

Lesson Outline

I Great Excuses in the Bible

- A. Adam and Eve – Genesis 3:12-13
- B. Abram – Genesis 12:11-13
- C. Lot – Genesis 19:19
- D. Moses – Exodus 4:1 and 4:10
- E. Aaron – Exodus 32:22-24
- F. The Ten Spies – Numbers 13:21-22
- G. Saul – 1 Samuel 15:15
- H. Naaman – 2 Kings 5:11-12
- I. Jeremiah – 1:6
- J. Jonah – Jonah 4:2
- K. The Unfaithful Steward – Matthew 25:24
- L. Those Who Looked Back – Luke 9:57-61
- M. Those Invited to the Great Supper – Luke 14:18-20
- N. Latter Day Scoffers – 2 Peter 3:4
- O. The Church of the Laodiceans – Revelation 3:7

II Common Excuses People Give for Not Believing the Gospel

- A. I am too great s sinner – I will not be accepted.
- B. I have committed the unpardonable sin.
- C. I must become better before I can become a Christian.
- D. I cannot give up my sins.
- E. I am afraid I shall fail – I cannot hold-out.
- F. I cannot live the Christian life.
- G. I will have to give up too much.
- H. I will lose my friends and family.
- I. I will be persecuted.
- J. I have no feeling.
- K. I see too many Christian hypocrites
- L. I don't understand the Bible.
- M. I am not that bad of a person (I'm a good person).
- N. God is too good to condemn anyone to hell.
- O. I'm not ready just yet.

III Will Man Have Any Excuse?

- A. Ignorance is no excuse.
- B. Knowledge only increases culpability.

Lesson Outline

Excuses – The work of the Lord is plagued with excuses. They seem to abound with every endeavor. The lost come up with all kinds of excuses for not believing the Gospel. And sadly, many believers are not far behind them with a plethora of excuses for not obeying the Lord, serving the Lord, or walking with the Lord as they should.

There is a distinction between “excuses” and “reasons” in the sense that “reasons” arise from prevailing circumstances. Read: 1 Thessalonians 2:18 *¹⁸Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.*

Excuses are but sinful justifications for unbelief, disobedience, or incomplete surrender. They are given as a means to avoid personal responsibility.

This study examines some of the classical excuses offered by men, and offers the Christian worker some suggestion on how to answer them.

I Great Excuses in the Bible – There are fifteen (15) notable excuses recorded in the Word of God (many others exist).

A. Adam and Eve Excuses – Genesis 3:12-13 *¹²And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. ¹³And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, the serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.*

Adam, after being confronted with God’s question, “Hast thou eaten... whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?”

1. Adam blamed “*The woman whom thou gavest to be with me,...*”. Adam also by implication, blamed God personally.
2. Eve blamed the serpent who had beguiled her!

This is classic **blame shifting**. In stead of accepting full responsibility for his transgression, Adam attempted to shift blame to Eve and even God.

Read all of Psalm 51 but especially verse 4 for guidance about accepting responsibility...

Psalm 51 (To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bath-sheba.)

¹Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: According unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. ³For I acknowledge my transgressions: And my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: That thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

Modern psychiatry is largely an exercise in blame shifting looking for a reason apart from SIN. Sigmund Freud taught that a man's problems (sins) are essentially the result of his victimization by others in society (over bearing parents, strict churches, unreasonable employers, etc.) and that the psychiatrist's task is to first determine who the victimizer really is (via "psychoanalysis"), then free his patient from the victimization. B.F. Skinner [a behaviorism theory in education, learning, etc.] taught that a man (as an animal) is strictly a product of his environment – that he is what is and does what he does because of where he is – that the psychiatrist's task is a re-train, re-program, and/or re-educate his patient. Social engineering is the key!

Social engineering is

- As a group: the use of centralized planning in an attempt to manage social change and regulate the future development and behavior of a society.
- As an individual: a manipulation technique that exploits human error to gain private information, access, or valuables. Once an attacker understands what motivates a user's actions, they can deceive and manipulate the user effectively.

Note: The Word of God records man's failure in a perfect environment at both ends of human history. The Garden of Eden (Genesis 3) and prophetically after the millennial rule of Christ (Revelation 20:7-10 *⁷And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, ⁸and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. ⁹And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. ¹⁰And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire*

and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

- B. Abram Excuses – Genesis 12:10-13** ¹⁰*And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.* ¹¹*And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon: ¹²therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive. ¹³Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.*

This passage actually records **two faith-failures** in the life of Abraham, both of which involved trusting the promises and provisions of God.

1. Abram went down into Egypt (verse 10). Also read Isaiah 31:1-3 ***1Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD! ²Yet he also is wise, and will bring evil, and will not call back his words: but will arise against the house of the evildoers, and against the help of them that work iniquity. ³Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together.***
2. Abram asked his wife to say she was his sister. The excuse Abram used was where he wanted his wife to lie in order to remove the possibility of his being killed in order to acquire his attractive wife.

Abraham's excuse was in reality **his failure to trust the Lord for his provision and protection**. It is akin to the famous expression "God helps those who help themselves."

Abram repeated this offense in Genesis 20:1-2 ¹*And Abraham journeyed from thence toward the south country, and dwelled between Kadesh and Shur, and sojourned in Gerar. ²And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah.*

Abraham's son Isaac repeated **the same sin** in Genesis 26:6-10 ⁶And Isaac dwelt in Gerar: ⁷And the men of the place asked him of his wife; and he said, She is my sister: for he feared to say, She is my wife; lest, said he, the men of the place should kill me for Rebekah; because she was fair to look upon. ⁸And it came to pass, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out at a window, and saw, and, behold, Isaac was sporting with Rebekah his wife. ⁹And Abimelech called Isaac, and said, Behold, of a surety she is thy wife: and how saidst thou, She is my sister? And Isaac said unto him, Because I said, Lest I die for her. ¹⁰And Abimelech said, What is this thou hast done unto us? one of the people might lightly have lien with thy wife, and thou shouldest have brought guiltiness upon us.

- C. Lot's Excuses – Genesis 19:1-20** ¹And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; ²and he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night. ³And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat. ⁴But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: ⁵and they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. ⁶And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, ⁷and said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. ⁸Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof. ⁹And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door. ¹⁰But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door. ¹¹And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door. ¹²And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: ¹³for we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us

to destroy it. ¹⁴And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law. ¹⁵And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. ¹⁶And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city. ¹⁷And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. ¹⁸And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord: ¹⁹**behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:** ²⁰behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?)

