



THE EVANGELISTS

M A G A Z I N E

Issue 4 Spring 2010

The Right use of the Law

Lawful or Legalistic?

Street Preaching

What are your rights?

FRUIT - What is it?

*Find out how to produce
good fruit in your life*

Charles H. Spurgeon's Classic Message

'How Men come to Christ'

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SOTC AIMS:

Soldiers of the Cross Inc., founded by Tim
and Leah Knowing, is dedicated to 'see-
ing the church become the mighty, ma-
ture and fully-functioning army of God it
is meant to be, in a war that has already
been won through Christ's atoning death
and resurrection.

Our aim is to-

- Be Christ's ambassadors (2 Corin-
thians 5:20) and examples to the
believers. (1 Timothy 4:12)
- To preach the Gospel to the lost
and disciple the saved. (Matthew
28:19-20)
- To come alongside local churches
to train and equip the body of
Christ for the work of the ministry
(Ephesians 4:11-12), including, but
not limited to:
 - Training believers in evangelism
 - Providing teaching and other
resources for churches
 - Encouraging believers in ministry

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Welcome to Issue No. 4
of newly renamed, '**The
Evangelists Magazine**'.

For those who have been
reading 'Soldiers of the Cross'
since Issue 1, I would like to
explain the reason for the
change to the cover title. We
originally started the 'Soldiers
of the Cross' newsletter/maga-
zine to inform friends about
the establishment of the min-
istry of the same name.

Successive issues have pro-
vided information about what
we have been doing, articles
to encourage, challenge and
equip believers for the work of
the ministry (read our article,
'The Right use of the Law' on
page 4 for one such article)
and resources that encourage
personal evangelism.

However, as we have contin-
ued to produce this publica-
tion the Lord has led us to
'expand our tent pegs', so
to speak, and
include informa-
tion about other
ministries or
ministers who
are also involved
in the work of
evangelism.

Indeed, even within the nation
of Australia there are quite
a number of individuals and
groups/organisations who
are involved in this work.
These might include organised
Evangelism crusades, peo-
ple who preach open-air, as
well as others who speak to
individuals one-on-one, and
those who go about tirelessly
handing out tracts and other
gospel literature. It also now
includes the growing internet
evangelism.

Three such ministries are high-
lighted in this issue. Operation
513 and All-Ways Ministry
both work predominantly in
open-air or 'street' preach-
ing. Read our article '**Street
Preaching**' on page 8 to ap-
preciate the challenges they
face and what our rights and
freedoms are to do this impor-
tant work for the Lord.

Internet Evangelism, as
opposed to open-air
preaching, is only
fairly new on the
scene, as a form
of evangelism and
could be viewed
with disdain by
those used to tradi-

tional meth-
ods. However,
our Lord Jesus
commanded
us to '*Go into
all the world,
and preach the
Gospel to eve-
ry creature.*'
(Mark 16:15)
The internet
certainly is in
all the world,
so why not
use it.

Read our story
'**Google and
the Gospel**' on
page 3 to see
how a Pastor
from Cen-
tral Queensland was on the
ground floor when technology
and compassion for the lost
collided.

In regard to the Soldiers of
the Cross ministry, for those
who may be unaware, our

we get from the public. To fa-
cilitate this we have purchased
a Panasonic NV-MD 10000
camera to shoot the inter-
views with. This is a shoulder-
mount camera which gives us
the advantage of not having to
carry a tripod around with us.



The Commission

By Tim Knowing

website is up and running. Of
course these things are always
changing and being added
to. So, if you do go to our
website, please be aware that
some sections are still under
construction. Go to:

www.soldiersofthecross.com.au

One of our future projects,
which we aim to be starting
soon, is to do street witnessing
interviews with peo-
ple, which we will
film. The plan is
to then upload
them
onto
our
web-
site so that viewers
can see the
responses

Finally, read '*Become a Survey
Partner*' on page 3, to find out
how you, too, can take part.

Stay tuned as we report on the
progress of these and other
developments in future issues.

Until next issue....



EVANGELISM TOOLS

Online Evangelism School has thousands of students

As we have already mentioned in the editorial, since the birth of the
World Wide Web, Christians everywhere have seen the potential the
internet has as a tool for further advancing the Kingdom of God.

