



MOUNTAIN

THE SKINNY GOSPEL

Our Anorexic Message to a **Starving World**

A Challenge to the Evangelical Church

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The Problem

The Exodus

Many people we lead to Christ eventually leave the faith, experiencing disillusionment and wondering "what did I get myself into?"

The Disconnect

There's a gap between the rich Christian life we know and the "skinny gospel" we present to others.

The Gap We Must Bridge



What We Know

Rich spiritual blessings, abundant life, meaningful relationships



What We Share

Basic facts: sin, salvation, heaven when you die



The Question

"Why not present the full picture of what salvation truly means?"

Our Multiplied Spiritual Blessings

The Richness of What Believers Receive

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with

EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING
in Christ."

— Ephesians 1:3



Divine Protection

Sealed by Spirit, kept secure, no
condemnation, eternal security



Direct Access

Boldly approach throne, personal
relationship, constant communion



Spiritual Gifts

Unique calling, purpose,
significance, equipped to serve

The Christian life is a

WONDERFULLY RICH EXPERIENCE

As we grow, we discover more blessings we weren't aware of when we first came to Christ.

We serve a God who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think.

Traditional Evangelism Methods

Common approaches used over the decades



Romans Road

Scripture sequence: Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-10, 10:13, 5:1, 8:1, 8:38-39



Four Spiritual Laws

Campus Crusade's systematic approach to presenting the gospel message



Crusades & Revivals

Billy Graham crusades, tent revivals, Youth for Christ rallies



Lifestyle Evangelism

Friendship evangelism and living out faith as a witness



Key Questions

"If you died tonight, do you know for sure you'd go to heaven?"



Tract Distribution

Street preaching, Bible distribution, inner-city missions

Each method has had its time, place, and successes

THE GAP

Why is there such a disconnect between what we know and how we share it?

The Wonderful Christian Life

- ✓ Every spiritual blessing in Christ
- ✓ New creation with purpose
- ✓ Direct access to God as Father
- ✓ Abundant life and overflowing cup
- ✓ Eternal security and peace



Our Feeble Evangelism

- ✗ "Just a ticket to heaven"
- ✗ Basic sin + salvation formula
- ✗ Meager results and dropouts
- ✗ Fails to address real needs
- ✗ Lacks compelling vision

The Knowledgeable Shopper

In an age of Amazon reviews, people research \$10 purchases. Yet we expect life-changing decisions without full disclosure?

Avoiding Bait-and-Switch

Shouldn't we mention that the king of darkness becomes your enemy? Fair presentation includes both pros and challenges.

"Salvation is much more than merely heaven when one dies"

The Big Picture of Salvation

God's Eternal Plan for Relationship



CREATION

God creates man in His image for relationship. Perfect communion in the garden - walking together, communicating freely.

"God called his creation very good, and he walked with man in the garden"



THE FALL

Sin breaks the relationship. Man cast out of the garden. God no longer walks with man - the relationship He made man for is lost.

"Your iniquities have separated you from your God" - Isaiah 59:2



RESTORATION

Christ comes "to seek and save that which was lost." The Holy Spirit breathes life - relationship restored! God becomes our Father.

"We are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ" - Romans 8:17

The Ultimate Relationship

Our Relationship with the Trinity

Understanding how each person of the Trinity relates to believers in salvation



The Father

ADOPTS US

Demonstrated by deepening love for Him and increasing time alone with Him

"So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God"

Hebrews 4:16



Christ

PROVIDES ACCESS

Demonstrated by new spiritual life, growth in faith, and unshakeable peace

"Our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son"

Romans 5:10-11



The Spirit

ABIDES IN US

Demonstrated by growing discipleship and rewarding relationships

"All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God"

Romans 8:14

The Complete Relationship

The Father ADOPTS us • Christ provides ACCESS to the Father • The Spirit ABIDES in us

18 Benefits of Salvation

By Faith Alone



Proper Understanding of God

- God delights in us, not eager to punish
- Freedom from Old Testament laws
- Direct confession and restoration



Personal Relationship

- Beloved child of the King
- Christ as friend and brother
- Indwelling Holy Spirit presence



Peace & Forgiveness

- True forgiveness for all sins
- Genuine lasting peace with God
- Confidence facing death



Reliable Wisdom

- Scripture for comfort & guidance
- Spirit's help in understanding
- Confidence in Bible's sufficiency



New Family

- Church for growth & support
- Simple faith, "yoke easy and light"
- Opportunity to improve the church



New Purpose

- Meaning & significance in life
- Any vocation for God's glory
- Opportunity to lead others to Christ

"Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!"

- 2 Corinthians 9:15