The despicable excuse stated by Lot in Genesis 19:19 was uttered from the lips of a man as he was literally being dragged out of the condemned city of Sodom by the two angels.

1. Lot was told to escape to the mountain.
2. His excuse as to why he could not do so was “**lest some evil take me, and I die:**”
3. Lot’s desired compromised was the “little” city of Zoar.

If Lot must leave his beloved Sodom, then he would not go too far from it. His excuse is that of a man not willing to let go of the world in order to follow Christ.

Read 1 John 2:15-17 ¹⁵Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Read Matthew 16:24-25 ²⁴Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

If Lot must follow then it will be from afar! If he couldn't have it all, Lot would settle for a little. Lot's concern over the "evil" to be encountered in the mountain was a mockery – what greater evil could there be than living in Sodom!

The repercussions of Lot's actions were reflected in his family.

D. Moses' Excuses

After Moses' encounter with the burning bush...

Exodus 4:1-10 *¹And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee. ²And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. ³And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. ⁴And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: ⁵that they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee. ⁶And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow. ⁷And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh. ⁸And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign. ⁹And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land. ¹⁰And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. ¹¹And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? ¹²Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say. ¹³And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send. ¹⁴And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.*

Moses had received his divine call and commission at the burning bush. Moses gave two excuses why he could not do what God had called him to do.

1. **Exodus 4:1** *¹And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.*

God responded with a question in verse 2: *²And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod.* While Moses was given special sign to authenticate his preaching, the modern preacher has the BOOK (BIBLE).

2. **Exodus 4:10** *¹⁰And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.*

God answered with another question in verse 11: *¹¹And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?*

- E. Aaron's (Moses' 4 year older brother) Excuses – Exodus 32:22-24** *²²And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief. ²³For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us: for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. ²⁴And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf.*

As Moses was up on Mount Sinai receiving the Law, Aaron led the children of Israel to make the golden calf idol. His excuses were:

1. Classic blame shifting from himself **to God** (God should have known the people) **and the "people" themselves** as stated in verse 22: *²²And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief.*
2. "It just happened!" Review verse 24 *²⁴And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf.*

Read verses Exodus 32:1-5 (**The Golden Calf**)

¹And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. ²And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me. ³And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron. ⁴And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. ⁵And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD.

The **FACT** of the matter is Aaron:

- Received the golden earrings (verse 4)
- Fashioned then with a tool
- Made it a golden calf
- Declared it to be the gods which brought Israel out of Egypt
- Built an alter for the golden calf (verse 5)
- Proclaimed a feast to the Lord (the golden calf?)

F. The Ten Spies' Excuses – Numbers 13:1-3 (Spies Sent Out)

¹And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ²Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them. ³And Moses by the commandment of the LORD sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men were heads of the children of Israel.

Numbers 13:31-33 *³¹But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. ³²And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. ³³And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.*

After returning from a 40-day mission into the promised land, ten of the twelve spies gave the following **excuses** why Israel could not go into the promised land.

1. The people [of the land] “*are stronger than we*” (verse 31)
2. The land “*that eateth up the inhabitants... and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.*” (verse 32)
3. We were “*in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.*”

Looking at the circumstances instead of the LORD will always bring discouragement, delay, and defeat. Contrast the faith and attitude of Caleb and Joshua. Read:

- Numbers 13:30 *30And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.*
- Numbers 14:6-9 **(Murmurings)**
*¹And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. ²And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! ³And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? ⁴And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt. ⁵Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel. ⁶**And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: ⁷and they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. ⁸If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. ⁹Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.***

Also read more about faith:

- 2 Corinthians 5:7 from verse 6: ⁶Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: ⁷(for we walk by faith, not by sight:) ⁸we are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.
- 1 John 5:4 **⁴For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.** ⁵Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?
- Hebrews 11:6 ⁶But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (then Hebrews gives examples)

G. Saul's Excuses – 1 Samuel 15:15 (verses 1-16)

The Amalekites

¹Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD. ²Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. ³**Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.**

⁴And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah. ⁵And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley. ⁶And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. ⁷And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt. ⁸And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. ⁹But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly. ¹⁰Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying, ¹¹It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me,

*and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night. ¹²And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal. ¹³And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD. ¹⁴And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? ¹⁵**And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.** ¹⁶Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on.*

1. We “**the people**” **spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen,...**
2. *The rest we have utterly destroyed.*

King Saul did not COMPLETELY obey the Lord’s word to satisfy his personal greed and to make the people happy. Moreover, Saul shifted blame to the people and made the readily available excuse of sacrifice to the Lord.

H. Naaman’s Excuses – 2 Kings 5:11-12 (read verses 1-19)

Naaman - the [Aramean](#) (an empire 11th to 8th century in present day Syria prior to the Neo-Assyrian empire) was a commander of the armies of [Ben-Hadad II](#), the king of [Aram-Damascus](#), in the time of [Joram](#), [king of Israel](#). According to the Bible, Naaman was a commander of the army of Syria. He was a good commander and was held in favor because of the victory that God brought him. Yet Naaman was a leper. Naaman's wife had a servant girl from Israel who said that a prophet there would be able to heal him. Naaman tells his lord this and he is sent to Israel with a letter to the king. The king of Israel didn't know what to do, yet [Elisha](#) sent a message to the King, advising that the King tell Naaman to come to see him. Elisha then told Naaman to go bathe in the Jordan seven times and he would be clean. Naaman was angry and would have left, but his servant asked him to try it and he was healed. A servant of Elisha, Gehazi, seeing Naaman being turned away from offering God offerings, ran after him and falsely asked for clothing and silver for visitors. And the leprosy from Naaman fell on Gehazi and would remain in his descendants.

Healed Naaman the Leper

*¹Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper. ²And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife. ³And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy. ⁴And one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel. ⁵And the king of Syria said, Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel. And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment. ⁶And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have therewith sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy. ⁷And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? Wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me. ⁸And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know **that there is a prophet in Israel.** ⁹So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. ¹⁰And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. ¹¹**But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.** ¹³And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean? ¹⁴Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. ¹⁵And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant. ¹⁶But he said, As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it; but he refused. ¹⁷And Naaman said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be*

given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD.

¹⁸In this thing the LORD pardon thy servant, that when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon: when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon thy servant in this thing. ¹⁹And he said unto him, Go in peace. So he departed from him a little way.

1. *¹¹“ ... I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.”*
2. *¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So, he turned and went away in a rage.*

The 1st excuse is typical of those excuses given because of the simplicity of the Gospel i.e., “There must be something more to it!”

The 2nd excuse is heard from those seeking a way to salvation other than the cross. The blood-stained way through Jesus Christ is too offensive. Read:

Galatians 5:11 ¹¹And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.

