

10 THINGS
JESUS
NEVER
SAID

and why you should
STOP believing them

WILL DAVIS JR.

MESSAGE SERIES

10 THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID

and why you should
STOP believing them

WELCOME TO THE *TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID:* *AND WHY YOU SHOULD STOP BELIEVING THEM* **MESSAGE SERIES**

I'm honored that you've chosen to teach through the content of *Ten Things*, and I sincerely pray that it will inspire and encourage both you and those you speak to.

HERE'S WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THIS KIT:

- Goals for the teaching/preaching series
- Series Outline Suggestions
- Links to purchase bulk orders for your congregation
- Basic Outline Concept for Messages
- 12 Message Outlines and Corresponding Audience Note Sheets

SERIES GOALS

Below are five goals I have for you and your group as you begin this study:

GOAL #1

To have your church members, guests and even unbelievers better understand Jesus' invitation to rest and to fully embrace it in each of their lives. In my opinion, Chapters 1 and 12 are the most important in the book. They explain Jesus' gracious offer to give us rest; they establish the theological foundation from which we can reject the lies of those things Jesus didn't say; and, they introduce us to the purpose-filled life of sharing Jesus' yoke. Regardless of how many of the topics you cover in *Ten Things*, I hope you will either begin or end the series with a message from these two chapters. I've provided notes for each, but they could easily be combined into one message.

GOAL #2

To change how your church members view God. Most of us have some type of God-baggage. It comes with being both sinful and finite. We've believed those lies about God that Jesus never ever said. This series is going to help your church members jettison their poor thinking about God and embrace the wonderful and humbling truths of who he really is.

GOAL #3

To change how your church members view themselves. The devil plants all kinds of lies in our brains about who we are and how God views us, and I discuss several of them in the book. This series is going to help your church members develop a better biblical view of who they are in Christ and how God really sees them. It will be very liberating for them.

GOAL #4

To change how your church members view others. A few of the chapters in *Ten Things* address our legalistic or unbiblical views toward others. We write them off or just simply judge them and gossip about them. So along with applying the concept of grace to ourselves, the *Ten Things* series is going to challenge your church members to apply it to others as well.

POSSIBLE SERIES

FROM *TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID*:

SERIES OPTION 1

The Most Important Things Jesus Ever Said.

This could be a stand-alone message, possible with either a discipleship or evangelistic focus, depending on your audience. Use Outlines 1 and 12.

SERIES OPTION 2

Things Jesus Never Said... About God's Relationship with You

(3-6 weeks, depending on how many topics you choose)

- Week 1** Outlines 1 & 12—*The Most Important Thing Jesus Ever Said*
- Week 2** Outline 2—*Your too Far Gone to be Saved*
- Week 3** Outline 3—*I'm so Disappointed in You*
- Week 4** Outline 4—*Try Harder*
- Week 5** Outline 4—*You Missed God's Will*
- Week 6** Outline 4—*You are No Longer a Christian*

SERIES OPTION 3

Things Jesus Never Said... About Your Relationship with Others (4 weeks)

- Week 1** Outline 1—*The Most Important Thing Jesus Ever Said*
- Week 2** Outline 5—*You Only have to Love Other Christians*
- Week 3** Outline 6—*Other Christians must Live and Believe Like You Do*
- Week 4** Outline 8—*You Don't have to Forgive Everyone*

SERIES OPTION 4

The Top Three Things Jesus Never Said (That most People Think He did Say) (4 weeks)

- Week 1** Outline 3—*I'm So Disappointed in You*
- Week 2** Outline 4—*If You were a Better Christian, this Wouldn't be Happening*
- Week 3** Outline 11—*This is Just a Cross You must Bear*
- Week 4** Outlines 1 & 12—*The Most Important Thing Jesus Ever Said*

POSSIBLE SERIES (CONTINUED):

SERIES OPTION 5

Things Jesus Never Said: And Why You Should Stop Believing Them

(This is the “build your own series” option. Just pick the topics that your church most needs to hear and design the series accordingly.)

ORDER LINKS

- Amazon Link: <http://tinyurl.com/6ajkcyt>
- If you want to offer *Ten Things Jesus Never Said* to your congregation for background reading before, during or after the series, you can buy bulk copies at reduced rates at www.Direct2Church.com (<http://tinyurl.com/65uurhe>).
- Will’s blog and web site—www.willdavisjr.com

BASIC OUTLINE

CONCEPT FOR MESSAGES

INTRODUCTION

You can use the one from the chapter or your own.

THE LIE

This section states in the clearest of terms the lie that we often believe. It's written in second person, as if Jesus himself were speaking it to us. Some messages go into more depth here than others, depending on the topic.

THE TRUTH

This is where I unpack the biblical truth and juxtapose it with the lie. This section tends to be scripture-focused and very developed in thought.

EXHIBIT A

This is the illustration section. The first example is typically one from the Bible. I usually add another, current example as well.

APPLICATION

This section makes the message relevant and practical to the audience. You can develop it as much as you like.

CONCLUSION

I always refer back to the Matthew 11:28 (Come to me all who are weary and burdened) invitation in the conclusions.

MESSAGE OUTLINES & AUDIENCE NOTES

Highlighted texts coincide with the audience message notes. Also, you'll need to reformat the audience notes to fit your note sheet model.

MESSAGE 1

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID & THE MOST IMPORTANT THING JESUS EVER SAID

Please read the Introduction and Chapter 1 of Ten Things Jesus never Said for background.

INTRODUCTION

(You need a good story here about the importance of rest and refueling. I use a story about a long hike and the importance of stopping to rest.)

Matthew 11:28-30—*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light,*”

I. JESUS’ INVITATION

A. *Come to me.*

1. Today we invite people to church, into a small group, or to a conference or special event. Not Jesus. He didn’t hesitate to tell people that what their souls most desperately needed could be found solely in a relationship with him.
2. The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor (Luke 4:18-19).
3. I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life (John 5:24).
4. I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty (John 6:35).
5. If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him (John 7:37-38).
6. I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life (John 8:12).
7. I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die (John 11:25-26).
8. You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am (John 13:13).
9. Do you see a theme developing here?

B. *Illustration Here*

C. *Jesus invites you to know him*

II. JESUS' GUEST LIST

A. *All who are weary and burdened.* Jesus didn't target the put-together, the well-polished and the religious performers. Rather, Jesus targeted the down-and-out, the spiritually bankrupt and the religiously lost.

B. Notice how he described them—*weary and burdened*.

C. The weary and burdened to whom Jesus referred are those who realized the futility of their efforts to appease God.

D. *Illustration* of a spiritually weary person.

E. *Take my yoke upon you For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*

F. Jesus used a familiar image from his day to help his audience understand what he was offering them.

G. No doubt many in Jesus' audience could identify with the heavy yoke of their cultural and religious legal code.

H. Are you weary from trying to live up to religious standards? You're on his guest list.

I. Possible Illustration.

III. JESUS' PROMISE

A. *I will give you rest.*

B. In one poignant moment, Moses pleaded for God to protect them and to continue to guide them. He then prayed, "If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people," (Exodus 33:13).