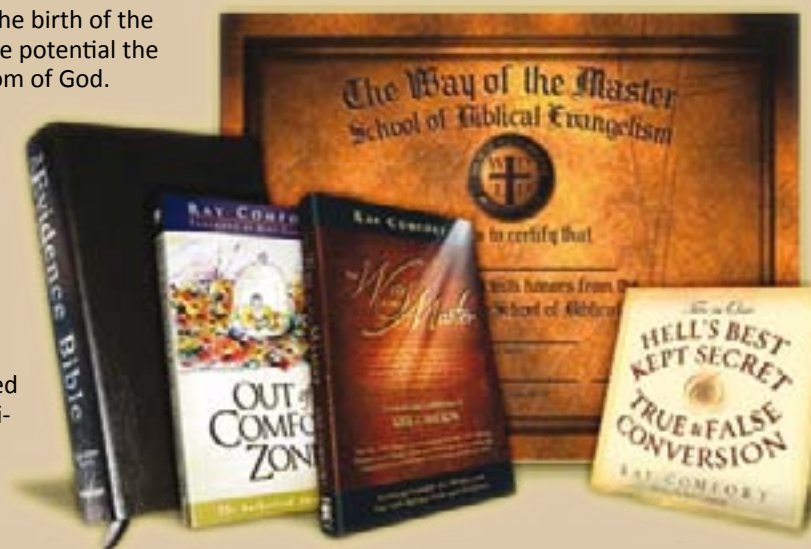
This issue we are promoting the 'School of Biblical
Evangelism', an online Bible school with over 10,000
students, which was put together for the purpose of
training the church to be better equipped to fulfill
the Great Commission. Not only does it accomplish
this, but it also provides a sound foundation for other
core Christian beliefs.

This 101-lesson course comes with all the resources
needed, and even comes with some bonus books and
CD's. On your graduation you will also receive a bonded
leather 'Evidence Bible', as well as a Graduation Certifi-
cate.

Some of the topics covered are 'The Key to Biblical
Evangelism', 'Using Gospel Tracts', 'Understanding
the Enemy', 'Proving the Bibles Supernatural Origin'
and 'Raising Labourers in your Church'.

As a result of our own personal experience, we, at Soldiers of the Cross, highly recommend this not only to individuals, but also
Churches and small groups.

For more information, or to enroll go to www.biblicalevangelism.com



Become a Survey Partner

You are probably wondering 'what is a Survey Partner?'
Survey Partners are a new initiative of the Soldiers of
the Cross ministry and are another way of seeing the
Gospel go forth to the nation.

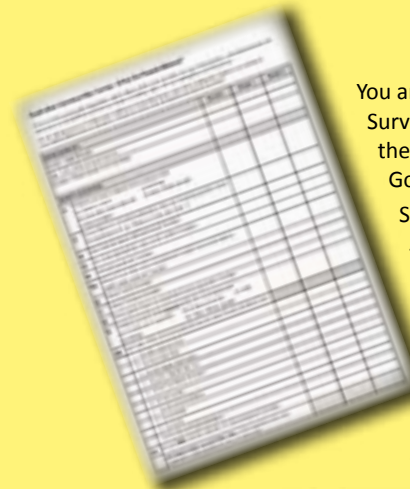
Started only recently, when our new Prime Minister,
Julia Gillard, said she did not believe in God and
that Australia was no longer a Christian nation,
SOTC began the Australian Belief's Survey to find
out if this was true.

Of course, surveying people on what they
believe about God, Heaven, Hell, the 10
Commandments, Jesus Christ, Eternal Life
and how we receive it, not only gives the Christian

church in Australia valuable statistics on the true state of
the nation, (*results will be posted on our website*), but the
survey is designed in a such a way that is easy, inoffensive,
Biblical and fun. Just think of it as another type of tract.

From our experience so far, people are really thinking and
responding, not just to the questions, but to the Gospel
and to God. And this is, of course, the ultimate aim.

However, we can't do this alone. We need concerned
Christians from around Australia to become Survey Part-
ners who will go forth and survey their own community
and send us the results. This is your opportunity to make
a difference in your community. For details on becoming a
Survey Partner, go to www.soldiersofthecross.com.au.



Google and the Gospel

In today's world when everyone wants
information about Britney Spears,
Uluru, dinosaurs or the weather in
Morocco, it is often the internet and a
search engine that they turn to. And the
search engine is usually Google.

It's the same when they are interested
in finding out about God. Some people
may not immediately ask a Christian
they know, or look in the yellow pages
for a Church. Often Google is their first
port of call. Therefore, Christians and
ministries should make sure the gospel
is accessible to those who are searching.

In November 2001, David Alley, a pastor
from Mt Morgan in Central Queensland,
was one of the first people who twigged
to the idea of Google Evangelism - or us-
ing Search Engines to spread the gospel.

Since then, David, with the help of his
websites, has seen thousands respond
to the Gospel.

"The beauty of this kind of evangelism
is that people are ready for the gospel,"
he said. "After all, their hearts have
been stirred enough to go looking for
answers."

David has since started a business called
Web Technology Queensland where he
assists churches and ministries by build-
ing websites to help them share the
gospel online.

"It's a job I enjoy," he says "because
the results help bring people into the
Kingdom of God."

He also helps churches, with existing
websites get into internet evangelism.
Online evangelism is something any
church can do successfully.

If you are interested in having David
build a website for your church or min-
istry, contact him at www.webtechnologyqueensland.com. Mention this article
to receive 12 months's free web hosting.