[Explanation: If circumcision is necessary for salvation, Christ is of no use. Also, those who want to keep the law about circumcision must keep the whole law. They cannot choose one command and ignore others to suit themselves. If they try to find salvation through law-keeping, they cut themselves off from the salvation that comes from Christ through God's grace]

I. **Jeremiah's Excuses – Jeremiah 1:6 (verses 4-10)**

The Prophet's Call (about the time of the Jewish exile to Babylon)

⁴Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ⁵Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. ⁶Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. ⁷But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send

thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. ⁸Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. ⁹Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. ¹⁰See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

Jeremiah was called to preach when he was a young boy. Jeremiah's initial excuse was: "I am a child." God gave him the promise: (verse 8) "... *I am with thee ...*" *Human inadequacies are not a problem for the Lord.*

J. **Jonah's Excuses – Jonah 4:2** (from Chapter 3 for context)

The Prophet's Obedience

¹And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, ²Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. ³So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey. ⁴And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. ⁵So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. ⁶For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: ⁸but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. ⁹Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? ¹⁰And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

The Prophet's Education

¹But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry. ²And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil. ³Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live. ⁴Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry? ⁵So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him

a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city.

The verse 4:2 explains why Jonah had run from God and Nineveh: “... **for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.**

This bigoted [obstinately or unreasonably attached to a belief, opinion, or faction, in particular prejudiced against a person or people on the basis of their membership in a particular group.] preacher just knew that if he obeyed God and went to Nineveh, the people of Nineveh would repent and God would spare them. Jonah wanted to see the people and city of Nineveh destroyed!

----- **New Testament** -----

K. The Unfaithful Steward’s Excuse – Matthew 25:24 (from verse 14 +)

The Talents

*¹⁴ For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. ¹⁵ And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; **to every man according to his several ability;** and straightway took his journey. ¹⁶ Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. ¹⁷ And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. ¹⁸ But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. ²⁰ And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. ²¹ His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. ²² He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. ²³ His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

²⁴ Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: ²⁵ and I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

²⁶ His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: ²⁷ thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I

should have received mine own with usury. ²⁸Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. ²⁹For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. ³⁰And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Stewardship involves the management of the affairs of others. The steward who was given one (1) talent [about 75 pounds of gold/silver or about 20 years of average wages] which he promptly buried. His excuse?

²⁴ ... I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

Blame shifting again! The steward blamed his lord for his failure to invest the talent... In doing so, the steward painted an insulting, unfair, and inaccurate picture of his master.

[An interpretation of the **Parable of the Talents** teaches us that we are put on Earth to work and keep God's commandments. This is evident not only in this particular **parable**, but in several other Bible stories. God rewards those who put considerable effort into bettering their lives and the lives of those in their community. Read Ecclesiastes 12:13 ¹³*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*]

Also read:

- Matthew 11:29-30 ²⁹*Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*
- 1 John 5:3 ³*For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*
- Ephesians 1:17-19 ¹⁷ *...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: ¹⁸the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,*

L. Those Who Looked Back Excuse – Luke 9:57-62

Would-be Disciples

Luke 9 ⁵⁷And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. ⁵⁸And Jesus said unto him, *Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.* ⁵⁹And he said unto another, *Follow me.* But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. ⁶⁰Jesus said unto him, *Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.* ⁶¹And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. ⁶²And Jesus said unto him, *No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*

The call to discipleship is a call to deny “one’s self”. Read Luke 9:23
²³And he [Jesus] said to them all, *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*

In this account, three men thought to follow Christ, but evidently went back when faced with the reality of that call. Revealed in this passage are three (3) common excuses for not serving the Lord completely:

1. Comfort (verse 58) – following Christ may require giving up the comforts of material blessings.
 - a. Read 2 Corinthians 6:4 (from verse 1) ¹We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. ²(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, And in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.) ³Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: ⁴**But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, ⁵in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; ⁶by pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, ⁷by the word of truth, by the**

power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, ⁸by honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Read 2 Corinthians 11:27 ²⁷*in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.*

Read 2 Corinthians 12:15a ¹⁵*And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.*

[In 2 Corinthians 12, Paul describes this constant struggle in his life as "messenger from Satan" intended by God to keep him humble. ... God declared that His power **would** be made perfect in Paul's weakness. For this reason, Paul declares once more that he will boast in the weaknesses which prove Christ's power in him.]

- b. This excuse is a huge factor in the decline in numbers of those willing to take the Gospel to foreign lands,
2. Finances (verse 59 ⁵⁹*And he said unto another, **Follow me.** But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.*)
 - a. The implication here was that the man's father was NOT deceased.
 - b. And, that the man wanted to wait until his father died first so he could receive any inheritance that might be coming.
3. Family (verse 61 ⁶¹*And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.*)
 - a. The implication here was that it was going to be more than a simple good bye.
 - b. The pull of family ties can cause a man to look back and to fail to follow the Lord. Read:

- (i) Mark 10:29-30 (from verse 28) *²⁸Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. ²⁹And Jesus answered and said, **Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, ³⁰but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. ³¹But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.***
- (ii) Matthew 4:20-22 *²⁰And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. ²¹And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. ²²And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.*

Note: Luke 9:62 (*⁶²And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*) is speaking of service not salvation, A man ploughing a field fixes his vision on a far off object in order to create straight furrows. If the farmer continuously looks behind, the furrows will probably be crooked.

M. Those Invited to the Great Supper Excuses – Luke 14:18-20

Luke 14... *¹⁸And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. ¹⁹And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. ²⁰And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.*

In this parable of Jesus Christ, those invited to the Great Supper (salvation) all with one “**consent began to make excuse.**”

Here are some common excuses for procrastination (putting off Christ):

1. Property: “**I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it:**” This was a strange way to do business – Who buys something sight unseen especially a piece of land??

Read also:

- Luke 12:15-21 *¹⁵And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. ¹⁶And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: ¹⁷and he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? ¹⁸And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. ²⁰But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? ²¹So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.*
 - 1 Timothy 6:7 *⁷For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*
 - James 4:14 *¹⁴whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*
 - 2 Peter 3:11 *Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*
2. Profession (work) – Luke 14:19 *¹⁹And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen [tools of the trade], and I go to prove [use] them: I pray thee have me excused.*
 3. Partner - Luke 14:20 *²⁰And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.*

If there was any time a man needed the Lord would be when he was just starting a family!

Material blessings, employment, and family are all fine. God has a plan for each of them where they can be used mightily for His glory. However, they are no excuse for neglecting salvation!