C. God's response to Moses was far beyond anything that Moses could have hoped for: "**The Lord replied, 'My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest,'**" (Exodus 33:14). The promise of God's presence must have been

D. Now let's jump from Exodus to Matthew in the Bible and about 1400 years in history. Jesus stood before a group of weary spiritual seekers and invited them to enter into a relationship

with him. And then what did he promise? *I will give you rest.*

E. In his invitation to road-weary spiritual seekers, Jesus offered to be to them what God was to the nation of Israel while they wandered in the desert.

IV. TWO IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

A. First, *Jesus wants you.*

B. Here's a little exercise. I want you to make Jesus' invitation personal. You know that he said, "Come to me all who are weary . . ." Let's narrow it down. Here's the statement again, with a minor change: *Come to me _____ and I will give you rest.* I want you to put your name in the blank.

C. Second, *whatever the size of your burden, Jesus wants it. Jesus is in the business of burden lifting.*

D. Illustration Here

CONCLUSION

Come to Me, All Who are Weary and Burdened

Come to Jesus today. Give him your burden and let him give you rest.

MESSAGE 1

NOTE SHEET

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID & THE MOST IMPORTANT THING JESUS EVER SAID

Matthew 11:28-30—*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light,*"

Jesus _____

Notes:

Jesus' _____

All who are _____ and

Notes:

Jesus' _____

Notes:

If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people." The Lord replied, 'My

_____ go with you, and I _____, (Exodus 33:13-14).

Notes:

Two Important Things to Remember

Jesus _____

Come to me _____ and I will give you rest.

Whatever the _____

of _____,

Jesus _____.

Jesus is in the business of _____.

MESSAGE 2

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID: YOU'RE TOO FAR GONE TO BE SAVED

Please read Chapter 2 of Ten Things Jesus Never Said for background.

INTRODUCTION

Is there ever a point where we get too sinful for God? If we hit new levels of moral lows or set records in the sin department, isn't there a line we cross where we simply move beyond God's reach? Wouldn't God be wise to say that there are just certain things he won't forgive?

THE LIE—WHAT JESUS NEVER SAID

A. The lie sounds something like this: *Jesus certainly didn't die for the likes of you. You may have friends or family who are Christians, but they never messed up like you have. You're crazy to think that God still wants you. You're damaged goods. You've gone too far. Today we invite people to church, into a small group, or to a conference or special event. Not Jesus. He didn't hesitate to tell people that what their souls most desperately needed could be found solely in a relationship with him.*

B. Have you ever heard something like that? Many people want to follow Christ, they want to seek forgiveness, but they really believe they've gone too far.

C. Illustration Here

THE TRUTH—WHAT JESUS SAID

A. The biblical reality is that as long as you're still drawing breath, you can be saved. Let me show you two reasons why.

1. *God doesn't grade on a curve.*
2. "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. For he who said, 'Do not commit adultery,' also said, 'Do not murder.' If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker," James 2:10-11.
3. *God treats the disease of sin, not its symptoms.*
4. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. *Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me,"* Psalm 51:3-5.

5. **God doesn't see sins, he sees sinners.** He doesn't see a murderer, a liar, a gossip, a slanderer, a drug addict or a lazy person. He sees people in need of grace.

B. Illustration

1. **Exhibit A**--*But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"*, (John 8:1-5).
2. The Law of Moses indeed called for the execution of those guilty of adultery.
3. They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground, John 8:6-8.
4. Jesus' response to the scene has always moved me. He simply knelt down and began to doodle in the dirt on the Temple floor. Amazingly, in that critical moment when Jesus was being tested by his enemies, he was thinking about this adulterous woman.
5. Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she said. 'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared. 'Go now and leave your life of sin,'" John 8:10-11.

C. Illustration—Exhibit B

POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. **You can't get too dirty for Jesus**
2. **He wants you, no matter what**

CONCLUSION

Come to Me, All Who are Weary and Burdened

What is the yoke of sin that you are carrying? What shame and guilt from transgressions past or present are keeping you from knowing God's love? You haven't gone too far. You and all those you love are still candidates for God's mercy.

MESSAGE 2

NOTE SHEET

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID: YOU'RE TOO FAR GONE TO BE SAVED

THE LIE

Notes:

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful

_____, sinful from the time my _____,"

Psalm 51:3-5. James 2:10-11.

God doesn't see _____,

he sees _____.

THE TRUTH

As long as you're _____,

you can _____.

God doesn't _____

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking _____. For he who said, 'Do not commit adultery,' also said, 'Do not murder.' If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker," James 2:10-11.

God treats the _____,

not its _____.

John 8:1-11

Notes:

POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. You can't get _____ for Jesus.

2. He wants you, _____

MESSAGE 3

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID: I'M SO DISAPPOINTED IN YOU

Please read Chapter 3 of Ten Things Jesus Never Said for background.

INTRODUCTION

- A.** For many of us, though, the worst part of disappointment is feeling that we have let someone else down.
- B.** Worst of all, I hate feeling like I've disappointed God.

THE LIE

- A.** *The lie that many of us believe is that we are constantly letting God down.* We feel that with every new sunrise God has a fresh and full slate of hopes and dreams for our lives, and with every sunset God is facing the ugly reality that once again we've failed to be all that he hoped we'd be. How can God not be disappointed in us?
- B.** Can you see how paralyzing such thinking would be to a Christian? *After a while, you're bound to succumb to the "what's the point" thinking that comes with a sense that all you're doing is disappointing God.*
- C.** Many Christians just quit trying. They believe that God, if he hasn't already, is at some point in the future going to give up on them.

D. Illustration

THE TRUTH

- A.** *God has never been disappointed in you.* Not once, ever.
- B.** Let's find out why.
 1. *You can't disappoint God because he knows everything.*
 - Think about it: At the very core of disappointment is a failure to meet expectations. But if someone knows everything, how can you disappoint him?
 - *Who has understood the mind of the Lord, or instructed him as his counselor? Whom did the Lord consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it*

that taught him knowledge or showed him the path of understanding? (Isaiah 40:13-14). In other words, "Who taught God?" Implied answer? No one!

- *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts,"* (Isaiah 55:8-9). In other words: *You'll never be able to fully understand my mind. I think on an entirely different level.*
- The mind of God is infinite. He doesn't have any boundaries or limits to his knowledge. God knows every plan, idea and intention of man.
- How can you let down someone who knows every possible choice you have made and ever will make? It's simply impossible.

2. *You can't disappoint God because he created you.*

- Besides the fact that God knows everything, God knows everything about you.
- *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be,* (Psalm 139:13-16).
- David wasn't perfect. He failed God in some spectacular ways. But was he afraid of God because God knew everything about him? No. In fact, David actually wanted more of God.
- *Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting,* (Psalm 139:23-24).
- Instead of fleeing God's scrutiny, David welcomed it. It's like he was saying, "Look God, since I can't hide from you, since you know my thoughts before I think them, I want you to fully know me!"
- How are you going to let down a God who not only made you, but also knows every single detail of your life? God knows more about you than you do. He's a you expert!