**Website
Designers
helping
Churches
Ministries
and the Gospel.**

**WEB
TECHNOLOGY
QUEENSLAND**

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The Right use of the Law

By Tim Knowling

“But we know that the Law is good, if a man uses it lawfully”
1 Timothy 1:8

What comes to our mind when we think of the word “law”? It is often the case that these thoughts will affect our whole understanding on an issue.

A. W. Tozer said in relation to God that, “What comes to our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us”.¹

When we think about the law many will make a comparison between the old covenant and the new, some might think upon the Pharisees and their legalistic lifestyle.

The Apostle Paul said that “the law is good if a man use it lawfully”. Now in the middle of this verse is the word “if”. We know that this word is used as a sign of condition and that what it introduces is conditional. In the context of this passage it is telling us that the law can be used rightly and wrongly. Notice that it doesn’t say that the law is bad. Romans 7:12 tells us “Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.”

Corrupt administration

To illustrate the point, let us look at civil law. It is often the case that when an injustice is handed out in a court of law, people will say that the system is broken and needs reforming. But on closer examination we usually find that the right laws are in place, but outcomes are determined by those who are administering the law.

During our Lord Jesus Christ’s earthly ministry his greatest opposition did not come from the world but from the religious leaders of his day. The Pharisees were known as “the keepers of the law”, but when we examine the way they administered their duty it could be well said that, “Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting”.

No one took them to task over their abuses more seriously than Christ. In Matthew chapter 23 we read of the woes that Jesus brought upon the Pharisees. He said in verse 4, “For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers”. And again in verse 13, “Woe

unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in”.

And in verse 15 Jesus said to them, “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye compass the sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.”

Jesus also told the people, “That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven” Matthew 5:20.

This was ultimately the greatest charge against the “keepers of the law” for they were trying to use the law for the purpose of justification.

Therefore, we see clearly from these scriptures, that which the Apostle Paul warned about in our key text.

“The man who does not know the nature of the Law cannot know the nature of sin”.

John Bunyan

Bringing it back into order

It is often the case when something is abused, that man, in trying to prevent this happening again, will disregard that which has been abused, instead of bringing it back into order. In other words, they will ‘throw the baby out with the bathwater’.

Matthew Henry in commenting on this point said,

“The Jews used it [the law] unlawfully, as an engine to divide the church, a cover to the malicious opposition they made to the gospel of Christ; they set it up for justification, and so used it unlawfully. We must not therefore think to set it aside, but use it lawfully, for the restraint of sin. The abuse which some have made of the law does not take away the use of it; but, when a divine appointment has

been abused, call it back to its right use and take away the abuses, for the law is still very useful as a rule of life; though we are not under it as under a covenant of works, yet it is good to teach us what is sin and what is duty.”

What then is the rightful use of the law? The apostle Paul said there was one, so what is it?

Who it applies to

If we read on in first Timothy it tells us,

“Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for whoremongers, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be anything else that is contrary to sound doctrine.”

1 Timothy 1:9, 10 KJV

And again in the Book of Romans Paul makes clear the true and right function of the law.



“Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, So that [the murmurs and excuses of] every mouth may be hushed and all the world may be held accountable to God. For no person will be justified (made righteous, acquitted, and judged acceptable) in His sight by observing the works proscribed by the Law, For [the real function of] the law is to make men recognize and be conscious of sin [not mere perception, but an acquaintance with sin which works toward repentance, faith, and holy character].”
Romans 3:19, 20 AMP

As we consider this verse above some may stop and think, ‘Ok this only applies to the Jews’, but Paul makes it clear that its purpose is to make the whole world accountable (guilty) before God. In addition, just as the

“Before I can preach love, mercy, and grace, I must preach sin, law, and judgment.”
John Wesley



Pharisees tried to use the Law unlawfully for justification, we see that it actually shuts the mouth of those who may try to justify themselves by their works.

It shows the true nature of sin

The Apostle Paul then affirms the true function of the law, which is to bring the knowledge of sin. God's Law tells us what sin is.

First John 3:4 says, “Sin is transgression of the law”. Again the Apostle Paul confirms this by saying in Romans 7:7 that, “I had not known sin but by the law”.

In Matthew chapter 5, the Lord Jesus shows us the true spiritual nature of the law, in that its real purpose is in dealing with the iniquity that is in the heart.

“You have heard that it was said by them of old time, You shall not commit adultery: But I say to you, that whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her in his heart” Matthew 5:27,28

The Apostle John also affirmed this in 1 John 3:15 that “Whosoever hates his brother is a murderer...”

It brings the Knowledge of sin

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, many preachers engaged in what was known as ‘preliminary Law work’, that of using the Law to bring the knowledge of sin.