Also read:

- Mark 8:36 (read 34-38 for context) ³⁴And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ³⁵For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. **³⁶For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?** ³⁷Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.
- Hebrews 2:3a (from verse 1) ¹Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. ²For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; **³how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation;** which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

N. Latter Day Scoffers' (Jesus isn't coming) Excuses – 2 Peter 3:3-14

2 Peter 3:3-14 ³knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, ⁴and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. ⁵For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: ⁶whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: ⁷but the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. ⁸But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. ¹¹Seeing then that all these things

shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, ¹²looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? ¹³Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. ¹⁴Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

It is a dangerous thing to doubt the eminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Read Mathew 24:44 **44Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.** The scripture here warns us that scoffers will indeed doubt the return (2nd Coming) of Jesus Christ. Their excuse?

“All things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.”

The Bible declares this excuse is based on IGNORANCE.

1. **Of the WORD of GOD.** Reread 2 Peter 3:5 *⁵For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:*
 2. **Of the measure of the Lord** (how God measures time). Reread 2 Peter 3:8 *⁸But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*
 3. **Of the longsuffering of God.** Reread 2 Peter 3:9 *⁹The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*
- O. The Church of the Laodiceans Excuse – Revelation 3:17** (from verse 14) *¹⁴ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; ¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. ¹⁷ **Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked;** ¹⁸ I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy mayest*

see. ¹⁹As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. ²⁰Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. ²¹To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. ²²He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

This Baptist church had become lukewarm and indifferent to its commission (to spread the Gospel and make more disciples everywhere). The church was blinded to the reality of its spiritual corruption. What was its excuse?

¹⁷ Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;...

How many times have Christians equated material wealth with God's blessings? How many churches have "arrived" – based upon their expansive and plush facilities (i.e., due to money and financial success).

The church of Laodicea had Christ on the outside, knocking and seeking to come in. The church desperately needed:

- **To get out of the "comfort" zone.** Read 1 Peter 1:7 (verses 3-9)
³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: **⁷ that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:** ⁸ whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: ⁹ receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.
- **To return to its righteous roots.** Read Revelation 3:4 (from verse 3)
³Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee

as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

⁴Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

⁵He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. ⁶He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

- **To open it's eyes and look upon the fields ripe for the Gospel.**

Read John 4:35 ³⁵Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are **white already to harvest.**

II Common Excuses People Give for Not Believing the Gospel

Soul winners often hear excuses for not believing the Gospel from those they are trying to win to Christ. It is common for the lost to experience difficulties in believing. Their excuses may be frivolous (indicating no real conviction or desire to trust Christ) or FELT (indicating a lack of understanding or faith in God's Word). It is vital to clear away any roadblocks that would prevent them from coming to Christ.

Before attempting to give a scriptural answer, the soul winner should make certain the one being dealt with fully understands his or her absolute need of Christ and **wants** to be saved. Otherwise, answering their excuses will be an exercise in futility.

Listed below are fifteen common excuses, with appropriate scriptures which will help a lost soul overcome any fears and or perceived difficulties. It is suggested these common excuses be retained by you ready for quick use.

A. I am too great s sinner – I will not be accepted.

Many people's lives are so filled with wickedness they are enslaved by sin. When they compare themselves to "normal" people they believe they are "too far gone" and beyond redemption.

The following references clearly show there are no sinner too vile that Christ will not (or cannot) receive.

1. 1 Timothy 1:15 (Paul writing) ¹²*And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; ¹³who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. ¹⁴And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵**This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. ¹⁶Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.***
2. Isaiah 1:18 ¹⁸**Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. ¹⁹If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: ²⁰but if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.**
3. Matthew 9:12-13 ¹²*But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, **They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. ¹³But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.***
4. Luke 19:10 ¹⁰*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*
5. Romans 5:8 ⁸**But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.**
6. Also read Psalm 32:5 ⁵ *I acknowledged my sin unto thee, And mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; And **thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.***
7. Also read Ezekiel 33:11 ¹¹*Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, **I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked;** but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?*

Also use Biblical examples of great sinners who were saved such as:

- **David.**

David was the greatest king in ancient Israel, a leader who presided over a golden age for the people of God. As a poet, musician, and warrior, he was truly what we have come to call a “Renaissance Man.” He was even “a man after God’s own heart” (see [1 Sam. 13:14](#), *14But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.*) because of his extraordinary devotion to the Lord. Despite David’s fidelity, he is also remembered as one of history’s greatest sinners.

Read Psalm 51 *1Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: According unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. 2Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. 3For I acknowledge my transgressions: And my sin is ever before me. 4Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: That thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. 5Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; And in sin did my mother conceive me. 6Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: And in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. 7Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8Make me to hear joy and gladness; That the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. 9Hide thy face from my sins, And blot out all mine iniquities. 10Create in me a clean heart, O God; And renew a right spirit within me. 11Cast me not away from thy presence; And take not thy holy spirit from me. 12Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; And uphold me with thy free spirit. 13Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; And sinners shall be converted unto thee. 14Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: And my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. 15O Lord, open thou my lips; And my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. 16For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: Thou delightest not in burnt offering. 17The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. 18Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: Build thou the walls of Jerusalem. 19Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: Then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.*

- **Saul of Tarsus.**

Read 1 Timothy 1:13 ¹²*And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; ¹³**who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious**: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.*

Additional info:

It is difficult to overestimate the influence of the apostle Paul. He is known worldwide as one of the greatest Christian missionaries. His inspired writings cover a large portion of the New Testament, and it is safe to say that he remains one of the most read authors in human history. His abrupt turnaround from zealous persecutor of Christians to one of Christianity's greatest proponents surely shaped the history of the early Christian church. But who was Saul of Tarsus before he became the apostle, Paul? What do we know about his life prior to meeting Christ on the Damascus Road?

Saul of Tarsus was born in approximately AD 5 in the city of Tarsus in Cilicia (in modern-day Turkey). He was born to Jewish parents who possessed Roman citizenship, a coveted privilege that their son would also possess. In about AD 10, Saul's family moved to Jerusalem. Sometime between AD 15—20 Saul began his studies of the Hebrew Scriptures in the city of Jerusalem under Rabbi Gamaliel. It was under Gamaliel that Saul would begin an in-depth study of the Law with the famous rabbi. There has been some debate over whether Saul was raised in Jerusalem or in his birthplace of Tarsus, but a straightforward reading of his own comments indicates that Jerusalem was his boyhood home (Acts 22:3). We know that Paul's sister's son was in Jerusalem after Paul's conversion (Acts 23:16), which lends weight to the idea that Paul's entire family had moved to Jerusalem when he was young.

