

## Section 7: The Gospel Proclamation

Relevant bible passages pointing to the Gospel may be read aloud at the Presiding Participant's discretion.

**1) P1:** Let us begin this time of proclamation by recalling the majestic holiness [purity] of God who can abide no evil [nor even the slightest trace of sin] (Genesis 6:5-7)

**2) All:** *"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come"* (Revelation 4:8)<sup>1</sup>

**3) P1:** Yet God, in your merciful love, you chose neither to destroy nor to distance yourself from your sin-stricken Creation. For you so loved the World that you sent your only begotten Son, that *"whosoever believes in Him [should] not perish, but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16)

**4) P2:** For you did not send Your Son into the world to condemn it; but that we who are in the World might be saved through Him (John 3:17)

**5) P1:** *"He that believes on him is not condemned; but he that believes not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God"* (John 3:18)

**6) P2:** We do believe; thanks be to God (John 20:29)

**7) P1:** *"This is a faithful saying, worthy of [complete] acceptance"* (1Timothy 1:15a)

**8) P2:** *"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"* (1Timothy 1:15b)

**9) P1:** This saying sums-up the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which can, without exception [as long as true faith is present] redeem [great multitudes of] people from all nations and from all walks of life (Revelation 7:9)

**10) P2:** There is no superior class of people, neither is there any inferior race. All alike are equal before God, either as lost sinners or redeemed saints (Romans 3:9)

**11) P1:** Remember! All those who provoke hatred on the grounds of class, race or gender are full of the spirit of evil. Unless they repent, they will have no share [reward] in the world to come (James 2:1-9, Exodus 22:21 & Ephesians 5:25)

**12) P2:** Lord, keep us from all hateful prejudices and keep us faithful to your one true Gospel (1 Corinthians 9:20-23)

**13) P1:** Remember, if we reject or [lazily] ignore this [one true] Gospel then God's wrath [righteous fury] remains upon us. There is nothing to look forward to but a hellish judgement in eternal fire *"prepared for the devil and his angels,"* (Matthew 25:41b)

**14) P2:** To reject the Gospel of life means that we will die in our sins and endure a sorrowful torment in a Hell without end (Matthew 8:12)

**15) P1:** Yet there is no need to perish, for in His goodness, God continually longs that all people everywhere should come to the knowledge of the gospel of salvation (1Timothy 2:4)

**16) P2:** If we end up in Hell, we have only ourselves to blame, for we are responsible for our own sins (Ezekiel 18:5f)

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<sup>1</sup> In contrast to most popular Gospel teaching today, God's holiness is presented here before His love. It's always to be hoped that, in any gospel proclamation God's holiness will provoke an acute awareness of personal sin and a looking to Christ to deal with it.

**17) P1:** In order to receive eternal life and to avoid that place of frightful [endless] torment<sup>2</sup> we must first humble ourselves (James 4:10 & 1 Peter 5:6) by placing our faith in Christ. We are not to place our faith in our own perceived abilities either to please God through personal good works, intellectual speculation, religious activities or attempts to build a better, more just society. Even the faith to believe in Christ is God-given; it is not something we can work up for ourselves.

**18) P2:** All of our '*good works*' are but filthy rubbish in God's sight (Isaiah 64:6). Not one of us, (no matter how religious) can ever justify ourselves before our Holy Judge, who cannot abide even the slightest trace of imperfection in His Creation (Job 9:20, 25:4 & 32:2). Even our most noble of deeds would fail to please Him because they will have been tainted by some degree of sin.

**19) P1:** His divine wrath is like an all-consuming fire and only through faith in Jesus can we escape His terrible judgements (Deuteronomy 4:24)

**20) P2:** Attempts to justify ourselves before God are utterly futile because they are based upon foolish pride (Luke 18:9-14) and unbelief. God has done everything needed for our salvation through Christ's work upon the cross (Hebrews 11:6). We can do nothing to add to, or improve upon, this perfect work.