John Wesley the great British Evangelist said, “It is the ordinary method of the Spirit of God to convict sinners by the law. It is this which, being set home on the conscience, generally breaketh the rock in pieces. It is more especially this part of the word of God which is quick and powerful, full of life and energy and sharper than any two-edged sword.”²

And Charles Spurgeon who was known as the Prince of Preachers, believed that the law was the Gospel's most “ablest auxiliary”. He said, “I do not

believe that any man can preach the gospel who does not preach the law. Lower the law and you dim the light by which man perceives his guilt; this is a very serious loss to the sinner rather than a gain; for it lessens the likelihood of his conviction and conversion.”³

One of the other reasons that the law is effective is that our consciences affirm its truth.

In Romans chapter 2, we read,

“For it is not merely hearing the Law [read] that makes one righteous before God, but it is the doers of the Law who will be held guiltless and acquitted and justified. When Gentiles who have not the [divine] Law do instinctively what the Law requires, they are a Law to themselves, since they do not have the Law. They show that the essential requirements of the Law are written in their hearts and are operating there, which their conscience (sense of right and wrong) also bear witness; and their [moral] decisions (their arguments of reason, their condemning or approving thoughts) will accuse or perhaps defend and excuse [them].” Romans 2:13-15 AMP

Paris Reidhead, a missionary who went to Africa found out the truth of passage when dealing with the native population.

He found a people who knew what was right and wrong because, as he said, God had written it (the law) into the memory of every human being. It can't be erased because God has placed it there.

In a message he preached about the right use of the law he commented,

“When 100 years ago earnest scholars decreed that the law had no relationship

to the preaching of the gospel, they deprived the Holy Spirit in the area where their influence prevailed, of the only instrument with which He had ever armed Himself to prepare sinners for grace.”⁴

It makes sin abound

Romans 5:20 says, “Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound”.

As we have already seen from scripture, it is the law that makes sin abound. As unregenerate sinners, we go through life with a carefree attitude to sin. Often the excuse is “everybody else is doing it”, thinking that this lets them off the hook. However, when the Law comes into effect it makes our sin to abound. Our sin becomes personal. Lust becomes adultery and those little fibs show us that we are false witnesses; we are murderers because we have had hatred towards another.

The following excerpt has been taken from the School of Biblical Evangelism Course ‘Lesson 2’.

“We can see the work of God's Law illustrated in civil law. For example, when there is no visible sign of the law on a freeway, motorists often transgress the speed limit. Apparently, each speedster says to himself the law has forgotten to patrol his part of the freeway. He is transgressing the law by only 15 kph, and besides he isn't the only one doing it.



Notice what happens when the law enters the fast lane, with red lights flashing. The speedster's heart misses a beat. He is no longer secure in the fact that other motorists are also speeding. He knows that he is personally as guilty as the next guy, and he could be the one the law pulls over. The fact that there are other people doing it is irrelevant. Suddenly, his ‘mere’ 15 kph transgression doesn't seem such a small thing after all; it seems to abound.

Look at the freeway of sin. The whole world naturally goes with the flow. Who hasn't had an ‘affair’ (or desired to) at one time or another? Who in today's society doesn't tell the occasional ‘white’ lie? Who doesn't take something that belongs to someone else, even if it's just a little ‘white-collar’ crime? Sinners know they are doing wrong, but their security is in the fact that so many others are just as guilty, if not more so. It seems God has forgotten all about the Ten Commandments; the sinners says in his heart, “God has forgotten; He hides His face; He will never see it” (Psalm 10:11)

Now watch the Law enter with red lights flashing. The sinner's heart skips a beat. He lays his hand upon his mouth. He examines the speedometer

of his conscience. Suddenly, it shows him the measure of his guilt in a new light – the light of the Law. His sense of security in the fact that there are multitudes doing the same thing becomes irrelevant, because every man will give an account of himself to God.”

John Newton who wrote the famous hymn ‘Amazing Grace’ said that if we didn't understand the harmony that exists between law and grace, that it would produce “error on the left and the right hand”⁵.

So, let us return the law to its proper place so that sinners can discover the

“There is no point on which men make greater mistakes than on the relation which exists between the Law and the Gospel.”
Charles Spurgeon



It prepares us for Grace

The right and proper use of the law is to make sin abound so that it will prepare men for grace. This was always the intent of the great preachers in the past. It strips us of all our own self-righteousness so that all we have to trust in is the righteousness of Christ.

The law makes grace abound so we can see the truth of Ephesians 2:8,9 “For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man boast.”

amazing grace that Newton discovered.

References and Notes:

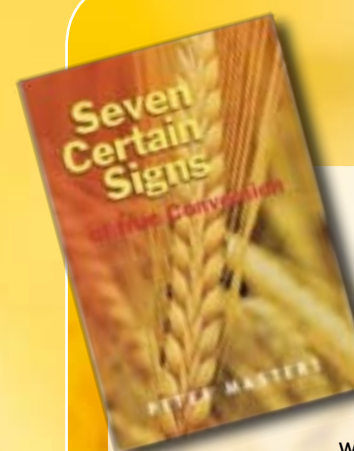
1,2,3,4,5. Taken from ‘The Way of the Master Evidence Bible’ by Ray Comfort

Quotes of Matthew Henry are taken from Matthew Henry's Bible Commentary

Paris Reidhead quote taken from his message ‘The Right use of the Law’

Other quotes and references also taken from ‘The School of Biblical Evangelism’ course material.