It is quite possible that Saul was present for the trial of Stephen—a trial that resulted in Stephen becoming the first Christian martyr (Acts 7:54–60). The historian Luke tells us that Stephen's executioners laid their garments at the feet of Saul (Acts 7:58), who was in full approval of the mob's murderous actions (Acts 8:1). Saul later ravaged the church, entering the homes of believers and committing them to prison. Saul's anti-Christian zeal motivated him not only to arrest and imprison male Christians (the "ringleaders") but to lock up female believers as well (Acts 8:3).

Paul's post-conversion correspondence to various churches reveals even more about his background. In his second letter to the church in Corinth, Paul describes himself as a Hebrew, an Israelite, and a descendant of Abraham (2 Corinthians 11:22). In his letter to the Philippian church, Paul says he was a Pharisee of the tribe of Benjamin (Philippians 3:5). While on his way to Damascus to arrest and extradite Christians back to Jerusalem, Saul was confronted by the very One whom he was persecuting (Acts 9:3–9; 22:6–11; 26:12–18). What followed was one of the most dramatic conversions in church history. Saul of Tarsus became the apostle Paul, an ardent missionary to an unbelieving world and a fine example of faithful service in the face of fierce persecution (Acts 14:19; 16:22–24; 2 Corinthians 11:25–26). Saul's education, his background as a Pharisee, his Roman citizenship, and his unflagging

zeal all contributed to his success as a missionary, once those credentials and traits had been subjugated to the lordship of Christ.

To someone who thinks they are too great a sinner say: “Your sins are great... far greater than you think – but all your sins have been paid for by Jesus Christ.”

NEVER give false hope by saying to such a person, “You are not that bad of a sinner.”

B. I have committed the unpardonable sin (blasphemy against the Holy Spirit – it includes ridicule and attributing the works of the Holy Spirit to the devil.)

[Blasphemy: the act of insulting, showing contempt for, ridicule, or lack of reverence for God.]

This sin is mentioned in:

- Matthew 12:31-32 ³¹ *Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. ³²And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.*
- Mark 3:28-29 ²⁸ *Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: ²⁹but he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:*
- Luke 12:10 ¹⁰ *And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.*

It is the sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Specifically: “They decisively reject clear **Spirit-revealed truth about Jesus by attributing his mighty works to Satan**. They *decisively* reject Jesus because they never repent. They continue to rebel against Jesus until they die. Instead of submitting to who Jesus is and recognizing that the Spirit empowered Jesus’ mighty works, they rebel against Jesus by declaring that Satan empowered his mighty works.

The unpardonable sin is not an accidental, impulsive, or unguarded slip of the tongue. **It is deliberately repudiating the truth about Jesus. God responds to such rebellion by hardening the rebel's heart and not giving that person a desire to repent and believe.** The sin is unforgivable because God never enables that person to repent and believe. So this is a sin that only unbelievers can commit." Downloaded from: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-unpardonable-sin/>

For more about sin in general, view the video: https://talk.nfl.org/?page=sin&gclid=Cj0KCQjwvaeJBhCvARIsABgTDM7SNorP-k-bNMPaeHrNzADCS_zlyppCoLPhqAd9OgZ2vPwUUvQo18AaAkcuEALw_wcB

1. Take the one you are dealing with (proselytizing to) to the context of these passages...
 - a. Point out that this sin is to ascribe the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan.
 - b. Ask if this is what occurred and if so, when and how?
2. Explain that the only sin God cannot forgive is the willful rejection of the "cure" for sin... i.e.; rejection of Jesus Christ (read John 3:36 [John speaking] ³⁶*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*)
3. Confirm the everlasting nature of one's salvation by reading John 6:37-40 ³⁷*All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.* ³⁸*For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.* ³⁹*And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.* ⁴⁰*And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*
 - Note there are no "pre-conditions" placed on "him" coming to Jesus Christ! Read additional scripture to confirm this:
 - Romans 10:13 ¹³*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*
 - Hebrews 7:25 ²⁵*Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost [once and forever] that come unto God by him,*

seeing he ever liveth [He lives forever] to make intercession for them.

- 2 Peter 3:9 *⁹The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that **any** should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

More study on the Holy Spirit:

What Is the Holy Spirit?

It is interesting that throughout Scripture the Holy Spirit is not given a personal name such as Yahweh or Emmanuel, but is described only in terms of His work. Perhaps that omission has led some to think of the Holy Spirit as a force, a power, or an influence—some entity less than a person. The Holy Spirit does not have a physical body, but rather describes qualities, characteristics, and actions. Here's what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit...

- He thinks and feels ([1 Corinthians 2:10-11](#))
- He decides ([1 Corinthians 12:11](#))
- He speaks ([John 15:26](#))
- He teaches ([John 14:26](#))
- He intercedes for us ([Romans 8:26](#))
- He helps to make our weaknesses become empowered strengths ([2 Corinthians 12:9](#))
- He guides ([1 Corinthians 2:13](#))
- He can be lied to ([Acts 5:3](#)), insulted ([Hebrews 10:29](#)), grieved ([Ephesians 4:30](#)), and resisted ([Acts 7:51](#)).

In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit comes to us **in person to glorify Christ** in every believer as He works to create God's family on the earth—that is, the Church as God's household. He is called the Spirit of truth ([John 16:13](#)) and our Advocate ([John 14:26](#)). When He indwells the life of the believer, He takes the truth of the words of Christ, and reveals their depth of meaning to that individual.

Jesus taught that attributing the work of the Holy Spirit to the devil was the worst sin a person could commit ([Matthew 12:32](#)). Indeed, what hope was there for one who rejected "the Spirit [who] gives life"? ([John 6:63](#)). Jesus Himself was "full of joy through the Holy Spirit" when He reflected upon God the Father's purposes and activities ([Luke 10:21](#)). Furthermore, He gave His disciples reason to rejoice by telling them the Holy Spirit would be their divine helper in the years to come (see [John 14:26](#)). His words revealed the Holy Spirit's role within the Trinity: In this instance, Jesus said that the Spirit would proceed from the Father, be sent by the Son, and bear witness about the Son ([John 15:26-27](#)).

What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

The work of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Christ and make Him real in the daily life of every believer. The Holy Spirit serves as God's divine Administrator on earth and He desires and works to recreate the life of Christ in His people.

