

Also Ro 5:8-10, Heb 7:25, Heb 9:14, Heb 9:28, Heb 9:22.

Guess What?

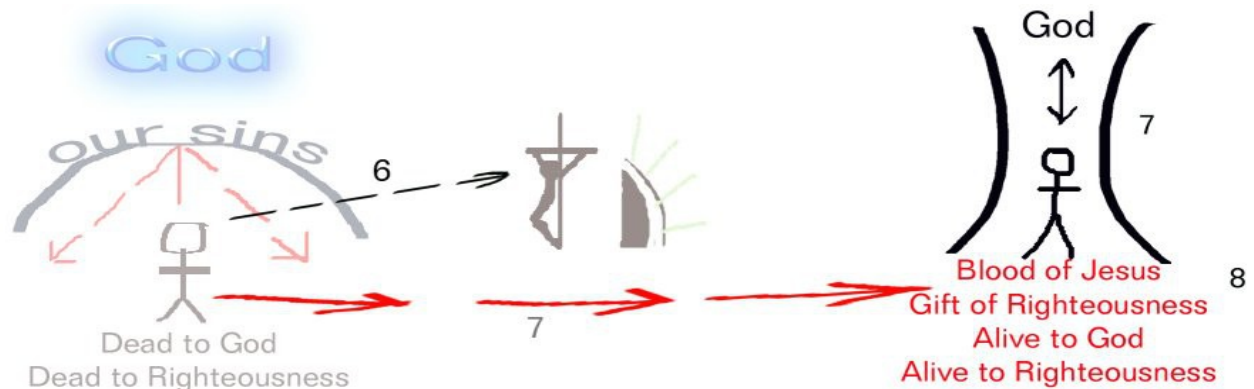
According to Paul, **you have just presented the Gospel!** Examine 1 Corinthians 15:1,3 and 4 above more closely. Man’s response to the gospel message is nowhere in sight! Yet, Paul had just stated the gospel! You see, the gospel message - and ***man’s response*** to it - are two entirely different matters. In Romans 10:16, we are told, “*they did not all heed (obey) the good news (the gospel)*” A person’s reaction to the Good News, whether positive or negative, does not impact the truth and genuineness of God’s benevolent message toward man. A pot of gold is still a pot of gold regardless of the activity around that pot of gold! It is extremely important that we understand this. Truth frees us.

While a person’s response to that message will determine his/her own personal, eternal destiny, we are not responsible for our hearer’s response. So, what is our responsibility? Well, it is two-fold. First, we are to explain the content of God’s good news (which we just did). Second, we are to state what the Bible says makes for a favorable response. This next paragraph may be the most important one I will ever write.

It is imperative we state exactly, word for word what the Bible declares ***is*** a positive response to this good news message! ***Please memorize the verses in the following section exactly!*** It is a great disservice to our hearers to give them some church formula or interpretation of what the listener’s response to the gospel should be! Simply state what the Bible says! Do not add to these passages and do not take away from them. This is indeed the most holy of grounds as one’s eternal fate is hanging in the balance.

Discussions about faith, repentance, works, etc., are indeed valid, but only in so far as they accurately enhance the actual verses below.

Drawing 3: “Man’s Right Response”



Step 6 - Draw the Arrow from the stick person to the Cross with the Silhouetted Jesus.

Quote the verses as you do this.

Jn 6:40 “Everyone who beholds the Son, and believes in Him, has eternal life; and I Myself will raise Him up on the last day.”

Jn 6:29 “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him (Jesus) whom He (the Father) has sent.”

Ro 10:9,13 “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’ and believe in you heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved ... whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.”

2Co 3:16 “Whenever a person turns to the Lord the veil is taken away.”

Jn 1:12 “As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God.”

The Main Point: *When a person responds favorably (appropriately) to this message - God removes the sin barrier between the individual and Himself!*

Step 7 - Draw the arrow from the original stick man to a new one.

Draw this stick man with a direct line to God.

Quote the one verse below and then finish the illustration about the overcast sky.

Col 12,13 “Joyously giving thanks to the Father who has ... delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us into the kingdom of the beloved Son.”

Illustration: When a person receives Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, the clouds of the “complete overcast” are totally removed. Just as the sun can be seen when the clouds disappear, so also when a person is in Christ, the sin problem is removed and a person has a direct, unobstructed relationship with God! Our personal veil of sin ... eternally evaporates!

The Main Point: *With a favorable response, we are transferred into His family and direct access to God is now restored ... and eternally secured!*

Step 8 - Under the new Stick Man, write

“Blood of Jesus”

“Gift of Righteousness”

“Eternal Life”

“Alive to God”

and “Alive to Righteousness”.

Quote the appropriate passage with each benefit as you write that benefit.