Book Review



‘Seven Certain Signs of True Conversion’

By Dr. Peter Masters

‘Are there recognizable signs that true conversion has occurred?

How can seekers tell if God has worked in their hearts? Or how can

Christian workers discern the spiritual standing of a seeker or enquirer?’

Dr. Masters has been the minister of the Metropolitan Tabernacle in Central London for forty years. During that time he has published many booklets which are helpful for those who are involved in the work of Evangelism, and also booklets pertaining to Christian growth.

In this booklet, Dr. Masters presents a guide of signs or ‘marks of grace’ as they have been known, which are not only helpful for new Christians, but also those who may be

struggling with their faith and need to “test themselves to see whether they are in the faith”. (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Some of the topics Dr. Masters covers in this booklet are, ‘Conviction of Sin’, ‘Understanding Scripture’, ‘The Discovery of Prayer’ and ‘The New Heart’.

He also warns against a superficial approach in dealing with the unconverted, which may gain ‘decisions’ but lack a true yielding unto the Lord.

This booklet is a must-have for those counselling enquirers or seekers, and also those involved in discipling new converts.

Price: \$2.50

Order your copy today and receive **FREE POSTAGE**. Go to our store at www.soldiersofthecross.com.au or contact us at our details on page 2.

STREET PREACHING

The Modern Day 'Daniel in the Lion's Den'

By Leah Knowling

In many parts of the world today, including Australia, there are a growing number of Christians who are spreading the Gospel 'open-air' or as some term it 'Street Preaching'.

When you hear these words 'Street Preaching', what do they conjure up in your mind? Unfortunately, even in some Christian circles, it is probably of some fanatic yelling out to passers-by that they are going to hell. Is this view true? Is it Biblical?

In this issue, we decided to find out the truth. We interviewed two ministries who are doing this work here in Australia to find out what is Street or 'Open-air' Preaching? What are our Rights to 'street preach'? And what should we expect if we take to the streets to evangelise in this way?

All-Ways Ministries

It is twelve months ago at Vision Ministries Camp at Mamre Farm in Alectown, NSW, that we first met David Richardson, from All-ways Ministries.

David is an exuberant, likeable fellow who has given up everything to follow Christ. After preaching regularly for over 30 years, mostly around Sydney and the surrounds, David has pulled anchor from his home in South Australia and for the past year has been caravanning throughout Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and now Queensland.

David's style of preaching is what would be described as 'Street Preaching'.

What is 'Street Preaching'?

He, and others who preach in this way, describe it as following in the footsteps of Jesus, (who, as an example,

preached the 'Sermon on the Mount' on a... well, a Mount), the Apostles (Paul preached on Mars Hill) and also famous preachers of the past, such as Charles Spurgeon, George Whitfield and John Wesley.

In fact, it was John Wesley who said, "The world is my parish." Wesley wrote it in response to criticism that he was not staying within parish boundaries or in church but was preaching the Gospel to anyone, anywhere who would listen.

I believe his response gives a good summary of the Great Commission, found in Matthew 28:19-20 and Mark 16:15, that calls followers of Jesus to take the Gospel into the entire world to whomsoever will listen.

So, do 'Street Preachers' really yell at passers-by that they are going to hell. Well, if you are trying to make yourself heard on a busy street or mall, then you will need to raise your voice. The point of street preaching, in contrast to 'one to one witnessing' is to reach as many people as possible with the Gospel in a short time.

As for preaching hell. Any preacher who wants to follow in the footsteps of Jesus will preach the whole Gospel, which will include sin, righteousness and judgement. That is, that each of us has sinned against a Holy God and broken His laws (1 John 3:4; Romans 3:23) and therefore deserve God's wrath and punishment of death (Romans 6:23), which is Hell.

Then, once awakened to their true standing before God, they see their need of a Saviour from sin and death and the Good News of Jesus Christ and his atoning death on the Cross becomes good news indeed.

However, it is this very Good News that has seen these preachers stopped by

Do's & Don'ts

DO'S

You can preach, witness one-to-one and hand out tracts in any public area including:

Streets | Beaches | Parks

DON'TS

You cannot preach, witness one-to-one or hand out tracts on any privately owned land (except in private unsolicited conversations), without the permission of the relevant owner/authority, including:

- Shopping Centres
- Malls (which are usually run by a Mall Management)
- Private Land
- Inside, or directly in the entrance of, stores or shops

Police, and in some instances arrested and charged. And this is in Australia - a free country, founded on the very Christian Gospel and values that they are now trying to quench.

What are our Rights?

So, is this legal? What authority do the police have in stopping someone preaching the Gospel? To find out we met up with David Richardson again, this time on the Gold Coast, where the police and council have indeed been trying to stop Christians from preaching in public and handing out tracts.