C. I must become better before I can become a Christian.

Many lost people believe they must give up some bad habit or quite some sin before they can become saved. It is important to show them that:

- They can never “clean-up” their lives sufficiently to please God.
 - They can and must come to Christ as they are. Review:
1. Isaiah 64:6-7 *⁶But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. ⁷And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.*
 2. Matthew 9:13 *¹⁰And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. ¹¹And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? ¹²But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, **They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. ¹³But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.** [i.e.; Jesus didn't require the sinners to “get right” before He'd eat with them.]*
 3. Luke 18:9-14 *⁹And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ¹⁰Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. ¹¹The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. ¹²I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. ¹³And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: **for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.** [i.e.; Jesus didn't reject the sinner but stated he was justified compared to the Pharisee who Jesus stated would be abased [behave in a way that belittles or degrades themselves]. You don't have to be*

perfect to come to Christ – you just have to repent of your sins and believe/accept Jesus Christ as the risen Son of God and your savior.]

D. I cannot give up my sins.

1. Show them that they MUST give up my sins – **OR THEY PERSIH.**
 - a. Read Romans 6:23a ²³*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
 - b. Read Galatians 6:7-10 ⁷**Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.** ⁸*For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.* ⁹*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.* ¹⁰*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*
2. Show them that Jesus Christ can SET THEM FREE.
 - a. Read John 8:36 and more for context... ³¹*Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; ³²and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*** ³³*They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?* ³⁴*Jesus answered them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*** ³⁵*And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.* ³⁶**If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.** ³⁷*I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.* ³⁸*I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.*
 - b. Romans 6:18 ¹⁸*Being then made **free from sin**, ye became the servants of righteousness.*
 - c. Hebrews 7:25 ²⁵*Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, **seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.***

E. I am afraid I shall fail – I cannot “hold-out.”**God’s WORD promises:**

1. Read 1 Peter 1:5... [We] ⁵*who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*
2. Read Jude 24 ²⁴*Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,*
3. Read 2 Timothy 1:12 ¹²*For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*
4. Read Philippians 1:6 [from verse 3 for context] ³*I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, ⁵for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; ⁶**being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:***
5. Read Isaiah 40:29-31 ²⁷*Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the LORD, and my judgment is passed over from my God? ²⁸Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. ²⁹**He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. ³⁰Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: ³¹but they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.***
6. Read Isaiah 41:10 ¹⁰*Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.*
7. Read 2 Peter 2:9 ⁹*the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:*

8. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 [and more] ¹³*There hath no temptation taken you but such as **is common to man**: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation **also make a way to escape**, that ye may be able to bear it.* ¹⁴*Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.*
9. Read Philippians 4:13 ¹³*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

F. I cannot live the Christian life.

Many see the Christian life as being “too hard.” However, read what scripture has to say about the walk with Christ:

1. Matthew 11:28-30 ²⁸*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* ²⁹*Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.* ³⁰*For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*
2. Proverbs 3:13-17 ¹³*Happy is the man that findeth **wisdom**, And the man that getteth **understanding [in Christ]**.* ¹⁴*For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, And the gain thereof than fine gold.* ¹⁵*She is more precious than rubies: And all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.* ¹⁶*Length of days is in her right hand; And in her left hand riches and honour.* ¹⁷***Her ways are ways of pleasantness, And all her paths are peace.***
3. 1 John 5:3 (from verse 1) ¹*Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.* ²*By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.* ³***For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.***
4. 1 Peter 1:8 (from verse 3 for context) ³*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,* ⁴*to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,* ⁵*who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.* ⁶*Wherein*

ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: ⁷that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: ⁸whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: ⁹receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

5. Proverbs 13:15 ¹⁴The law of the wise is a fountain of life, To depart from the snares of death. ¹⁵Good understanding giveth favour: **But the way of transgressors is hard.**

6. Isaiah 57:21 (from verse 12) ¹²I will declare thy righteousness, and thy works; for they shall not profit thee. ¹³When thou criest, let thy companies deliver thee; but the wind shall carry them all away; vanity shall take them: **but he that putteth his trust in me shall possess the land, and shall inherit my holy mountain;** ¹⁴and shall say, Cast ye up, cast ye up, prepare the way, take up the stumblingblock out of the way of my people. ¹⁵For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. ¹⁶For I will not contend for ever, neither will I be always wroth: for the spirit should fail before me, and the souls which I have made. ¹⁷For the iniquity of his covetousness was I wroth, and smote him: I hid me, and was wroth, and he went on frowardly in the way of his heart. ¹⁸I have seen his ways, and will heal him: I will lead him also, and restore comforts unto him and to his mourners. ¹⁹I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the LORD; and I will heal him. ²⁰**But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.** ²¹**There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.**

G. I will have to give up too much.

Some people fear that they will have to give up their life style, their job, their friends, etc. Show them the following scripture references:

1. Mark 8:36 (from verse 34) ³⁴And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, **Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.** ³⁵For whosoever will

*save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. **36For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? 38Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.***

2. 1 John 2:17 [one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus and believed to be the author of the three Letters of John] *14I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one. 15Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17**And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.***
3. Psalm 84:11 *11For the LORD God is a sun and shield: The LORD will give grace and glory: No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.*
4. Matthew 6:33 *31Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33**But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.***
5. Philippians 3:7 *7But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.*
6. Romans 8:32 *32He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*

Other scripture references and examples to relieve the fear “**I will have to give up too much:**”

- Luke 12:16-21 *¹⁶And he spake a parable unto them, saying, **The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: ¹⁷and he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? ¹⁸And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. ²⁰But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? ²¹So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.***
- Mark 10:17-24+ *¹⁷And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? ¹⁸And Jesus said unto him, **Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. ¹⁹Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. ²⁰And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. ²¹Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, **One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. ²²And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions. ²³And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, **How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!** ²⁴And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, **Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. ²⁶And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved? ²⁷And Jesus looking upon them saith, **With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.*********
- 1 Timothy 6:10 *¹⁰For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. ¹¹But thou, O man of God,*

flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. ¹²Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

- Hebrews 11:24-26 ²⁴By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; ²⁵choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; ²⁶esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.
- Luke 18:29-30 ²⁸Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee. ²⁹And he [Jesus] said unto them, *Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, ³⁰who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.*

H. I will lose my friends and family.

1. Proverbs 13:20 ²⁰He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: But a companion of fools shall be destroyed.
2. 1 John 1:3 (from verse 1) ¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; ²(for the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) ³**that which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.**
3. Psalms 1:1-2 ¹Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ²But his delight is in the law of the LORD; And in his law doth he meditate day and night.

