



The
FLOW
Adult CURRICULUM

#14

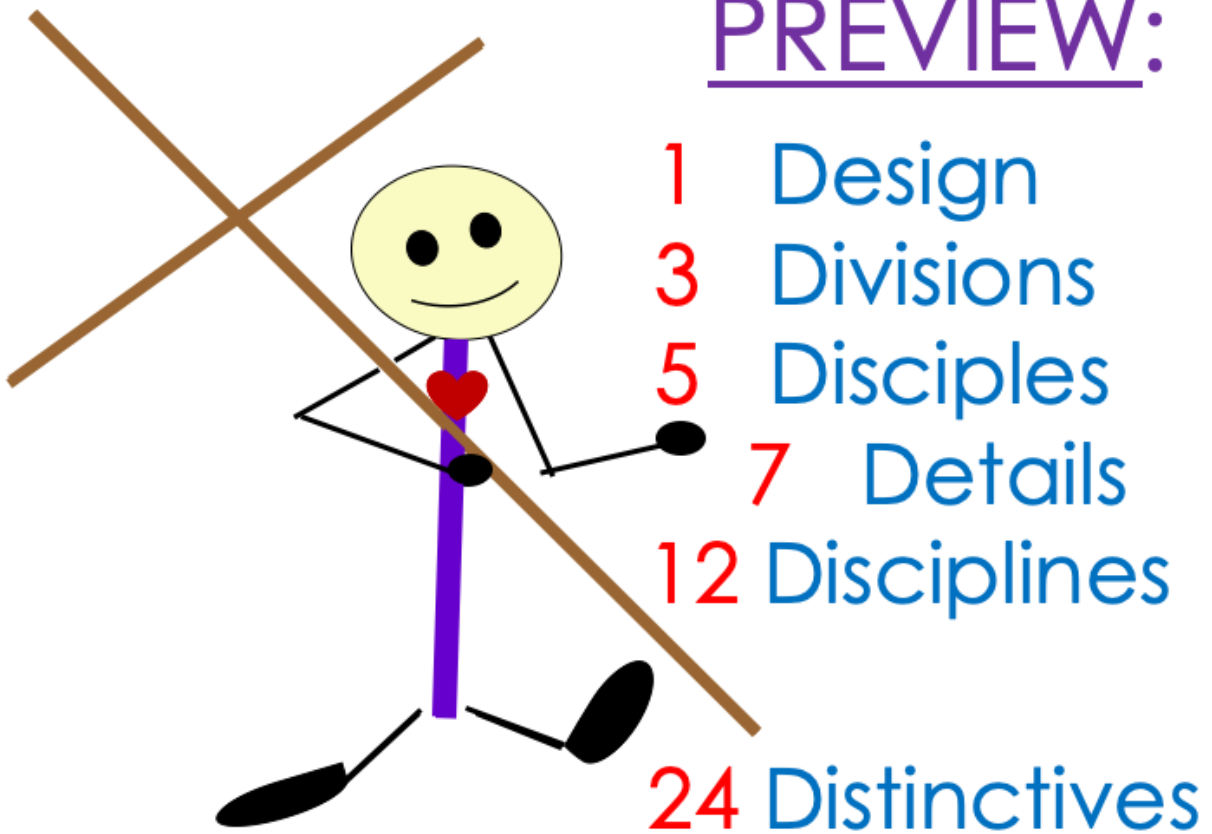
FAITH

1 Peter 2:21

(Come And See Christianity book pages 48-49)

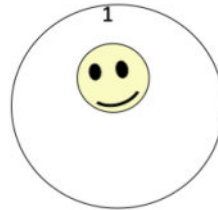
The FLOW

PREVIEW:



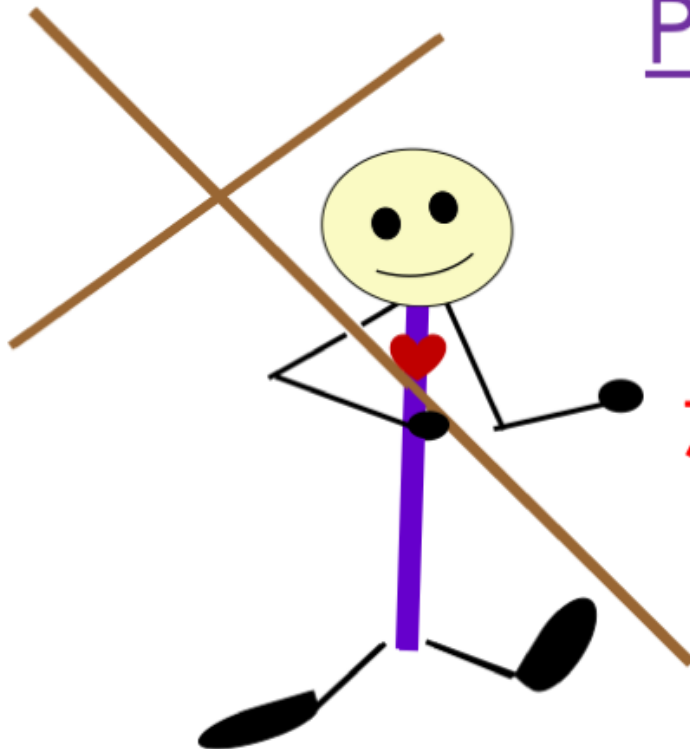
SECTION FOUR: 7 Details

The
HEAD

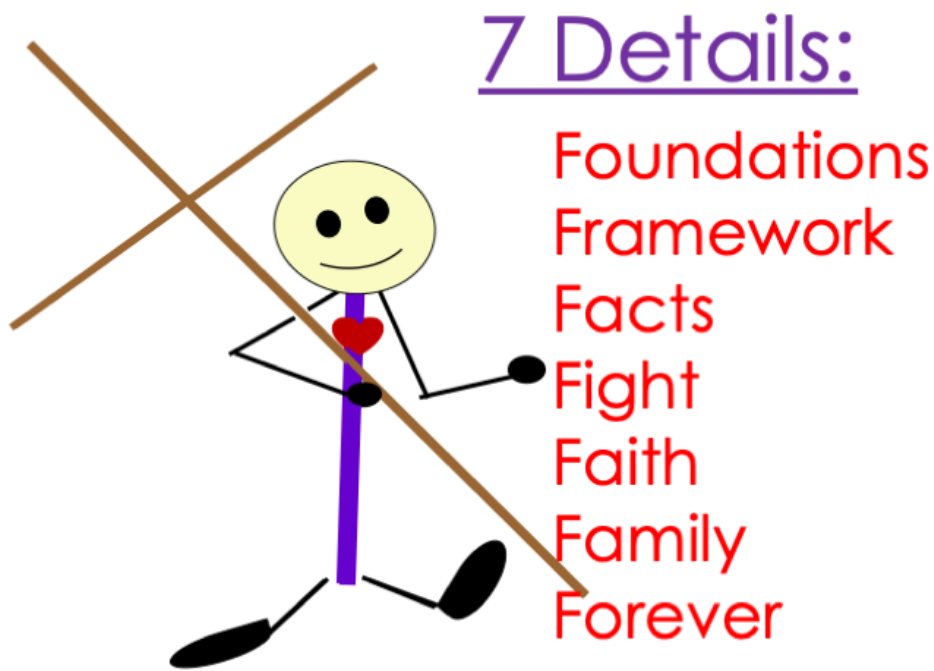


continued...

PREVIEW:



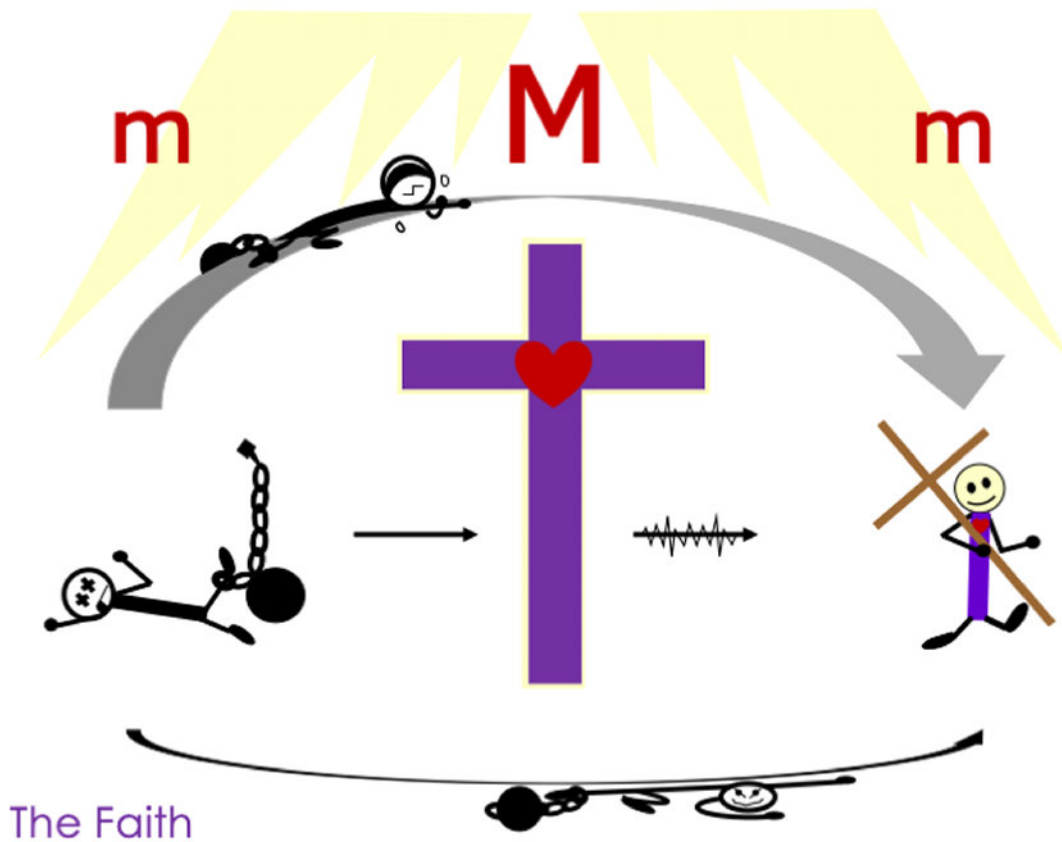
7 Details



7 DETAILS: The divine is in the details... Here we have what we also call **The Fundamentals**, that which explains the core & comprehensive truths of Christianity, as well as a biblical worldview.

The FUNDAMENTALS

We have described the 7
“details” as 7 “Fundamentals,”
each one beginning with
the letter “F” ...to help you
to remember them :-)



The FAITH: This is the
 “Stickman Gospel,” a visual
 explanation of the **exclusive** &
 eternally **unique** “good news”
 of **Jesus Christ**. When you
 understand the “**m M m**”
 (**miracle, Messiah, & mission**),
 you understand Christianity :-)

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

INTRO:

Welcome to Come And See Christianity's section four, "**The DETAILS.**" At this point, we have already established in sections 1-3 that Almighty God has "1 Divine DESIGN" (found in His authentic biblical worldview) for all of creation. Next, we addressed the fact that every human being is made up of "3 DIVISIONS," their HEAD, HEART, and HANDS (also known as their beliefs, their beloved, and their behaviors). From there, we moved on to the "5 DISCIPLES," the LOST, LOVERS, LEARNERS, LEADERS, and LIFERS, which proved that Christianity accounts for, with definitions and descriptions, ALL people... past, present, and future, from ALL parts of the world – bar none.

With our Creator and all His image-bearing (Genesis 1:27) creatures accounted for, the next logical step on the narrow path of understanding will concentrate on the sure-footedness of core, non-negotiable, and eternally essential content. In short, **we need to know what we need to know.**

To that end, The DETAILS will define and describe, in a broad and biblical context, (7) seven progressive principles of God's truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) that serve to engage, explain, equip, empower, and exemplify the fundamentals of Christianity. Herein, we will unveil and unpack a comprehensive summary and cohesive overview of God's biblical blueprint for understanding His created reality. Having said that, in moving forward, to help paint the fuller portrait of genuine Christianity, each DETAIL will receive its own lesson. Herein, we will focus on #5, **The FAITH.**

PRAYER:

LORD, we seek to bless You with all that is within us. Help us here, we pray, to be that blessing as we come to better understand You and Your eternal truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Help us to see with Your eyes and love with Your love, all that You would reveal to us through Your Word, Your will, and Your ways. May we grow in our grasp of Your realities, Your means of restoration, and Your mission of reproduction. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. Amen and Amen

CONTEXT:

Macro

When it comes to learning about Christ, Christianity, and the biblical Church, relatively speaking, a thousand lifetimes filled with devoted study would not dig through the endless depths of God's divine grace, gospel, and glory. Frankly (and thankfully), the fullness of Creator Christ is far beyond our ability to fully comprehend. To quote Him directly and prove the point, hear Almighty God, "*Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations?*" (Job 38:4). In short, we need to maintain a sense of genuine awe and reverent fear (1 Peter 1:17) when it comes to loving and learning about the LORD.

At the same time, the character, commands, and commissioning of the living God, Christianity's Christ and King, compels us to draw near to Him (James 4:8) with the promise that He will draw near to us. Moreover, the God of the Bible promises that He has miraculously given all true Christians "*everything needed for life and godliness*" (2 Peter 1:3), which includes an anointed understanding of His Word, will, and ways (1 Corinthians 2:14).

NOTE: the unification and blessed tension of the two paragraphs above can be harmonized when one realizes how these truths complement each other. On one hand, there are (7) fundamental details that share a progressive and straight-forward, principle-based explanation of Christianity. And, at the same time, all (7) have a divine depth and truth-filled treasure that is both bottomless and priceless – Amen!