David said he had seen an increase in opposition to the Gospel over the years and had been stopped preaching and asked to 'move-on' many times.

"Police usually give one warning before arrest," he said. "I have been arrested twice. Once each in Tamworth and Broken Hill. But both times the cases were thrown out of court."

When asked if he had been back to either town, he said he had been back to Broken Hill. "And they no longer hassle me."

So when David heard of a ministry called Operation 513 that made news headlines in August, he wanted to come and offer his support and encouragement.



Operation 513, founded in 2007, is an evangelism ministry that aims to fulfill the Great Commission in their community, by having teams preach open-air on Friday nights at the Gold Coast's Cavill Avenue and on Saturday nights in Brisbane's Queen Street Mall. However, it is on the Gold Coast where issues have arisen.

On Friday, August 6th, during an outreach at the Gold Coast, team leader, Ryan Hemelaar was stopped preaching by police. The police said it was illegal to speak about your religion in public. However, he could not cite a law proving this.

The story made the front page of the Gold Coast Bulletin newspaper (see above). It also made state and national headlines on Channel 9's Gold Coast news and Channel 10's National 'News at 5.

Ryan said "I went to the Surfers Paradise police station after the incident to seek clarity on the issue. The counter officer said that they would stop us again because he said it is illegal to preach in public anywhere in Queensland. But, he too could not cite a law showing this." (see article, 'The Law and your Rights', which shows that it not not illegal to preach the Gospel or express our beliefs publicly)

Not deterred by this, the group planned to return the following Friday night. However, prior to their outreach, they met with the local MP for the northern Gold Coast region, the Hon. Margaret Keech.

"She was very much in favour of what we do and was shocked that we would be stopped when we are not breaking any laws," Ryan related. "She helped us greatly in contacting the relevant authorities."

The following two weeks the team preached without incident. However, the next week, some of the team, which now included David Richardson, were again asked to 'move-on'. However, those who remained continued to preach elsewhere. Police again came to close them down, and even went as far as asking those listening if they were offended by it. No-one was, so they had to let them finish.

A meeting the following week was arranged between the ministry, the Gold Coast City Council and the local Surfers Paradise business district association. But to no avail. Without being given a valid law (local or state) as to why they are being targeted, they were simply told they were not preach or hand out tracts.

This is not the first time that this group have encountered opposition from the police however. In April 2008, after a spate of police 'move on' directives, Gold

Coast team leader (at the time), Josh Mitchell, was arrested for preaching and later charged and convicted with creating a public nuisance, although no conviction was recorded.

Are they discouraged? I think not. As with Peter and John in Acts 4:19 they believe it is "better to obey God than man."

What should we expect?

Is this what we should expect if we are to make a stand for Christ through preaching the Gospel?

Well, firstly, Jesus said "If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also." (John 15:20) and also, "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in Heaven..." (Matthew 5:11-12).

Certainly, of all the ways of preaching the Gospel, 'street' or 'open-air' preaching

has the potential to be the most offensive, simply because the Gospel is offensive and you are usually speaking to a large crowd of unbelieving strangers. However, unlike one-to-one witnessing, open-air preaching can capture a greater crowd of listeners in the same space of time.

This style of preaching is not for the faint-hearted though. And yes, opposition will come, although normally from those listening, not from the police or authorities. At least, not in Australia. Which is why, we as the church, need to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with ministries like Operation 513 and All-Ways Ministries.

Our nation is changing, and not for the better. We need to make a stand today, for the sake of those who are lost and on their way to hell, and don't know it, to ensure our continued freedom to preach the Gospel (open-air or otherwise) tomorrow.

The Law and Your Rights

THE AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION

Section 116

The Commonwealth shall not make any law for establishing any religion, or for imposing any religious observance, or for prohibiting the free exercise of any religion, and no religious test shall be required as a qualification for any office or public trust under the Commonwealth.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION ACT 1986

Article 18

Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.

Article 19

Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.

POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2000

Chapter 2, Part 5: Section 48: Direction may be given to person

(1) A police officer may give to a person or group of persons doing a relevant act any direction that is reasonable in the circumstances.

(2) However, a police officer must not give a direction under subsection (1) that interferes with a person's right of peaceful assembly unless it is reasonably necessary in the interests of— (a) public safety; or (b) public order; or (c) the protection of the rights and freedoms of other persons.



David Richardson from All-Ways Ministries, preaching in Parkes, NSW



Ryan Hemelaar from Operation 513, preaching 'open-air' on the Gold Coast

Charles Spurgeon's Classic

How Men come to Christ



How does the Father draw men?

Arminian preachers generally say that God draws men by the preaching of the gospel. Very true; the preaching of the gospel is the instrument of drawing men, but there must be something more than this.

Let me ask to whom did Christ address these words? Why, to the people of Capernaum, where He had often preached, where He had uttered mournfully and plaintively the woes of the law and the invitations of the gospel.