4. James 4:4 *⁴Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*
5. Matthew 19:29 *²⁹And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.*
6. Matthew 10:36 *³⁴ Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. ³⁷He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. ³⁹He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.*
7. Psalms 27:10 *¹⁰When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take me up.*

Other Scriptures:

- Proverbs 1:10-15 *¹⁰My son, if sinners entice thee, Consent thou not. ¹¹If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, Let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: ¹²Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; And whole, as those that go down into the pit: ¹³We shall find all precious substance, We shall fill our houses with spoil: ¹⁴Cast in thy lot among us; Let us all have one purse: ¹⁵My son, walk not thou in the way with them; Refrain thy foot from their path:*
- Proverbs 24:1-2 *¹Be not thou envious against evil men, Neither desire to be with them. ²For their heart studieth destruction, And their lips talk of mischief.*

I. I fear will be persecuted as a Christian.

Fear of what others may say or do (ridicule) is often a stumbling block to someone coming to Christ. You may use the following scriptures to show the eternal cost of this time of fear. **These scriptures help layout and explain the certain rewards and potential secular costs associated with believing in Jesus Christ.**

1. Proverbs 29:25 ²⁵*The fear of man bringeth a snare: But whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.*
2. Mark 8:38 ³⁸*Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.*

Also, to understand what this means and when it will happen read:

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 ⁷*and to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, ⁸ in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁹ who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;*

3. Matthew 5:11-12 ¹¹*Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. ¹² Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*
4. Acts 5:41-42 (when Peter and followers were spreading the Gospel in Jerusalem and being persecuted / imprisoned by the Pharisees and Sadducees.) ⁴¹*And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. ⁴²And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*

DO NOT white wash the Christian life. Use scripture to show the **reality** of the Christian life. Read:

- 2 Timothy 3:10-12 (Paul to Timothy) *¹⁰But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, ¹¹persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. ¹²Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*
- 2 Timothy 2:11-12 *¹¹It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: ¹²if we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:*
- Romans 8:18 *¹⁸For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

Use scripture to show the **promises** of GOD. Read:

1 Peter 2:20-21 *²⁰For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. ²¹For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:*

J. I have no feeling.

In our “touchy-feely” society, many want to ‘feel’ or experience something rather than simply “believe.” This is extremely dangerous, because the Devil is able to provide just about any type of experience being sought.

Read Job 4:14-16 (from Eliphaz the Temanite – an acquaintance / comforter of Job) *¹⁴Fear came upon me, and trembling, Which made all my bones to shake. ¹⁵Then a spirit passed before my face; The hair of my flesh stood up: ¹⁶It stood still, But I could not discern the form thereof: An image was before mine eyes,*

The sad thing in today’s world is that many are basing their hopes for external salvation on some feeling or religious experience – rather than on the Word of God and in the finished work of Jesus Christ!

Remember - true salvation is:

- Settled on Facts
- Secured on Faith
- Sequeled on Feelings [sequel - something that takes place after or as a result of an earlier event]

Any “salvation” based on feelings will change if and when these feelings change. Two (2) kinds of feelings lost people often look for are:

1. Feelings of Joy and Peace

- a. Galatians 5:22-23 ²²*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*
- b. Ephesians 1:13 ¹³*In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*
- c. 1 Peter 1:8-9 ⁸*whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: ⁹receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.*

What must a sinner due to be saved? Read:

- Romans 10:9-11 ⁹*that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*
- Acts 13:38-39 ³⁸*Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: ³⁹and by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.*

2. Feelings of Sorrow of Sin

In which case, show that God requires repentance, not just remorse. Repentance implies remorse and a desire to abandon the wicked way.

Read:

Isaiah 55:6-7 *⁶Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: ⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

If the one being dealt with does not “feel lost”, use scriptures which plainly declare the fact of man’s true condition:

- Isaiah 53:6 *⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*
- Romans 3:10-20 *¹⁰ as it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ¹¹There is none that understandeth, There is none that seeketh after God. ¹²They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; There is none that doeth good, no, not one. ¹³Their throat is an open sepulchre; With their tongues they have used deceit; The poison of asps is under their lips: ¹⁴Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: ¹⁵Their feet are swift to shed blood: ¹⁶Destruction and misery are in their ways: ¹⁷And the way of peace have they not known: ¹⁸There is no fear of God before their eyes. ¹⁹Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. ²⁰Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

K. I see too many Christian hypocrites

Regrettably, many professing Christians have a poor testimony before others. Instead of them being a stepping stone, they are a stumbling-block to many coming to Christ. Sinners will readily point to the inconsistent and hypocritical Christians church-goers as an excuse for not trusting Jesus Christ.

The best approach for this objection is to use scriptures showing a personal accountability to God. Read these scriptural examples:

1. Romans 14:12 (from verse 11) *¹¹For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, And every tongue shall confess to God. ¹²So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*
2. Romans 2:1-5 (thru 12) *¹Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. ²But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. ³And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? ⁴Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? ⁵But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; ⁶Who will render to every man according to his deeds: ⁷to them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: ⁸but unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, ⁹tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; ¹⁰but glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: ¹¹for there is no respect of persons with God.*
3. The parable of the Wheat and the Tares (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43) is useful to show that God knows the true spiritual condition of all men, - even hypocrites.
²⁴Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: ²⁵but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his

way. ²⁶But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. ²⁷So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? ²⁸He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? ²⁹But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles **to burn them**: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Many times, Jesus warns of the true condition of your heart – no one will be able to game the system!

Read: **Matthew 7:21-23** *21 Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

L. I don't understand the Bible.

1. Show the one with whom you're dealing: **The reason WHY this is so.** Read:
 - a. 1 Corinthians 2:14 (thru verse 16) ***14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. [i.e.; yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.] 16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.***
 - b. Ephesians 4:18 (read 17-19) ***17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.***

- c. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 ³But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: ⁴in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

2. Then show: **How this CAN and WILL be changed.** Read:

- a. Acts 26:18 (read verses 15-18) ¹⁵And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, **I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. ¹⁶But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; ¹⁷delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, ¹⁸to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.**
- b. John 8:32 ³¹Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, ***If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; ³²and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. ³³They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? ³⁴Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. ³⁵And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. ³⁶If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.***
- c. John 7:17 (from verse 14) ¹⁴Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught. ¹⁵And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned? ¹⁶Jesus answered them, and said, ***My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. ¹⁷If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. ¹⁸He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.***

M. I am not that bad of a person (I'm a good person).

Many trust their own righteousness and righteous acts will be “good enough” to get them into Heaven. People who express this false hope are NOT under the conviction of sin, and desperately need to see themselves as GOD sees them. The following scriptures show this.

1. Read James 2:10 ¹⁰*For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*
2. Using the above text, go to the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:1-17 and begin going down the list, (asking the one you are trying to win to Christ) if he or she has kept **each** commandment.