3. *You can't disappoint God because he sent Christ to die for your sins, even before you committed any.*

- The theological concept of forgiveness is much more comprehensive than most of us realize.

- But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us, (Romans 5:8).
- Jesus wasn't confused about his mission or the depth of need of those he came to save.

EXHIBIT A

A. Consider Peter.

1. He was passionate about his loyalty to Christ, and was in some ways the first disciple to really grasp the true nature of who Jesus was.
2. Do you think Jesus invited Peter into his inner circle without fully knowing that he was going to misstep, misspeak and even fail on several occasions? No way. Jesus knew everything about him, and he invited him to be his disciple anyway.
3. "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me," (Luke 22:31-34).
4. Jesus was under no delusions about Peter's weaknesses. Was Jesus surprised when Peter told the servant girl that he didn't know Jesus? Absolutely not. Jesus called Peter to follow him anyway.
5. The same is true for you.

B. Illustration Here

CONCLUSION

Come to Me, All Who are Weary and Heavy Laden

We need to repent of our bad theology and of believing this lie about our relationship with God. **God is way too big and all-knowing for us to ever surprise him or let him down.**

MESSAGE 3

NOTE SHEET

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID: I'M SO DISAPPOINTED IN YOU

THE LIE

Many of us believe is that we are constantly _____.

After a while, you succumb to the _____ thinking.

THE TRUTH

God has _____ in you.

You can't disappoint God because _____.

Who has understood the mind of the Lord, or instructed him as his counselor? Whom did the Lord consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge or showed him the path of understanding? (Isaiah 40:13-14).

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts," (Isaiah 55:8-9).

You can't disappoint God because _____.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise

you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be, (Psalm 139:13-16)

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting, (Psalm 139:23-24).

God knows more about you than you do. He's a _____.

You can't disappoint God because he sent Christ to die for your sins, even before _____.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us, (Romans 5:8).

EXHIBIT A

Notes:

CONCLUSION

God is way too big and all-knowing for us to ever _____ him or _____.

MESSAGE 4

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID: IF YOU WERE A BETTER CHRISTIAN, THIS WOULDN'T BE HAPPENING

Please read Chapter 4 of Ten Things Jesus Never Said for background.

INTRODUCTION

THE LIE

A. *If you really loved me, you'd be good. Obviously, you don't love me. Why do you keep falling in the same sin over and over again? Why do you keep failing like you do? You must not be a very serious Christian.*

B. Have you ever heard those lies? I certainly have.

C. Speaking of guilt, it goes hand-in-hand with the “if you were a better Christian” lie. It sounds like this: *This is your fault. You did this. Shame on you. If you were a better Christian, this wouldn't have happened. You are a terrible, terrible person and an embarrassment to God.*

D. You know it's a lie—either the voice of the devil or the voice of your own shame and guilt—when the message is destructive and condemning.

E. Revelation 12:10 identifies Satan as the one who accuses the followers of Christ.

F. In Psalm 38:4, David prayed, “My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear.” Sound familiar?

G. Illustration

THE TRUTH

A. You can be a committed Christian and still have hard days and seasons. You can be very close to Jesus and still end up in a world of trouble.

B. Jesus seemed to go out of his way to let his followers know that troubles would find them. Listen to what he said:

- I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)

- Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 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, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5:10-12)
- All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. (Matthew 10:22)
- Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. (Luke 6:22)
- If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. (John 15:18-19)

C. Jesus made it clear that troubles were going to come. **But don't let Satan lie to you. Those troubles aren't necessarily a sign of your disobedience or your weak faith.**

EXHIBIT A

A. **Jesus' disciples** represent a group of men who literally gave up everything to follow Christ, and yet trouble found them.

1. That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" Mark 4:35-41 (NIV)
2. Suffice it to say, this was the worst storm of their lives. And they were right there with Jesus. They couldn't have been any closer to him or any more submitted to his plans.

B. That storm had nothing to do with those followers' disobedience or failing faith. They weren't sinning or rebelling when the storm blew in. They were right in the middle of God's will, and trouble still found them.

EXHIBIT B

A. **The Apostle Paul**

1. But even as committed as he was, Paul knew more than his fair share of troubles.
2. *Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. (2 Corinthians 11:23-28)*

EXHIBIT C

A. Jesus. He was fully committed to following God's will. And yet no human has ever suffered more.

B. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted, (Isaiah 53:3-4).

C. Did Jesus suffer for his lack of faith? No.

GUILT OR GOD?

A. We often mistake the voice of guilt for the voice of God. They're not the same, and it's time we learned to discern the difference.

B. This isn't my best for you. I want more for you than this, much more. You can do better. Aim higher. That's how the voice of God sounds when he addresses us in our sin.

C. Guilt isn't from God. Commit those four words to memory.

D. Everything the Holy Spirit does glorifies Jesus. The teachings about the Spirit given to the disciples by Jesus in John Chapters 14-16 make it very clear that, while the Spirit does convict of sin, he does so in a way that draws people to Christ. The "you're a terrible person" message pushes people away from God. That's not the voice of God's Spirit.

E. Let's just lay it out plainly so we are very clear. Consider these comparisons:

- Guilt condemns; conviction calls to something better
- Guilt tears down; conviction builds up
- Guilt kills hope; conviction inspires hope
- Guilt separates from God; conviction woos us to God
- Guilt is motivated by hate; conviction is motivated by love
- Guilt leaves you feeling worthless; conviction leaves you knowing you can do better
- Guilt seeks to destroy; conviction seeks to restore
- Guilt produces shame and despair; conviction yields holiness and joy

CONCLUSION

Come to Me, All Who are Weary and Burdened

Guilt isn't from God. Miscarriages, bad accidents, tragedies, etc.,—when they happen, they're not always our fault. It is time for you to set aside the yoke of guilt and shame. That's a very heavy burden for you to carry. Jesus died so you wouldn't have to.

MESSAGE 4

NOTE SHEET

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID:
IF YOU WERE A BETTER CHRISTIAN, THIS WOULDN'T BE HAPPENING

THE LIE

You know it's a lie when the message is _____ and _____.

Revelation 12:10 identifies Satan as the one who _____ the followers of Christ.

THE TRUTH

You can be _____ and still end up in a world of trouble.

Jesus seemed to go out of his way to let his followers know that _____.

Don't let Satan lie to you. Those troubles aren't necessarily a sign of your _____ or your _____.

EXHIBIT A — Jesus' _____
Mark 4:35-41

Notes:

EXHIBIT B — The _____
2 Corinthians 11:23-28

Notes:

EXHIBIT C — _____
Isaiah 53:3-4

Notes:

Guilt or _____?