The Main Point: *Benefits given to right responders.* Share *some* benefits granted each person who responds positively to this Good News message from God!

1Pe 1:18 (Blood of Jesus) “... *you were bought with precious blood, the blood of Christ.*”

Ro 5:17 (Gift of Righteousness) “*those who receive the gift of righteousness - will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.*”

Jn 10:28 (Eternal Life) “*I (Jesus) give eternal life to them and they will never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand.*”

Ro 6:13 (Alive to God) “... *present yourselves to God as those **alive from the dead***”

Ro 6:18 (Alive to Righteousness) “*and having been freed from sin, you became ‘slaves’ of righteousness.*”

Also Ro 4:2-9, 1Co 1:26-31, Php 3:8-11. Add others that are important to you!

You have just completed the entire Stick Gospel presentation! What a great privilege God has granted that we can be used in His Kingdom’s expansion. I hope this particular witnessing model is to your liking - but if not, find what will work for you and spread the message!

Here is some space to add some of your own passages and notes.

A Side Note:

Two Diagnostic Questions

In an attempt to gauge the spiritual understanding of any person with whom you get in a spiritual conversation, here are the two best diagnostic questions I have ever heard. You may have already heard them, but to be reminded of them won't hurt a thing. They are:

1. *"If you died today, do you know **for certain** you would go to heaven?"* (The answer to this is actually irrelevant - but sets up this next question ... which gets to the heart of the matter.)
2. *"If you do die today, and stand before God, and He asks, 'Why should I let you into Heaven?' **what will you say?**"* The response to this question let's you know the person's understanding on salvation. Sometimes I add this followup question. *"In other words, what do you think a person must do so as to be right with God?"*

I have often turned these last couple of questions on myself in the conversation. This takes the emphasis off my hearer - and they become an observer of the transaction between me and God. This often helps them hear the message I am conveying, rather than going into personal alarm, or defense, as they see themselves put on the spot. All of us will be put on that spot soon enough. It is not necessary I put them on that spot at that particular moment. I relate this last question to myself as follows:

"When I die, and God asks me, 'Robin, why should I let you into heaven?' my response will be (if I can speak), 'I am trusting in the blood of Jesus alone to pay for everything I have ever done wrong - for everything that I am - and I am trusting in His righteousness alone to make me acceptable with You. His perfect obedience to the Law, being credited to me as a gift upon receiving Him, is the only righteousness I have. It is upon these two things - His blood and His righteousness - lie my only hope for entrance into heaven. There are no other grounds which I bring for why You should accept me.'"

It's all mercy and it's all grace (unmerited favor), or it's all over. I am putting all my eggs in one basket. No *"diversification"* in this matter.

You see, either Jesus is my Savior, or else I am. I will either completely rely on His merits, or upon my own. But *"many"* people are relying on some type of combination formula. *"It's Jesus and me."* That is what is happening in Matthew 7:21-23. *"Many will say to Me on that Day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"* This is an extremely terrifying conversation.

"Many will say to Me on that Day...." I do not know how many *"Many"* are, but to hear Him say *"Many"* - well, from God's perspective I am sure that means a very large number. This conversation is occurring at the Judgment. These people have left this age and the life we are now experiencing is ancient history to them. Eternity is stretching out before them. Maybe they are standing in mid air (or something) before His Throne. I do know they are no longer standing on earth. They know exactly Who they are addressing ... and they are panicked. They address Jesus as *"Lord,"* and they know He has control of their eternal fate! The words translated, *"Your"* are intensive in the original Greek. *"Your Name ... Your Name ... Your Name"* This is an exceedingly intense conversation. But do you see what is transpiring here? These people are presenting the works they did as grounds for their inclusion in the coming eternal Kingdom. They are pointing to the prophecies they announced, the miracles they performed, the demons they expelled! God *owes them* as they are presenting a works righteousness! How *"many"* do you think will stand there on that Day and be presenting the following things? *"But we were church members and paid a tithe of all we got. And we served as Elders,*

Deacons, preachers, church board members! We were even ordained in Your name! We gave to missions, sang in the choir - even went out on visitation!"

Many do not even realize they have been tallying all these "*points*" up inside themselves to then present as their defense as to why God should receive them into Heaven. If deep in your heart you are somehow part of being your own savior - you will be damned. Even if you are trusting Jesus for 99.999% of your salvation - and only .001% in yourself - that .001% will damn you. He says all of our righteousness is like a filthy rag. I've been told that references a menstrual rag. If we could earn righteousness before God in any way that worked, Jesus would not have come and been nailed to chunks of wood.

The point is this: either Jesus is your Savior - 100% - or He is not. He will not share that glory with another. Everybody is on the same level. He will be indebted to no one. He owes heaven to no one. All our service to Him, and all efforts to live in a behaviorally acceptable manner, is our way of thanking Him for having done it all for us perfectly! We want to be like Him and prove to Him we appreciate what He did for us - and our obedience and zeal for His fame is one way we show Him we love Him. But all our efforts to forward His agenda are not meant to supplant what He did.