¹*And God spake all these words, saying,*

- ²*I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*
- ³*Thou shalt have no other gods before me.* ⁴*Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: ⁵thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God **am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;** ⁶and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*
- ⁷*Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*
- ⁸*Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.* ⁹*Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: ¹⁰but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: ¹¹for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*
- ¹²*Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*
- ¹³*Thou shalt not kill.*
- ¹⁴*Thou shalt not commit adultery.*
- ¹⁵*Thou shalt not steal.*
- ¹⁶*Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*

- *¹⁷Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.*

Also, read Matthew 22:37-38 (and more) to see if the person you're trying to proselytize follows Jesus's commands as they should... ³⁷*Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*** ³⁸*This is the first and great commandment.* ³⁹*And the second is like unto it, **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*** ⁴⁰*On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

3. Read Galatians 2:16 ¹⁶*knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: **for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.***

Also read Romans 3:19-20 ¹⁹*Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.* ²⁰*Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall **no flesh be justified in his sight**: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

4. Isaiah 64:6-7 ⁶***But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*** ⁷*And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.*
5. Matthew 5:20 ²⁰***For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.***

Also read Philippians 3:4-7 ⁴*Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: ⁵circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; ⁶concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. ⁷But what things were gain to me [following the law], those I counted **loss for Christ.***

6. String together the following verses
- a. 1 Samuel 16:7 ⁷*But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, **but the LORD looketh on the heart.***
 - b. Jeremiah 17:9-10 ⁹*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? ¹⁰ I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*
 - c. Luke 16:15 ¹⁵*And he [Jesus] said unto them, **Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.***
 - d. Romans 2:16 ¹⁶*in the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.*
 - e. Luke 18:9-14 ⁹*And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ¹⁰**Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. ¹¹The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. ¹² I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. ¹³And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: **for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted*****

N. God is too good to condemn anyone to hell.

In this case, it's best to first speak to the unbeliever about scripture which states the holiness and righteousness of God:

- Psalm 7:11(b) *¹¹God judgeth the righteous, And God is angry with the wicked every day.*
- Isaiah 59:1-2 *¹Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ²but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

Second, discuss the fact of eternal judgement from:

- Matthew 25:41,46

⁴¹Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

⁴⁶And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

- Revelation 20:11-15 *¹¹And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

Then show what **God's goodness really** means by reading the following scriptures!

1. Romans 2:4-5 ⁴*Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; **not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*** ⁵*But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;*
2. 2 Peter 3:9 ⁹*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; **but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.***
3. Ezekiel 33:11 ¹¹*Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, **I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked;** but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?*
4. John 5:40 (from verse 37 to 47) ³⁷*And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. ³⁸And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. ³⁹ Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. ⁴⁰And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. ⁴¹I receive not honour from men. ⁴²But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. ⁴³ I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. ⁴⁴How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only? ⁴⁵Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. ⁴⁶For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. ⁴⁷But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?*

O. I'm not ready just yet.

Procrastination is an enemy of the soul. Many a sinner has put off being saved once too often. **If there is evidence of genuine conviction of sin**, use the following scripture verses:

1. 2 Corinthians 6:2 *¹We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. ²(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, And in the day of salvation have I succoured [succoured means "give assistance or aid to."] thee: behold, **now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**)*
2. Isaiah 55:6-7 *⁶Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: ⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*
3. Proverbs 27:1 *¹Boast not thyself of tomorrow; For thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.*
4. Proverbs 29:1 *¹He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, Shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.*
5. Ecclesiastes 12:1 *¹Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; (NIV translation; ¹Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them"—)*
6. Hebrews 3:15 (from verse 12) *¹²Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. ¹³But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; ¹⁵**while it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.***

7. Also read:
- a. Matthew 25:1-13 (**The Ten Virgins**) ¹ Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. ²And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: ⁴but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. ⁶And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. ⁷Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. ⁹But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. ¹⁰And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. ¹²But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. ¹³Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.
 - b. Luke 12:19-20 (**parable of the rich man with plenty**) ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. ²⁰But God said unto him, **Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?** ²¹So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.
 - c. James 4:13-14 ¹³Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: ¹⁴whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. *For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*
 - d. Acts 24:24-25 ²⁴And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. ²⁵And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, **Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.**

III Will Man Have Any Excuse?

Is there any possibility that God might accept the excuse of some? Not according to the book of Romans – a Book written specifically written to show the WAY to salvation (chapters 1-5), the WHAT of salvation (chapters 6-8), and the WHY of salvation (chapters 12-15).

Read Romans 1:20+ ²⁰*For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; **so that they are without excuse;*** ²¹*because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*

Read Romans 2:1+ ***¹Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.*** ²*But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. ³And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? ⁴Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? ⁵But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; ⁶Who will render to every man according to his deeds: ⁷to them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: ⁸but unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, ⁹tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, **of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;** ¹⁰but glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: ¹¹for there is no respect of persons with God.*

A. Ignorance is no excuse.

Romans 1:19 gives two reasons why this is so. It is because “That which may be known of God...” Read Romans 1:19 (from verse 18) ¹⁸*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; **¹⁹because that which may be***

known of God is manifest (made an example – they “hold the truth in unrighteousness”) **in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.**

1. **Is Manifest IN them.** This refers to the Law of God having been “written on the hearts of all men.”

Read Romans 2:15 (from verse 12) ¹²*For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;* ¹³*(for not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. ¹⁴For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: ¹⁵ which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)* ¹⁶*in the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.*

2. **God Hath Shewed It UNTO them.** This refers to the [invisible] things of God being seen and understood by the things that were made [all creation].

Read Psalm 19:1 ¹*The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament sheweth his handywork.*

In modern biology, for example, watch the complexity in a single cell:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRE7JCerdqU>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_tYrnv_o6A

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RUHJhskW00>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39HTpUG1MwQ>

This complexity declares the glory of God!

B. Knowledge only increases culpability.

This taught by Romans 2:17-23

¹⁷Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God, ¹⁸and knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law; ¹⁹and art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness, ²⁰an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law. ²¹Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? ²²Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? ²³Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?

The Jews had the TRUTH but did not receive the TRUTH.

1. For unto whosoever much is given, of him shall be much required. Read Luke 12:46-48 *⁴⁶the lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. ⁴⁷And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. ⁴⁸But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. **For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.***
2. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 (from verse 1) *¹Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, ²that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. ³Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; ⁴who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. ⁵Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? ⁶And now ye know what*

withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. ⁷For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. ⁸And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: ⁹even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, ¹⁰and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: ¹²that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

To reject the truth now will “invite strong delusion” after the Rapture.

3. There will be many who say “*Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*”

Also read Ecclesiastes 12:13 ¹³**Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.**

Read Matthew 7:21-23 ²¹ *Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²²Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*