**21) All:** It is by grace that we are saved, not through our own efforts or good works; lest any of us should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9)

**22) P1:** Lord, free us from the tyranny of self-justification

**23) P2:** Please do this for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, whose death upon the cross is our sole basis for justification

**24) P1:** It was there at Calvary that Christ pacified God's justifiable wrath against us and satisfied the requirements of His awesome holiness

**25) P2:** Through His death upon the cross He opened wide the door for our salvation, cancelling the punishment we deserved for our sins and enabling us to receive the blessing of His Holy Spirit

**26) P1:** Once we have totally rejected the futile delusion that we can ever justify ourselves before God [through trying to earn salvation by our own efforts or religious performance] the next step is to trust that Jesus alone is "*the way, the truth and the life*" (John 14:6a)

**27) P2:** "*No man can get to the Father except by*" Him (John 14:6b)

**28) P1:** "*There is no salvation from any other source*" (Acts 4:12a)

**29) P2:** "*For there is no other name under Heaven, given to men through whom we must be saved*" (Acts 4:12b)

**30) P1:** Should faith in Christ be lacking then all we need do is to humbly ask for the gift of faith and Christ's merciful Father will grant it, in His own time

**31) P2:** "*Lord, help us in our struggle with unbelief*" and for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, please grant us the gift of justifying faith, should it be lacking in our own lives (Mark 9:24b)

**32) P1:** Always remember that eternal life is a free gift from God; resulting only from what He has done for us through the sacrificial death of Jesus, His [beloved] Son (Matthew 3:17)

**33) P2:** We can never achieve salvation through undertaking merciful deeds, campaigning for justice, participating in religious ceremonies or by engaging in spiritual practices like prayer and contemplation (although these things can be good in and of themselves)

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<sup>2</sup> There is no '*beating about the bush*' concerning the awful reality of Hell. This long-neglected doctrine of Hell is perhaps the one doctrine that modern people find most especially offensive. Nevertheless, as with any other Christian doctrine it still needs to be proclaimed. The Christian Faith stands on all of its doctrines and is not in the business of pleasing public opinion.

**34) P1:** At best, good works are a consequence and not a cause of our salvation. They are aids to promoting Christian growth and to strengthening the relationship we already enjoy with God. They can also be a valid means whereby the Gospel is actively witnessed to and through which life in this world is made more enjoyable [bearable], (1 Corinthians 9:22).

**35) P2:** Salvation comes through faith alone in Jesus alone

**36) P1:** But even that faith is a [wonderful] gift of divine grace [love]. It is not something that can be created [worked-up] through psychological techniques, hypnotic suggestion or group pressure. All these things do is to create a counterfeit faith which cannot last. In contrast, true saving faith is a result of God's grace [unmerited favour] working in our hearts and minds.

**37) All:** Our salvation begins, continues and ends in grace, *"for the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. For it is by grace that [we] are saved, through faith and not of [ourselves] it is the gift of God through the Lord Jesus Christ. Not through works lest [we] should boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for those good works which God has planned beforehand that we may walk in them, living the good life he has prepared for us to live,"* Amen (Romans 6:23 & Ephesians 2:8-10).

**38) P1:** Once we have fully realised that we can never please God in our own strength the next step is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, Lord and God (John 20:28 & Acts 16:31)

**39) P2:** Also *"if [we] confess with our mouth and believe in [our] hearts that God raised Him from the dead [we] shall be saved"* (Romans 10:9)

**40) All:** As a gathering of believers, we do confess to any unbelievers present that Jesus Christ is our Saviour, Lord and God. We also believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead (Matthew 10:32 & Luke 12:8)

**41) P1:** Let us close this proclamation by gladly acknowledging that...

**42) All:**

1. As perfect God,
2. Jesus Christ came in the flesh,
3. As perfect man to offer
4. A perfect, unrepeatable, blood sacrifice that
5. Fully pacified His Father's anger and
6. Completely blotted out
7. All our sins (Romans 3:25, I John 2:2 & 4:1-3, 10)<sup>3</sup>

Alleluia, Amen

If doubts remain concerning any of the assembled gathering's spiritual condition, then a short Gospel exhortation may follow. This would aim to both challenge and allow people to express their commitment, (possibly with the aid of any one of the three prayers in the next section). Otherwise this section may end in silent reflection or with a chorus, hymn or Psalm. The Presiding Participant will need to sensitively gauge the prevalent mood of the gathering in order to choose the appropriate response.

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<sup>3</sup> Every major heresy attacks at least one of these proclaimed truths concerning Jesus Christ. It is the one thing all heresies have in common.