- Guilt _____; conviction calls to _____
- Guilt _____; conviction _____
- Guilt _____ hope; conviction _____ hope
- Guilt _____ from God; conviction _____ to God
- Guilt is motivated by _____; conviction is motivated by _____
- Guilt leaves you feeling _____; conviction leaves you knowing _____
- Guilt seeks to _____; conviction seeks to _____
- Guilt produces _____ and _____ conviction yields _____ and _____

MESSAGE 5

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID: YOU ONLY HAVE TO LOVE OTHER CHRISTIANS (OR, IT'S OKAY TO HATE LOST PEOPLE)

Please read Chapter 5 of Ten Things Jesus Never Said for background.

INTRODUCTION

THE LIE

A. *It's okay to judge. It's okay to condemn. It's okay to write off, avoid, criticize, dislike and even hate people whose lifestyles repulse you. The more sinful they are, the more it's permissible to bash them.*

B. So goes the insidious lie that many Christians believe gives them permission to attack people they disagree with.

C. Two very public examples:

- A pastor of a large (for background only—Bill Hybles), North American church invited then President Bill Clinton to speak at his church's annual conference on leadership. This was after the president had been impeached and tried for his wrongdoings in the Monica Lewinsky scandal. The pastor received significant public and private resistance to his decision to invite the president. That isn't a problem. People have the right to oppose decisions their leaders make, and they can do so with solid biblical and logical reasons. But what troubled the pastor was the tenor of so many of the messages he received. Christian pastors wrote and spoke openly of their hatred for the president. Others said they were praying for harm to come to him. And the pastor himself was publically and repeatedly criticized for having anything to do with a man of such a low moral fiber as President Clinton.
- A very well-known Christian leader (for background only—Jerry Falwell) publically and repeatedly called comedienne and lesbian Ellen DeGeneres “Ellen Degenerate” because of his opposition to her gay lifestyle.

D. Sadly, Christians somehow have started believing that it's acceptable to be mean. And we do it in Jesus' name.

THE TRUTH

A. Hate isn't an option for a Christian, at least not when it comes to other people. We can hate sin, the devil, and the evil and injustice in the world, but we don't have the option of hating anyone created in the image of God.

B. Having said that, it still isn't easy to love those whom we may adamantly disagree with. Here is something to keep in mind:

C. *Expect lost people to act lost.*

D. Getting angry with an unbeliever for how he or she acts is no more effective than getting angry with a sick person for showing symptoms.

EXHIBIT A (ILLUSTRATION)

A MUCH BETTER EXAMPLE

A. They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones," (Mark 5:1-5).

B. The demon-possessed man represents people that we dislike and distrust. They're under the influence of something dark and insidious, something they probably don't see in themselves or understand.

C. Jesus set a great example for us in how he dealt with this demon-possessed man. "When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind . . . ," (Mark 5:15).

LOVING YOUR ENEMIES

A. Overcoming our natural prejudice against unbelievers may not come naturally.

B. Here are some suggestions for changing how you view the unbelieving:

- Study the Bible.
- Pray for them.
- Serve them.
- Tell Them.

CONCLUSION

Come to Me, All Who are Weary and Burdened

- A.** It doesn't suit us as Christians to be judgmental and hateful.
- B.** Carrying the yoke of a judgmental, critical and hateful spirit is exhausting. But love weighs very little. It's a pleasant and refreshing yoke to carry.
- C.** Are you weary from keeping at arms length those whose lives, politics, beliefs and behaviors are threatening to yours? Is your hate eating you up?
- D.** Let it go. Take on Jesus' yoke of love.
- E.** "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity," (Colossians 3:12-14).

MESSAGE 5

NOTE SHEET

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID: YOU ONLY HAVE TO LOVE OTHER CHRISTIANS (OR, IT'S OKAY TO HATE LOST PEOPLE)

THE LIE

Sadly, Christians somehow have started believing that it's acceptable to be _____ . And we do it in _____ .

THE TRUTH

_____ isn't an option for a Christian, at least not when it comes to other people.

Expect _____ people to act _____ .

Getting angry with an unbeliever for how he or she _____ is no more effective than getting angry with a sick person for _____ .

EXHIBIT A

They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the tombs, and

no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones," (Mark 5:1-5).

When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind . . . ,” (Mark 5:15).

LOVING YOUR _____

- Study the _____ .
- _____ them.
- _____ them.
- _____ them.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity," (Colossians 3:12-14).

MESSAGE 6

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID: OTHER CHRISTIANS SHOULD LIVE AND BELIEVE LIKE YOU

Please read Chapter 6 of Ten Things Jesus Never Said for background.

INTRODUCTION

What is it about Christians that makes us want to legislate how others live out their faith? Why are we so quickly threatened by how others worship, pray, serve, behave and even believe on certain points?

For a people who boast in a faith that provides freedom and liberty from rule-keeping, we are very quick to impose rules and regulations on others. Have you ever heard or said any of these:

- I don't lift my hands in worship, so you shouldn't either.
- We serve the poor and give away lots of money, so you should too.
- I don't let my kids see R-rated movies; you're a bad Christian if you do.
- We don't dance; all Christians who do are sinning.
- You shouldn't listen to secular music, just Christian.
- You shouldn't listen to Christian music with a certain beat; it's from Satan.
- If you don't home-school, you're not godly.
- We don't drink alcohol. It's wrong for all Christians.
- Christians who smoke shouldn't be allowed in the church.
- We don't use credit cards. If you do, you're not a good steward.
- Your church's \$10-million building program is totally selfish and grandiose. That money should be given to missions.
- You're not a stay-at-home mom? How can you call yourself a Christian mother?
- "Christian Democrat" is an oxymoron.
- If you weren't immersed at baptism, then your baptism didn't count.
- If you don't read this translation of the Bible, you're not a thinking Christian.
- We don't ordain women to ministry, and we don't fellowship with churches that do.
- If you're not a five-point Calvinist, you're not a very sophisticated Christian.

- If you believe in the gift of tongues, you're a liberal.
- If you believe in any form of evolution, you're probably not a Christian.
- Christians who don't believe in the young earth theory of creation are worshiping the god of science.
- Christian musicians who don't just sing Christian songs have sold out to consumerism and abandoned their faith.

ILLUSTRATION

THE LIE

A. If it's wrong for me, then it has to be wrong for everyone else. If God requires me to do it, then every other Christian has to do it too. If we're not completely uniform in our Christian beliefs and practices, then someone is out of line. If you're not acting, worshiping and believing exactly as I do, then you're not a good Christian. Maybe you're not a Christian at all.

