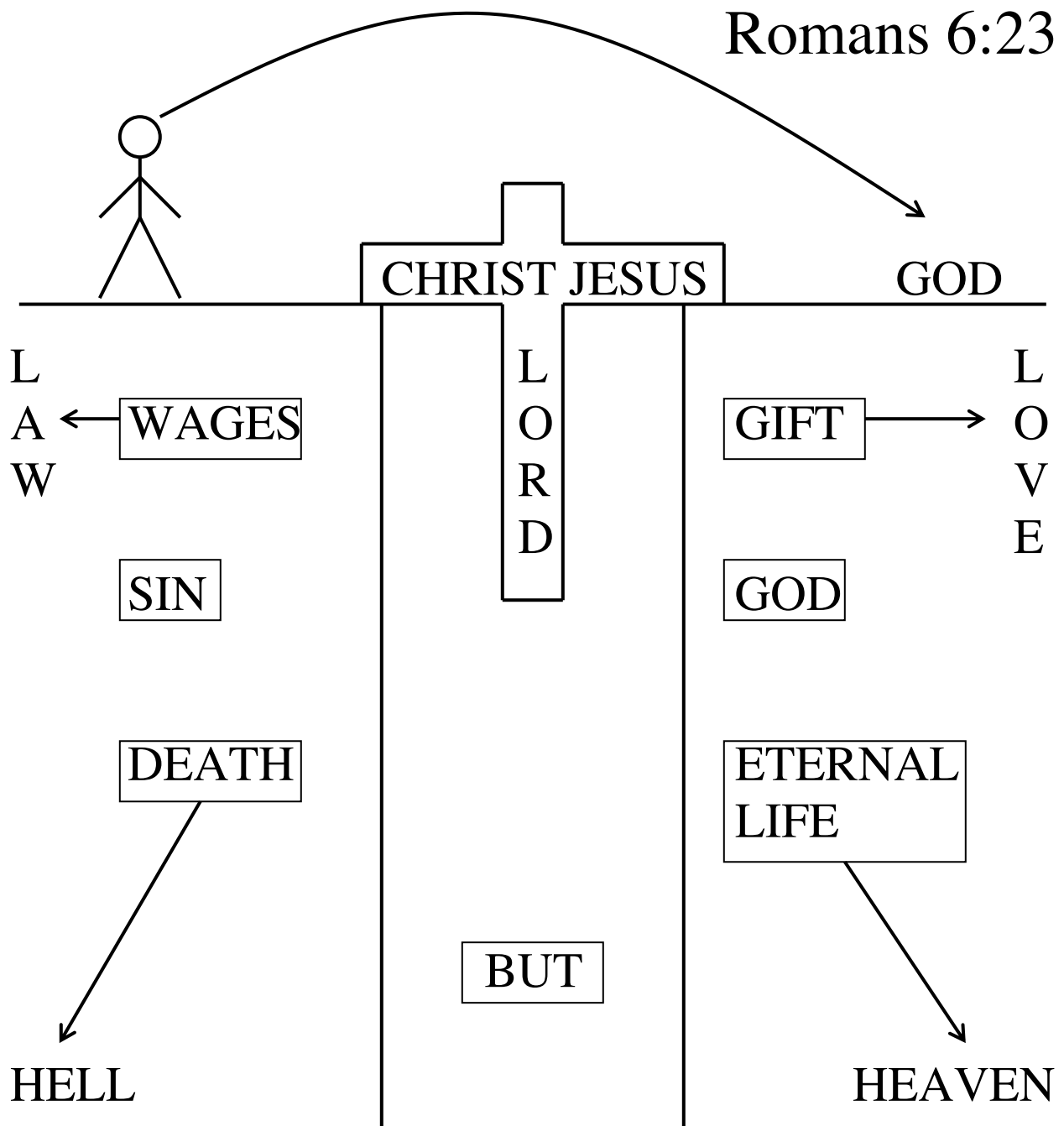


For the wages of sin is death,
but the gift of God is eternal life
in Christ Jesus our Lord.



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One Verse Gospel Presentation Romans 6:23

Introduction:

There are many ways to enter into a presentation of the Gospel. One of the easiest ways is to bring people around to the subject of “Church” and “Religion”. The question can be asked, “Do you understand the claims of Christianity?” “Do you understand the teachings of the Bible?” You may then follow up with this statement, “Did you know that there is one verse in the Bible that sums up the essence of the entire Bible’s teaching?” “May I share that one verse with you?”

Begin by taking out a piece of paper and a pen and write the verse (Rom. 6:23) on the top of the paper. It is a good idea to divide the verse into three lines, as in the example. You will begin the diagram about halfway down the page. Don’t forget to write the reference down for the verse so that when you give them the paper after the presentation they can look up the verse and verify that it is indeed in the Bible and hopefully read more of the book of Romans! For each major word in the passage you will draw a box around it and then place it in the appropriate place in the diagram with a box around it. Only the words that are taken directly from the Bible text will have a box around them.

WAGES – Begin by asking the question what are wages? The person will usually say something like payment for work done. You should then define wages by writing the following three words: “Earned” “Deserved”, and “Worked for”. Talk about how all three of these words explain what wages are. Then tell a story a story where you are the one who will pay wages to the person you are witnessing to for some job that they do. Try to relate this to their occupation or one of their interests. After they have completed the job and you are satisfied with their work tell them that you are not able to pay them because (some poor excuse) you don’t have the money. How will they respond? They will say that they are angry or something similar. Then you tell them that as a matter of fact you could take me to court and force me to pay because the law is on your side. At this point draw an arrow to the left of the word **WAGES** and write the word **LAW** vertically on the page. Conclude with the idea that the law requires that wages be paid because that is what is just.