In that city He had done many mighty works and worked many miracles. In fact, such teaching and such miraculous attestation had He given them, that He declared that Tyre and Sidon would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes, if they had been blessed with such privileges. (Luke 10:13-16)

Drawn by the Father

Now, if the preaching of Christ Himself did not avail to the enabling these men to come to Christ, it cannot be possible that all that was intended by the drawing of the Father was simply preaching. No, brethren, you must note again, He does not say no man can come except the

minister draw him, but except the Father draw him.

Now there is such a thing as being drawn by the gospel, and drawn by the minister, without being drawn by God. Clearly, it is a divine drawing that is meant, a drawing by the Most High God the First Person of the most glorious Trinity sending out the Third Person the Holy Spirit, to induce men to come to Christ.

Another person turns around and says with a sneer, *"Then do you think that Christ drags men to Himself, seeing that they are unwilling?"*

I remember meeting once with a man who said to me, *"Sir, you preach that Christ takes people by the hair of their heads and drags them to Himself."*

I asked him whether he could refer to the date of the sermon wherein I preached that extraordinary doctrine, for if he could, I should be very much obliged. However, he could not. But said I, while Christ does not drag people to Himself by the hair of their heads, I believe that He draws them by the heart quite as powerfully as your caricature would suggest.

Being made willing

Mark that in the Father's drawing

there is no compulsion whatever; Christ never compelled any man to come to Him against his will. If a man be unwilling to be saved, Christ does not save him against his will.

How, then, does the Holy Spirit draw him? Why, by making him willing. It is true he does not use "moral suasion"; He knows a nearer method of reaching the heart. He goes to the secret fountain of the heart, and He knows how, by some mysterious operation, to turn the will in an opposite direction, so that, as Ralph Erskine paradoxically puts it, the man is saved *"with full consent against his will"*; that is, against his old will he is saved. But he is saved with full consent, for he is made willing in the day of God's power.

Do not imagine that any man will go to heaven kicking and struggling all the way against the hand that draws him. Do not conceive that any man will be plunged in the bath of a Saviour's blood while he is striving to run away from the Saviour. Oh, no. It is quite true that first of all man is unwilling to be saved. When the Holy Spirit hath put His influence into the heart, the test is fulfilled: *"Draw me and I will run after thee."* (Song of Solomon 1:4)

We follow on while He draws us, glad to obey the voice which once we had despised.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

But the gist of the matter lies in the turning of the will. How that is done no flesh knoweth; it is one of those mysteries that is clearly perceived as a fact, but the cause of which no tongue can tell, and no heart can guess. The apparent way, however, in which the Holy Spirit operates, we can tell you. The first thing the Holy Spirit does when He comes into a man's heart is this: He finds him with a very good opinion of himself. *"Why,"* says the man, *"I don't want to come to Christ. I have as good a righteousness as anybody can desire. I feel I can walk into heaven on my own rights."*

The Holy Spirit lays bare his heart, lets him see the loathsome cancer that is there eating away his life, uncovers to him all the blackness and defilement of that sink of hell, the human heart, and then the man stands aghast. *"I never thought I was like this. Oh! Those sins I thought were little, have swelled out to an immense stature. What I thought was a mole-hill has grown into a mountain; it was but the hyssop on the wall before, but now it has become a cedar of Lebanon."*

"Oh," saith the man within him-

self, *"I will try and reform; I will do good deeds enough to wash these black deeds out."*

Then comes the Holy Spirit and shows him that he cannot do this, takes away all his fancied power and strength, so that the man falls down on his knees in agony, and cries, *"Oh! Once I thought I could save myself by my good works, but now I find that, 'Could my tears forever flow, Could my zeal no respite know, All for sin could not atone, Thou must save and Thou alone.'"*

We see the Cross

Then the heart sinks, and the man is ready to despair. And saith he, *"I never can be saved. Nothing can save me."* Then comes the Holy Spirit and shows the sinner the cross of Christ, gives him eyes anointed with heavenly eyesalve, and says, *"Look to yonder cross, that Man died to save sinners; you feel that you are a sinner; He died to save you."* And He enables the heart to believe, and to come to Christ. And when it comes to Christ, by this sweet drawing of the Spirit, it finds *"the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, which keeps his heart and mind through Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:7).

Now, you will plainly perceive that all this may be done without any compulsion. Man is as much

drawn willingly, as if he were not drawn at all; and he comes to Christ with full consent, with as full a consent as if no secret influence had ever been exercised in his heart. But that influence must be exercised, or else there never has been and there never will be, any man who either can or will come to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

(June 19, 1834 – January 31, 1892)

C.H. Spurgeon, was a British preacher who still remains highly influential among Christians of different denominations, among whom he is still known as the "Prince of Preachers."

In his lifetime, Spurgeon preached to around 10,000,000 people, often up to 10 times each week in different places.