Works and obedience must be present in the life of the Christian - but this is *an evidence* of salvation - not part of that core work Jesus accomplished. His blood is the only thing that has the power to pay for our wrongdoings. We can confess forever, but not a single sin of ours can be expunged absent the blood of Christ. We can feel guilty, try to work off the sin, or even be suffering in hell for it - but none of these activities has the power to pay for even *a part* of one of our sins.

Concerning righteousness, it was Jesus who was born under the Law, kept all the requirements of it, and then died innocent of any wrongdoing. My "*Law-keeping*" cannot be added to His and it is a fatal error to attempt that. I cannot add to perfection. It is His blood and His righteousness that have the power to make me acceptable to God. Both of these priceless items are available as a gift. They cannot be earned - and no one deserves them. I must absolutely humble myself and fully acknowledge in the depths of my soul that I need Jesus' work applied to me - as that is my only hope.

And you know what? When I realize this, and yield to this, I find absolute freedom! This is the place of rest - the place of peace - the place of liberty! I do not have to try to impress God with my goodness, or make some case of how I have tried to work off my bad - by doing good. And how do I know when I have done enough good anyway? What a relentless, unending pursuit! You see, I have put all my eggs in One basket. If the blood of Jesus isn't powerful enough to pay for everything I have done and everything I am, and if His obedience to the Law is not good enough to be my righteousness - then I am doomed. But I would much rather put my eternal fate in His hands than to keep my eternal fate in my own. And even if I got my act totally together and never sinned again, what about my past transgressions? How can I go back and erase those?

So, here is the bottom line. I do not feel ashamed to admit that I cannot save myself. I do not feel belittled by that. I do not feel I must apologize for admitting I do not have the power to right all the wrongs I have committed. In fact, it is just the opposite! I feel totally liberated to announce I have been a spiritual failure! I am thrilled to declare to anyone in hearing distance - I have given up on myself and am trusting in the blood and righteousness of Jesus alone for acceptance by God. And if He can't save me - then damned I will be! I will shout this out with all the strength and volume I can muster! I will declare this fully before men and the myriads of angels of heaven - that I have no hope apart from the merits of Christ. I will brag on His merits, point you to His merits and proclaim the excellencies of His merits until I die - at His Throne - and then for all eternity after that! And if I die and this material is

left behind, may God be pleased to use this as a witness from me that cries out from the grave!

Back to the Diagnostic Questions

The true value of asking these diagnostic questions is just that - they are a great tool to diagnose the spiritual condition of the one with whom you are speaking. Also, the given answers will help direct you into what areas you may need to emphasize in your Stick Gospel presentation. You will find that most people will answer with some kind of “works” answer. They will say something like, “*Well, I have always tried to live by the Golden Rule,*” or “*I know I have made some mistakes, but He knows we are all human,*” or, “*I always provided for my family and tried to do the right thing*” - etc., etc., etc. These are all works righteousness answers. They are based upon the performance of the individual. These presentations/defenses will fail before God.

Also, when I am in a discussion with others of a different religion, spiritual tradition, or cult, I ask these same two diagnostic questions at some point early on in the discussion. You will find out exactly what they base their hope on - and it will always be based on some kind of works righteousness.

Sometimes I ask these questions: “*Does your religion, or faith, believe that there is a problem between God and man?*” If the answer is “*Yes,*” I then ask the next logical thing (and have never been turned down for an answer yet): “*So then, how is that problem fixed?*” The answer to this exposes it all. There is no need to get hung up on blood transfusions, genealogies, or any side doctrinal issue. You have cut directly to the heart of the matter and can then spend the rest of the conversation on the only subject that matters anyway! You can then say, “*Do you know the main point of the Bible - its central message? How about if I show it to you by a little drawing I use?*”

Just find a piece of paper and a pencil and do your Stick Gospel presentation! Then it is “*case closed.*” You might even be bold enough to ask them, “*Why should I give up a system like mine - for yours?*” Can ours be disproved? The answer is, “*No.*” One may not believe it, but that is as far as anyone can go.

Praise God

Here is another chance at [the video version](#) of this presentation. You have spent 40 minutes ... in worse ways. And you can always turn it off, but, I bet you won't if you have already come this far. You are a learner – and learn you must.

God has a lot of other information available for you!

Great Depths to Explore!

Want accurate info on the Tithe?

Want an exhaustive Bible study on Love? What is it exactly?

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Listen, learn, live!

Robin Calamaio: Christian from '77.

BA Bus Admin (Milligan College '90) and Master of Divinity (Emmanuel School of Religion '92).