B. That's the lie that many Christians believe. *Sadly, many churches have become breeding grounds for legalism.*

I'M OKAY, YOU'RE NOT

A. What is legalism?

B. *It is the practice of establishing standards for spiritual performance, in addition to or instead of God's, and expecting that you and others will adhere to them.*

C. *A legalist is someone who majors on rule-keeping.*

D. Here are a few common characteristics of legalists:

- *They can't celebrate other Christians' success.*
- *They feel the need to defend themselves.*
- *They feel entitled.*
- *They want what God can do for them more than they want to be with him.*
- *They can't extend grace to others.*
- *They typically struggle with secret sin.*

THE TRUTH

- It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5:1)

- Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. (Matthew 7:1-2)
- You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. (Romans 2:1)
- You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. (Romans 14:10)
- God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. (1 Corinthians 12:6 NLT)
- *Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.* (Matthew 7:3-5)
- *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.* (Romans 8:1)
- The great news of the Christian Gospel is that God doesn't condemn his children, either for their past or even their present behaviors. And since God doesn't condemn us, we certainly can't justify condemning each other.

EXHIBIT A

A. Acts 15 records the discussion at a conference in Jerusalem held by the church leaders to decide whether or not Gentile men who had come to faith in Christ needed to be circumcised. In other words, did they have to become Jews before they could become Christians?

B. You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?" (Galatians 2:14)

C. The Christian message has never been about rule-keeping.

D. Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him, (Romans 14:1-3).

ILLUSTRATION

HOW TO EXTEND GRACE TO OTHERS

How can we learn to extend grace to others? How can we grow comfortable with other Christians

who may feel differently about some theology, worship styles or even certain moral issues? Here are a few suggestions:

- Give other Christians permission to be different from you.
- Keep your mouth shut and pray.
- Remember that God is still working on others, and on you. (Philippians 1:6)
- Practice the discipline of confession.
- Keep your mouth shut and pray.
- Know the difference between the Gospel according to the New Testament and the Gospel according to you.
- Keep your mouth shut and pray! Did I mention that already?

COME TO ME, ALL WHO ARE WEARY AND BURDENED

Maybe it's time for you to get off your high horse. Maybe it's time for you to stop trying to control everyone else's behavior. That's a heavy burden indeed. God really is big and strong enough to manage all the worship styles, behavioral differences and theological nuances that crop up in his Church. He really doesn't need your help. Really.

Let God govern the affairs of men. Today, take on Jesus' yoke of grace. It's a much better burden.

MESSAGE 6

NOTE SHEET

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID: OTHER CHRISTIANS SHOULD BELIEVE AND LIVE LIKE YOU DO

THE LIE

Notes:

Sadly, many churches have become _____ for _____.

I'M OKAY, YOU'RE NOT

Legalism is the practice of establishing _____ for spiritual performance, in addition to or instead _____ and expecting that _____ will adhere to them.

A legalist is someone who majors on _____.

Common characteristics of legalists:

- They can't celebrate other Christians' _____.
- They feel the need to _____ themselves.
- They feel _____.
- They want what God can do _____ more than they want

- to be _____.
- They can't _____ to others.
- They typically struggle with _____.

THE TRUTH

Notes:

Since God doesn't _____ us, we certainly can't justify _____ each other.

HOW TO EXTEND GRACE TO OTHERS

- Give other Christians permission to be _____ from you.
- Keep your _____ and pray.
- Remember that God is still working on _____ and on _____.
- Practice the discipline of _____.
- Keep your _____.
- Know the difference between the Gospel according to the _____ and the Gospel according _____.
- Keep _____!

MESSAGE 7

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID: TRY HARDER. IT'S ALL UP TO YOU. OR, GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES.

Please read Chapter 7 of Ten Things Jesus Never Said for background.

INTRODUCTION

THE LIE

It's all up to you. That's how this lie sounds in its simplest form. You may be saved by grace, but you are sanctified (made holy) by what you do. It's up to you to stop being so angry, to overcome lust, to start being more loving, and to not want to sin anymore. Jesus gets you to heaven, but you've got to overcome your own personal Hell. After you're saved, everything else is up to you.

BEWITCHED

A. *Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ's death was made as clear to you as if you had seen a picture of his death on the cross. Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ. How foolish can you be? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? Have you experienced so much for nothing? Surely it was not in vain, was it? I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Christ, (Galatians 3:1-5, NLT).*

B. If the work of God's Spirit is required to get the process started, why would we assume that we can somehow take over the process halfway through? Why, after getting started with the power of God, would we try to revert to living in our own strength?

ILLUSTRATION

THE TRUTH

A. **The great news of the Gospel of Christ is that we are not only saved by God's grace, but we are also made holy by God's grace as well.**

B. Philippians 1:6 promises that the same God who began the work of salvation in us will continue it until we get to heaven.

C. Salvation isn't just about being saved from Hell, it's also about being saved for Heaven.

BLESSED BROKENNESS

A. Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7, Luke 6) are the clearest description in the Bible of how life on earth is supposed to look for his followers.

B. Think about it: Who really knows how to love an enemy? And who really wants to? How many of us have conquered lust or never make false promises? Who among us is always willing to go the second mile or to turn the other cheek when our enemies come after us?

C. All that's in the Sermon on the Mount is introduced, at least in concept, in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12), and the first sentence of the Beatitudes is **Matthew 5:3--Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

D. No statement could have been more radical or counter-intuitive for Jesus' audience. For centuries they had been taught that righteousness came by having a spiritual resume that impressed God; that if you did enough of the right stuff God would be impressed and pleased. But Jesus taught just the opposite.

E. What does it mean to be poor in spirit? Well, what does it mean to be poor?

F. Think about the world Jesus lived in. Poverty was everywhere. It's true that there were some who had managed to become wealthy, but the average person who lived in First Century AD Palestine survived hand-to-mouth. Beggars were everywhere.

G. As repulsive as the image of a dependent beggar may be to those of us in our can-do culture, that is precisely the image that Jesus chose to introduce the message of his Kingdom.

H. **Jesus basically said that if you feel like a beggar spiritually,** if you know there is nothing you can do on your own to honor God, and if you realize that without a major provision of grace from the Father your attempts at Kingdom living will be disastrous, **then you are at the starting point of Kingdom living.**

ILLUSTRATION

RAISE YOUR SAILS

A. Consider the example of two boats. Both set out to cross a lake at the same time. One is a sailboat, the other a rowboat. The rowboat gets off to a quick start as its pilot sets a furious pace with his rowing. The sailboat moves a little slower as that ship's pilot raises his sails and waits for the wind. Soon, the wind begins to blow steadily and the sailboat moves rapidly past the rowboat. In an hour, the sailboat is miles beyond the rowboat, and yet the pilot of the

rowboat has worked much, much harder. The difference? Wind.

B. Now consider the Christian life. Some Christians, after receiving their salvation, set out to live the best life they can. Others seek the anointing and favor of God's Spirit in their lives on a moment-to-moment basis. They ask for his filling and guidance. At the end of a decade, the second group of believers appears to be more Christ-like and is bearing significantly more fruit than the first group. What's the difference? God's Spirit.

C. *The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit,* (John 3:8).

CONCLUSION

Come to Me, All Who are Weary and Burdened

Are you exhausted from trying so hard? Are you frustrated that your best efforts produce so little spiritual fruit? Are you condemned by your own hypocrisy? It's time for you to be still and let God take over the work of making you holy.