SIN – Ask them to define the word sin. They may say many different things. Try to use the definition that they provide as long as it is in the “Theological ball park”. Many common responses will be “Rebellion against God” “Doing what is wrong” “Hurting other people”. Now ask the question “Have you ever...done what is wrong?” Again try to use their definition. Affirm the fact that you too have sinned. As a matter of fact the Bible says that all have sinned.

Review the important points in **WAGES** and tie that together with **SIN** before you move on to the next word.

DEATH – When I say death what does that mean to you? Many people will have trouble actually defining death. They may say “kick the bucket”, “buy the farm”, etc. Once you have allowed them to think about it a bit. Explain that the Bible describes death as “Separation”. Physical death is separation from this world, your loved ones, your stuff, etc. If physical death is separation from this world then spiritual death is separation from God. You can be spiritually dead while you are still alive physically. At this point draw the chasm and a stick figure over the left side and write the word GOD on the right side. Explain that because of our sin and God’s just law we are separated from him. Then say, “If we die physically while you are separated from God spiritually then you will go to a place called Hell. At this point draw a line coming down from the word DEATH with an arrow that points to the word HELL. Then take a few moments to describe a biblical view of hell, which is a place of separation from God, eternal suffering and eternal regret.

Now review all three words, explaining how we deserve to receive the just payment for our sin, which is death and that separation from God eventually becomes finalized for all eternity in a place called hell. Then say, “Isn’t this bad news?” God, however does not leave us there. There is a beautiful little three-letter word that follows...

BUT – This conjunction lets us know that in spite of the Bad News that we have just heard there is Good News that follows. Write the word BUT at the base of the chasm and draw a box around it.

GIFT – Write the word GIFT on the right side, parallel with the word WAGES. Ask the person to define gift. Who do you give gifts to? They may say friends, family, etc., but you want them to get to the concept that you give gifts to people you love. When this is established draw an arrow and write the word LOVE off to the right of the word Gift in a vertical position (just like the word LAW on the other side). Explain how the word gift is exactly the opposite of the word Wages, using the three words “earned, deserved and worked for”. Use this example: If I were to offer this pen to you as a gift when would it be a gift? When you receive it. A gift is only a gift when the person receives it. If they never take it, it remains in the possession of the giver and doesn’t benefit anyone.

GOD – Write this word below gift and parallel to sin. Explain how God is the one who wants to give you this free gift because he loves you. It is not because you have done good things but rather because He is good. You did not deserve this gift but He desires to give it to you. The next word tells us what this gift is.

ETERNAL LIFE – Write this below GOD and parallel with death. Explain how if death is separation from God, then eternal life is being with God forever. Enjoying his presence. Always knowing that the creator of the universe desires to give you life and have you with him for all eternity. Now say, “If you die physically when you are experiencing life with God spiritually then you will go to a place called Heaven. Draw an arrow and write the word HEAVEN below and to the right of eternal life. Explain what heaven is like. A place where there will be no more sorrow. Where we will understand the answers to the questions we have had all of our lives, where we will live full of joy and free of pain forever.

This is Good News isn't it? Now we have seen the bad news and the good news but the problem is that we are stuck on the wrong side because of our sin and we deserve death. Draw an arching line from the stick figure to the word God. How will we bridge this gap? God is also stuck in a dilemma. Because of his justice and his law, he must give us what we have earned, deserve and worked for, which is death. God, however, because of his great love for us, desires to give us the gift of eternal life so that we can be with him forever. But God, of course, will not stay stuck in this dilemma for long. Before the world was created, God devised a plan to satisfy both his justice and his love. And that plan is seen in the next word.

CHRIST JESUS – Write this word across the top of the chasm and draw a cross around it that bridges the gap. Jesus, who is God, was born of a woman and lived a perfect life on this earth. He never sinned or did what was wrong (use their definition for sin). Even though he did not earn, deserve or work for Death because he was not entitled the wages, he was crucified and died a horrible death as an innocent man. Explain how the death of Jesus satisfies the law of God because he, who was without sin, took our place and received our wages. However, he did not stay separated from God eternally, because of his innocence, but rather he was raised from the dead after three days and now he is in heaven at God's right hand pleading our case before God's law and justice. If we accept Jesus Christ then through him we can cross over that chasm that separates us from God to enjoy His love and the free gift of eternal life, which he wants to give to us. But how can one accept Jesus Christ and bridge that gap? You might ask...

LORD – Write this word vertically on the cross (you can also draw a heart around the cross if you like). You must make Jesus the lord of you life. That is, give him control of your life.

Where are you on this diagram? Give them the pen and ask them to put a dot where they are. Would you like to take the next step to receive this free gift from God? He loves you and really desires to give you eternal life so you can be with him forever.

You can then lead them in a prayer that again walks them through the concepts in this verse that you have just explained.

Give them the paper so that they can review. If they did not make a decision, they may take it home and in the middle of the night pray that prayer. If they did make a decision they may use that paper to explain to their family what they have done and lead others to Christ.

(This method was developed by Dr. Bill Jones from Columbia International University)

If you have any questions or need help perfecting your use of this method I would be glad to help you. Contact me at Kirk of the Hills.

Dan Bair