

## Introduction:

**1 Corinthians 1:21** *For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.* Only a small number of those that heard the Gospel on the Day of Pentecost were baptized. **Acts 2:41** says three thousand were added to the church. Later on, “However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand,” **Acts 4:4** and even later on in the Book of Acts, “And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, a multitude were converted.” (**Acts 5:14**) Yet in the great scheme of things this represented a small number, besides the message preached they had the miraculous signs of the tongue of fire, sound of a rushing mighty wind, and the speaking in tongues. Often, we wonder why more are not converted by the Gospel. One can hear the Gospel on the radio, television, through bulletins, Bible Classes, Sermons, Gospel Meetings, on the internet, etc. Yet only a small number are obeying the Gospel. Why?

### I) NOT:

- A) Problem with the Gospel of Christ, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”* (**Romans 1:16**)

The same message on the Day of Pentecost caused three thousand to believe. This means all could have obeyed the Gospel. It was do able.

The Gospel is complete and sufficient to convert the lost, *“as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory*

and virtue,” **(2 Peter 1:3)**

1. Could be a problem of:
  - a. Not enough Gospel preaching
  - b. People preaching a polluted Gospel. **“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.” (Matthew 7:15)**
  - c. Adding to or taking away from the Gospel. **“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.” (Galatians 1:8)**

**B) Sins too big or too many**

**1 Corinthians 6:9** Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

1. Jesus’ blood is sufficient to take away sin
2. We sometimes have a problem with that (Jeffery Dahmer)

**C) A lack of God’s grace,**

**“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,” (Titus 2:11)**

1. His grace is not limited to a few people (the elect) as some

would call them

2. *Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved, **Acts 2.21***

**D) The preacher and/or teacher**

1. Parable of the sower; the power is in the word
2. We can get in the way of the gospel: lack of concern, not being prepared, hypocrisy

**II) Why?**

**A) Lack of spiritual concern of the recipient**

1. People caught up in material things. ***“And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. 25 Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.” (Acts 24:24-25)***
2. We may need a depression to create time for God

**B) Love for sin,**

***Hebrews 11:24 “By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.”***

1. People will allow themselves to be in bondage to sin.

**Romans 6:17** *“But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness”.*

2. Some will not give up “social sins” such as gambling, drinking, adultery
3. Not willing to repent, **Luke 13.3**

**C) Procrastination – putting off Jesus.**

**Acts 26:27** *“King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe.” 28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.”*

1. Almost persuaded means almost but lost.

**Hebrews 10:26** *For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.”*

2. A decision not to obey is a decision against God.

**Acts 16:33** *“And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.”*

**D) Hard hearted – they are the wayside soil where the word of God has no place in their lives**

1. A close line between procrastination and outright rejection.  
**Acts 7:51** *“You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.”*

2. This is a common problem.

**Acts 28:27** *For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them."* 28  
*"Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!"*

3. Some people refuse to believe God, they are self-willed

#### **E) They are too smart,**

**1 Corinthians 1:26** *For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.*

1. We try to out think God, I don't see why God would require me to be baptized, or why should I have to give up drinking, or my partying, etc.
2. His plan is too simple.
3. Think of how simple the plan of salvation is. God sent Jesus, Jesus is the perfect sacrifice for our sins, His blood washes away our sins. The key is His sacrifice, His blood and how to contact that blood. How? Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, Baptize, Be faithful till death.

#### **Conclusion:**

The honest and sincere will obey but they must be taught. A person that hears the truth and does not obey may be afraid or something, overly cautious, procrastinating, dishonest and insincere, not interested in pleasing God. If

you are not a Christian we hope the reason is because you do not know what to do. We would like to study with you from the Bible and only ask you to do what the Bible says.