MESSAGE 7

NOTE SHEET

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID:
TRY HARDER. IT'S ALL UP TO YOU.
OR, GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES.

THE LIE— It's all _____

BEWITCHED

Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ's death was made as clear to you as if you had seen a picture of his death on the cross. Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ. How foolish can you be? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? Have you experienced so much for nothing? Surely it was not in vain, was it? I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Christ, (Galatians 3:1-5, NLT).

Notes:

THE TRUTH

The great news of the Gospel of Christ is that we are not only saved by God's grace, but we are also _____ by God's grace as well.

Salvation isn't just about being saved from _____, it's also about being saved for _____.

BLESSED BROKENNESS

Matthew 5:3--Blessed are the _____ for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Notes:

Jesus said that if you feel like a _____, then you are at the starting point of _____.

The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit, John 3:8.

Notes :

MESSAGE 8

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID: FORGIVENESS IS OPTIONAL

Please read Chapter 8 of Ten Things Jesus Never Said for background.

INTRODUCTION

THE LIE

Forgiveness is overrated. It's not all it's cracked up to be and is really only reserved for people who are on a Gandhi-like mission to change the world. But normal people, people who live in the real world, can't afford to forgive. It just sets them up to get hurt again. And besides that, there are just some things that shouldn't be forgiven. Let me show you a few more:

If you forgive her, you're also condoning her behavior.

If you forgive him, you also have to forget what he did.

If you forgive her, you're going to have to restore the relationship as well.

THE TRUTH

A. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins, Mark 11:25.

B. Forgiveness is a mental, emotional and volitional act of grace.

THE BEAUTY OF FORGIVING

A. Forgiveness, in its purest form, is simply releasing a debt.

B. Besides being a powerful act of obedience, forgiveness also has several positive effects that come with it. Here are just a few:

- 1. Forgiveness Heals.*
- 2. Forgiveness Frees.*
- 3. Forgiveness Humbles.*
- 4. Forgiveness Empowers.*
- 5. Forgiveness Models Love.*

HOW MUCH SHOULD WE FORGIVE?

A. Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times, Matthew 18:21-22.

B. Jesus’ point was that there is no limit to how many times God will forgive us and reengage with us relationally. If God is willing to give us second, third and any other number of chances, then we must give each other the same.

WHY DOES JESUS REQUIRE US TO FORGIVE?

A. *Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity, (Colossians 3:12-14).*

B. To the degree that God is willing to forgive us, we must forgive others.

C. Forgiving someone’s offense doesn’t equal condoning his or her behavior.

ILLUSTRATION

READY, AIM, FORGIVE

Let’s talk about how to forgive

A. **Pray for perspective.** Pray Jeremiah 29:11—“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

B. Fully weigh and evaluate the loss.

C. Fully grant and extend forgiveness.

ILLUSTRATION

CONCLUSION

Come to Me, All Who are Weary and Burdened

What grievance are you still holding on to? Come to Jesus right now and let him heal your wounded and weary soul. Release the debt; forgive the offender. You’ll be surprised at how light you will feel and how free you will be.

MESSAGE 8

NOTE SHEET

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID: FORGIVENESS IS OPTIONAL

THE LIE

Notes:

THE TRUTH

And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins, Mark 11:25.

Forgiveness is a mental, emotional and volitional _____.

THE BEAUTY OF FORGIVING

Forgiveness, in its purest form, is simply _____.

1. Forgiveness _____
2. Forgiveness _____
3. Forgiveness _____
4. Forgiveness _____
5. Forgiveness _____

HOW MUCH SHOULD WE FORGIVE?

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times, Matthew 18:21-22.

WHY DOES JESUS REQUIRE US TO FORGIVE?

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity, Colossians 3:12-14.

To the degree that _____ to forgive us, we must forgive others.

Forgiving someone's offense _____ condoning his or her behavior.

READY, AIM, FORGIVE

1. Pray for _____
2. Fully weigh and evaluate _____
3. Fully _____ and _____ forgiveness

MESSAGE 9

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID: I HAVE A SPECIFIC WILL FOR YOUR LIFE— YOU MISSED IT, AND YOU CAN NEVER GET IT BACK

Please read Chapter 9 of Ten Things Jesus Never Said for background.

INTRODUCTION

THE LIE

- A.** God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. But if you miss it, you're on your own.
- B.** Here are just a few of the most common areas where Christians fear they've missed God's will:
- Marriage—what if I married the wrong person?
 - Career—Did you choose the right career path?
 - Location—You're second-guessing where you live and wondering if you missed God's will.
 - Moral Failure—when you were a senior in high school, you gave away your virginity. You obviously stepped out of God's will. Why should you act pure when you're not?

THE TRUTH

- A.** Seeking and doing God's will isn't a pass/fail proposition.
- B.** Jesus lived his life in perfect harmony with God and never missed an assignment. But we're not as discerning as Jesus and neither are we perfect. We're going to miss it sometimes, and when we do, God's grace prevails.
- C.** *ILLUSTRATION*—The Grace Net. (See pages)
- D.** God's promise of grace isn't an invitation to recklessness, but fearlessness.

EXHIBIT A

- A.** Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the

border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them, Acts 16:6-10.

B. That Scripture shows us that even the strongest, most dedicated believers can't always easily discern what God's specific will is in a matter.

ILLUSTRATION

CONCLUSION

Come to Me, All Who are Weary and Burdened

Did you miss God's plan somewhere along the way? Have you stepped out of his will? Don't panic. There is a huge net of grace under you.

Pick up Jesus' yoke of grace today. Take up his yoke of forgiveness, restoration and redirection. God gave his Spirit to speak to us, to lead us and to restore us when we stray. Ask God's Spirit, the wonderful Comforter and Counselor, to guide your steps today.

MESSAGE 9

NOTE SHEET

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID:

I HAVE A SPECIFIC WILL FOR YOUR LIFE—YOU MISSED IT, AND YOU CAN NEVER GET IT BACK

THE LIE

Notes:

THE TRUTH

Seeking and doing God's will isn't a _____ proposition.

Notes:

God's promise of grace isn't an invitation to _____, but _____.

EXHIBIT A

Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them, Acts 16:6-10.

Notes:

Even the strongest, most dedicated believers can't _____ easily _____ what God's specific will is in a matter.

MESSAGE 10

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID: YOU ARE NO LONGER A CHRISTIAN

Please read Chapter 10 of Ten Things Jesus Never Said for background.

INTRODUCTION

It's called *Unadoption*, and it's the process by which a couple dissolves the adoption of their son or daughter. It's a growing trend among adoptive families. Few situations are sadder or more tragic. Unadoption happens when the adoptive parents determine that the child they brought into their home isn't what they were hoping for.

What's an adopted child to do when his parents no longer want him?

Now consider Diane. Diane is a 38-year-old, divorced mother of two. She grew up in church and was active in her youth group through high school. But like many of her friends, she stopped going to church in her college years. Diane didn't stop believing, but she stopped acting like a believer.