Spurgeon was the pastor of the congregation of the New Park Street Chapel (later the Metropolitan Tabernacle) in London for 38 years.

He was a prolific author of many types of works including sermons, an autobiography, a commentary, books on prayer, a devotional, a magazine, poetry, hymnist, and more. Many sermons were transcribed as he spoke and were translated into many languages during his lifetime. Arguably, no other author, Christian or otherwise, has more material in print than C.H. Spurgeon.

“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 6:44a

Fruit – What is it?

By Leah Knowling

In John 15:16, Jesus talks about bearing fruit that will last. And in Luke 6:44, He said *“Each tree is recognized by its own fruit.”*

Fruit! So what is it? How is it measured and by whom? These are questions that I have been chewing on for some time and searching the Lord and His Word for the answers.

In Galatians 5:22-23, Paul describes the ‘Fruit of the Spirit’ in a believer’s life as *“love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control”*.

This ‘fruit’ can generally be observed in a Christian’s life, often as it relates to another person. For example, kindness is only kindness if it is directed towards someone. Love, among others, can be directed towards both people and God.

Galatians 5:24 says *“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passion and desires.”* So another ‘fruit’, often called the ‘fruit of repentance’, is a new attitude toward sin. Other passages also talk about the fruit of righteousness.

Then in John 15:2, He says that if we don’t bear fruit, we will be cut off. All of these passages describe fruit in terms of character

traits that can be observed by others and ultimately, God.

However, in evangelism, fruit has often been viewed (whether rightly or wrongly, as we will see) as the number of responses to the Gospel.

Now while the term ‘fruit’ can and should be ascribed to genuine converts (not just a decision or someone who has said a ‘prayer’), is this a complete definition of the term ‘fruit’ as it pertains to evangelism, or indeed to the evangelist or witness for Christ?

To answer, let us look at the life of our Greatest Evangelist, our Lord Jesus Christ. What was the ‘fruit’ of his earthly ministry.

He preached to thousands and as a ‘healer’ he was very successful. However, if we were to judge the fruit of his ministry as an evangelist, purely by the number of responses, He would fall short, only accounting for 12 and a few others prior to his death (and they all ‘backslid’). After his resurrection and ascension, a huge 120 could be accounted for. And yet He sowed the seed of the Word to thousands. I mean, He is the Word and still they didn’t come.

Did Jesus worry about this lack of decisions. No! He knew that *“no-one can come... unless the Father has enabled him”*. In fact, at one point he was teaching some hard truths and multitudes left. Jesus then turned to His 12 disciples and asked *“Do you want to leave too?”* (John 6:60-68)

So, was Jesus’ ministry fruitful. Absolutely. As we will see, Biblical fruit in evangelism is more than just reaping, it is also being faithful to sow.

In Luke 8:5-15, we read the Parable of the Sower. In verses 11-15, Jesus explains the parable. The seed is the Word of God, the different soils represent the condition of the heart of the different hearers of the message of the Gospel. Note, they all heard the message, but only one who responded went on to *“produce a crop”*. (Luke 8:15)

In the parable, one hearer who is often over-looked is the hard-hearted hearer, symbolized by the path. These are those who hear the message and don’t understand it (Matthew 13:19), *“and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.”* (Luke 8:12)

As Christians we know that ‘salvation is of the Lord’. Therefore, while we pray for the Lord to give us ‘divine appointments’ and for people’s hearts to be open to the Gospel, scripture tells us that our witnessing encounters will inevitably include those who will hear, but reject the Gospel.

Does this mean we are not producing ‘fruit’, or worse, producing ‘bad fruit’, if people reject the Gospel. By no means!

Jesus said in John 4:37 *“Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true.”* And Paul writing to the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 3:5-8 says, *“What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labour.”*

We can therefore see from scripture that our ‘fruit’ in witnessing is our faithfulness to ‘labour’ as *“Christ’s Ambassadors”* whether that be sowing the *“message of reconciliation”* (2 Corinthians 5:19, 20) or indeed, reaping a harvest.

The Fruit of One Life

As we have discussed (see main article), if the fruit of evangelism was purely the number of decisions for Christ, then for a man or woman to witness for Christ for years on end, without any visible signs of response could be very discouraging. Some could even give up.

However, as we have seen fruit is our faithfulness to labour for Christ, whether sowing or reaping.

This is the testimony of a man called Frank Jenner who determined to witness to at least 10 people faithfully every day. For 16 years Frank witnessed to thousands (possibly over 100,000 by the end of his life) on George Street in Sydney by asking them a simple question and giving a tract.

In all that time he never knew of any responses, until an English Baptist minister came across four people who had the same testimony of being witnessed to by an elderly gentlemen on George Street, and he determined to find the man. Eventually, the Baptist pastor met 10 people who had become Christians through this faithful man’s witness and all serving God in some way.

After 28 years of faithfully witnessing, Frank Jenner knew the truth. *“One sows, another reaps”* And the Lord gives the increase.