Diane married her college sweetheart, but later went through a divorce she didn't really want. Diane's mother has been encouraging her to go back to church. She keeps telling her that besides the encouragement she will get in her parenting, she might just meet a good man there. But Diane, at least so far, has no interest in returning to church. Why would she? She hasn't read her Bible in years, prays only occasionally, and really isn't sure what she believes any more. But beyond that, there's a deeper reason Diane won't go back to church. She's pretty sure God is done with her.

THE LIE

A. I'm done with you. You've strayed too far. You once were my child, but you've broken my heart one time too many. I'm disavowing my relationship with you. You are no longer a Christian.

B. This is a paralyzing trick of the devil. As long as a believer is worrying over whether or not he is truly saved, he will never grow up in spiritual maturity.

C. Many Christians still believe that salvation can be lost.

D. Illustration

THE TRUTH

A. It is impossible for a Christian to lose his salvation. **Everything about the nature of salvation argues for its permanence.**

B. It is imperative that Christians learn to think biblically on this issue.

C. Here are five biblical reasons why you can't lose your salvation:

1. Because you didn't earn it.

a. The radical, scandalous message of the Gospel is that we are saved in spite of ourselves.

b. Ephesians 2:4-9.

c. Paul taught that our salvation is based entirely on God's work, not ours.

d. Five times in the book of Acts salvation is referred to as a gift (1:4, 2:38, 8:20, 10:45 and 11:17).

e. Why do you give gifts? God gives out of perfect love and motives. His gifts are immeasurable and priceless. John 3:16 tells us that God's love for us moved him to give his son to die, just so we could have the opportunity to believe.

f. It cheapens the nature of grace to assume that it is applied to a sinner with a footnote attached.

g. *And since it is through God's kindness, then it is not by their good works. For in that case, God's grace would not be what it really is—free and undeserved,* (Romans 11:6, NLT).

2. Because God initiated it.

a. People who are spiritually dead (see Ephesians 2:1-3) don't just go looking for God. They don't even know they need him. When a sinner starts his search for God, he does so in direct response to the stimuli of God in his life—the witness of the Holy Spirit, the revelation of God in nature, or the testimony of a believing friend.

b. In John 6:44 Jesus taught that “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him” Later he reiterated the same point when he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him,” (John 6:65).

c. So why would God woo someone to him, accept his prayer of faith and name him as his follower, only to reject him later? He doesn't do that.

3. Because you have a new identity.

a. When you became a Christian, God made you a completely different person in Christ. It was an irreversible act.

- b.** 2 Corinthians 5:17 teaches that as believers, we are totally new creations in Christ; we're a completely new species.
 - c.** *Our new lives are hidden in Christ*, (Colossians 3:3).
 - d.** The entire notion of a new creation implies permanence.
- 4. Because God promises to complete his work in you.
 - a.** What God starts, he always finishes.
 - b.** In Philippians 1:4-6, Paul encouraged the believers in Philippi with that truth.
 - c.** The same is true for you today.
- 5. Because God has adopted you.
 - a.** The Apostle Paul often used the metaphor of adoption when describing a Christian's connection to God. In Paul's culture, adoption was an irreversible action that granted all the rights, privileges and inheritance of the adopter to the adoptee.
 - b.** Paul took that image and listed adoption as one of the spiritual blessings we have in Christ: "In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will..." (Ephesians 1:5). (See also Romans 8:23.)
 - c.** Unlike the tragic reversal of adoption that we talked about earlier, God has no such option. He doesn't need it. You anyway that guarantees your security as his child now.
 - d.** The prophet Isaiah called God the Eternal Father (Isaiah 9:6). That doesn't just mean that God is the father who exists forever, it means that he is your father forever. He will never stop being your heavenly, eternal father.

EXHIBIT A

- A.** Consider the moving example of the prodigal son in Luke 15.
- B.** In the parable, the father represents God. The wayward son could represent any of us who have pushed away from our faith and "blown our spiritual inheritance on wild living."
- C.** Prodigal sons and daughters come in all shapes and sizes and each has his or her own sordid tale to tell. But the parable is about the prodigal *son*, not the *former* son, the *ex-son*, and not *the sinner formerly known as a son*. Prodigals, even on their worst days, are still sons or daughters.

WHY DON'T I FEEL LIKE A CHRISTIAN?

A. Many Christians doubt their salvation because they don't feel as close to God as they used to.

B. People who don't feel like they're still Christians are typically Christians who are out of fellowship with God.

C. *Illustration*

CONCLUSION

Come to Me, All Who are Weary and Burdened

It's time for you to get over this hurdle. It's time to get past wondering if today will be the day that you blow it so badly that God writes you out of his spiritual will.

The message of grace that is part-and-parcel of the Gospel is that we are saved and secured in Jesus for free.

Is carrying the weight of your salvation too heavy a yoke for you? Hand it to Jesus. Take on his yoke of love and freedom and let him carry the yoke of your spiritual security.

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate, (Luke 15:20-24).

MESSAGE 10

NOTE SHEET

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID:
YOU ARE NO LONGER A CHRISTIAN

THE LIE

Notes:

EXHIBIT A

Notes:

THE TRUTH

Everything about the nature of salvation
argues for its _____.

Five biblical reasons why you can't
_____:

1. You didn't _____
2. God _____
3. You have a

4. God promises to
_____ in you.
5. God _____

WHY DON'T I FEEL _____
_____ ?

Notes:

MESSAGE 11

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID: THIS IS A CROSS YOU MUST BEAR

Please read Chapter 11 of Ten Things Jesus Never Said for background.

INTRODUCTION

Let's try an experiment: How many of you have some type of cross on your person right now (Jewelry, book mark, tattoo, etc.)? Even people who don't necessarily believe the Christian message find crosses to be beautiful and meaningful.

Why is that? Why is the cross beautiful to so many? Believers and non-believers alike see the cross as perhaps the most universally recognized inspirational symbol in the world.

That being said, I still believe the cross gets a bad rap today. Because many Christians, without even trying to, associate the cross with a life of suffering and unhappiness. And they do so every time they utter seven simple words: *This is a cross I must bear.*

THE LIE

A. *This is a cross you must bear. Jesus shouldn't have to bear his cross alone. Every Christian has a cross to carry; this is yours. Suffering and following Jesus go hand-in-hand. Christianity is a life of drudgery and heartache. Deal with it.*

B. So goes the common thinking that's spawned by the "cross you must bear" philosophy. That's some pretty effective marketing, isn't it? *Hey, come follow Jesus and be miserable the rest of your life!* No wonder Christians have such a bad name in our culture.

THE CULPRIT

A. Tragically, the cause of this misplaced "cross you must bear" thinking is a statement that Jesus made. Actually, that's not true. The culprit isn't the statement that Jesus made, but rather the misinterpretation and misapplication of a statement that Jesus made.

B. "Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?'" (Matthew 16:24-26).

C. This statement (take up your cross) has been used to beat up Christians for centuries. On

the surface, it seems easy to misinterpret its meaning: Jesus died on a cross, and figuratively speaking, so must we.

D. For Christians, cross-bearing has come to symbolize just about any type of problem in life: a long bout with cancer, a bad marriage, an evil mother-in-law, being overweight, having an unfair boss or loud neighbors, etc.

E. In reality, this is another of Jesus' "come to me and take my yoke" statements. It's not an invitation to suffering and unhappiness, but rather to find true life.

THE TRUTH

A. The cross of Christianity represents the greatest gift ever given to humanity. It does not stand for a life of drudgery and misery, but rather a life of victory and freedom.

B. The fact is that Jesus had to bear his cross alone. To suggest otherwise reduces his standing as the unique and holy Son of God and elevates us to being something higher than the struggling sinners we are.

C. Curiously, the cross was not the first emblem identified with Christianity. Early Christians often used the symbols of a dove, an anchor or the fish to represent their faith.

D. There are many other powerful images that early followers of Christ could have latched on to as the emblem of their faith. For whatever reason, Christians in the earliest centuries of the church's history gradually came to agree that the symbol which best represented the message of their faith—a message, not of despair and suffering, but of hope and victory-- was the cross. Let's find out why.

I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS

A. Matthew 16:24: *If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.*

B. What did Jesus mean?

C. In Jesus' day, a person only picked up and carried a cross for one reason—he was going to die.

D. Take up your cross and *follow me*.

- E. Curiously, the crosses that Jesus' followers carry don't kill them.**
- F. Matthew 16:25: *For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.***
- G. In our faith-based association with Jesus we find our life's greatest purpose and joy.**
- H. If anything, the cross of Jesus is something we get to carry, a yoke we want to share.**

EXHIBIT A

- A.** The Apostle Paul would have been embarrassed and probably even a little angry about the amount of whining and complaining Christians today do about their supposed crosses.
- B.** To the believers in Philippi he wrote, "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead," (Philippians 3:10-11).
- C.** The cross of Jesus was at the center of Paul's theology and his worldview.
- D.** "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ . . ." (Galatians 6:14).
- E.** Here are just a few of the statements Paul made about the cross:
 - For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel--not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. (1 Corinthians 1:17)
 - For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin--because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. (Romans 6:6-7)
 - God's purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. (Ephesians 2:15-16)
 - I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)
 - Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. (Galatians 5:24)
 - I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. (1 Corinthians 2:2).
- F.** The message of the cross is not one of our own suffering, but rather of our new life.

ILLUSTRATION

The cross of Jesus gives us joy, not pain. It grants us freedom, not drudgery. We don't bear the cross; we rejoice in it. We don't hide it; we lift it up.

CONCLUSION

Come to Me, All Who are Weary and Burdened

It's time to stop apologizing for the cross.

The cross of Jesus is the greatest blessing ever given to man by a merciful and holy God.

Jesus said that his yoke was light. He took on the burdens of the world so we wouldn't have to bear them. Walking with him—sharing his yoke—isn't trouble free; but it's far from the life of misery that so many of his redeemed children make it out to be.

MESSAGE 11

NOTE SHEET

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID: THIS IS A CROSS YOU MUST BEAR

THE LIE

Notes:

In our faith-based association with Jesus we find our life's greatest

_____.

The cross of Jesus is something we _____ to carry, a yoke we _____ to share.

THE CULPRIT

Matthew 16:24-26

Notes:

EXHIBIT A

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead," (Philippians 3:10-11).

Notes:

THE TRUTH

The cross of Christianity represents the _____ ever given to humanity. It does not stand for a life of drudgery and misery, but rather a life of _____.

The message of the cross is not one of our own _____ but rather of our _____.

I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS

Take up your cross and _____.

The crosses that Jesus' followers carry _____.

The cross of Jesus gives us _____, not pain. It grants us _____, not drudgery. We don't _____ the cross; we _____ in it. We don't _____ it; we _____.

MESSAGE 12

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID: LET'S TRADE

INTRODUCTION

1. Review Series
2. Let's review the most important thing Jesus said—*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.* Matthew 11:28-30

I. JESUS DOESN'T SIMPLY TAKE YOUR BURDEN AWAY. HE REPLACES IT.

A. *Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light,* (Matthew 11:29-30).

B. Jesus' invitation isn't for a life of completely burden-free living. As long as we live in a sinful, broken world we will have burdens. What Jesus offers us is his burden.

C. You're probably asking, what is Jesus' burden? *What does he give us in exchange for the weight of our guilt and shame? A relationship with him.* It's not burden-free, but it is burden-light.

II. THREE THINGS ABOUT WHAT JESUS OFFERS US IN PLACE OF OUR BURDENS

A. *A life of learning.*

1. Learn from me.
2. *The word **disciple** actually means **learner**.*
3. In exchange for the spiritually exhausting burdens that many of us carry, Jesus wants to give us the opportunity to sit at the feet of the creator of the universe and to learn from him.

4. ILLUSTRATION

B. *A life of loving.*

1. In the same way that God was motivated by love when he sent Jesus into the world, we

are called to embrace a life of love as we become yoked to him.

2. And the burden? Just how great a burden is it? It's the burden of hungering and thirsting for God in a world where those desires can only be temporarily quenched. It's the burden of always longing for God and yet not quite being able to get enough of him.
3. The blessing of this burden is that it drives us to God.
4. The call of Christ includes the assignment of not looking the other way when confronted with the pain and suffering of others,
5. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (Matthew 9:36)
6. ILLUSTRATION

C. *A life of serving.*

1. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45
2. Serving is the fruit of loving.
3. Our burden will be the desire we have to actually lighten the load of those we see who are suffering from the heavy burdens of poverty, persecution, injustice, or even empty and exhausting religious rules.
4. Sound familiar? That's right. Jesus came to remove the heavy yoke of sin, shame, suffering and spiritual emptiness from our weary shoulders. After he does this and gives us his gentle and light burden, he sends us out to do the same for others.
5. ILLUSTRATION

CONCLUSION

Come to Me, All Who are Weary and Burdened

MESSAGE 12

NOTE SHEET

TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID: SERIES CONCLUSION - LET'S TRADE

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus doesn't simply take your burden away.

He _____.

What does he give us in exchange for the weight of our guilt and shame? A _____. It's not burden_____, but it is burden_____.

Three things about what Jesus offers us
_____ **of our burdens**

1. A life of _____

The word _____ actually means _____.

2. A life of _____

We are called to embrace a _____ as we become yoked to him.

The blessing of this burden is that it _____.

The call of Christ includes the assignment of not looking the other way when confronted with the _____ of others

3. A life of _____

Serving is the _____.

Our burden will be the desire to actually _____ of those we see who are suffering from the _____ of poverty, persecution, injustice, or even empty and exhausting religious rules.

THANK YOU

Thank you for using the *Ten Things Jesus Never Said* message series. I pray that God will use powerfully in church's life. If you have any stories of how God uses the series, I'd love to hear them. Feel free to email me at srpastor@acfellowship.org.