Christianity's 7 DETAILS or FUNDAMENTALS:

- 1. The FOUNDATIONS**
- 2. The FRAMEWORK**
- 3. The FACTS**
- 4. The FIGHT**
- 5. The FAITH**
- 6. The FAMILY**
- 7. FOREVER**

*I seek the will of the Spirit of God through or in connection with the Word of God.
The Spirit and the Word must be combined. If I look to the Spirit alone
without the Word, I lay myself open to great delusions also.*

- George Mueller

If there is one thing, one truth, one reality that the world needs to hear, learn, believe, and embrace, it is The Gospel of Jesus Christ. In our Come And See Christianity curriculum, we engage and explain this eternity-defining truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) under the banner of The FAITH. Moreover, we use “The Stickman Gospel” to biblically detail and visually display Christ’s Gospel and Christianity’s FAITH.

In this lesson, while the three primary pillars of The Gospel (miracle, Messiah, and mission) will serve as our progressive outline, the seven components of the Stickman Gospel will here be detailed and described, in hopes of helping you to better understand the FAITH’s full context and interconnectivity.

5 Components of The Stickman Gospel

1. **X / Dead Man:** Represents ALL PEOPLE born into sin.
2. **■ / Ball and Chain:** Represents eternally blinding spiritual warfare.
3. **† / Cross of Christ:** Represents Christ’s sacrificial death and atonement.
4. **Stickman w/ cross:** Represents ALL true Christians living on mission.
5. **Arrows:**
 - i. Small Arrow #1: God’s elect being drawn to salvation.
 - ii. Small Arrow #2: Saved sheep now being sanctified.
 - iii. Tunnel Under Arrow: Way of wolves in sheep’s clothing.
 - iv. Jump Over Arrow: Path of sincerely deceived “goats.”

Christ and His cross will always stand at the center of The FAITH, The Stickman Gospel, and the eternal fork in the road that separates heaven and hell. At the same time, it is important to note that The Gospel’s application begins with God’s loving and sovereign grace, followed by the heartfelt acknowledgment of human sin and humanity’s desperate need for a Savior.

With those foundational truths established, we will now address our need for miracles, movement, and mission, which can be explained through the Stickman Gospel’s different arrows and the Christ-like, cross-carrying Christian. To that end, do not miss the miraculous transformation that takes place (2 Corinthians 5:17-21) between the dead man at the beginning and the joyful missionary at the end (Ephesians 2:1-10). **May the miraculous truth in love of our Messiah’s mission, message, and methods bless you and build you up, all by God’s grace and all for His glory.** Amen

Message

The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself or less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less.

- Tim Keller

*The Gospel is not good advice to be obeyed,
it is good news to be believed.*

- Harry Ironside

BIG IDEA: The Gospel (also known as The FAITH) is the exclusive and eternally unique good news of Jesus Christ

PREVIEW:

1. Miracle
2. MESSIAH
3. Mission

TEXT:

[1 Peter 2:21](#)

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving behind an example, so that you might follow in His steps.

1. MIRACLE

Illustration:

Miracle defined: **When God's grace makes the impossible undeniable!**

The simplicity of the gospel gives what the complexity of human wisdom promises but never delivers.

- John MacArthur

The gospel is so simple that small children can understand it, and it is so profound that studies by the wisest theologians will never exhaust its riches.

- Charles Hodge

Explanation:

The Miracle NEEDED:

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Only those who have learned well to be earnestly dissatisfied with themselves, and to be confounded with shame at their wretchedness truly understand the Christian gospel.

- John Calvin

The gospel which they so greatly needed they would not have; the miracles which Jesus did not always choose to give, they eagerly demanded.

- Charles Spurgeon

Paul's claim [was] that the message he preached was the authentic gospel of Christ. It is this: two things on which Paul pre-eminently insisted - that salvation was provided by God's grace and that faith was the means by which men appropriated it.

- F.F. Bruce

Application:

Cry out to Christ for the miraculous gift of His saving grace... Pray the beautiful seven word prayer of Luke 18:13 (“Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner”). Cry out... confess your sins against God and repent fervently in prayer until the Messiah captures, adopts, and blesses you with His transformative miracle. **Do not give up!** With passion and perseverance, **pray until Creator Christ becomes your Lord and Savior...** or until the flames of hell have burnt away your capacity to pray.

*It would have been well for the church of Christ,
if the warnings of the Gospel had been
as much studied as its promises.*

- J. C. Ryle

*I will not believe that thou hast tasted of the honey
of the gospel if thou can eat it all to thyself.*

- Charles Spurgeon

2. MESSIAH

Illustration:

John 1:29 & 36

“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

*Wherever Jesus has been proclaimed, we see lives change for the
good, nations change for the better, thieves become honest,
alcoholics become sober, hateful individuals become channels of
love, unjust persons embrace justice.*

- Josh McDowell

*Other men may preach the gospel better than I,
but no man can preach a better gospel.*

- George Whitefield

Explanation:

MESSIAH provides the Miracle:

Ephesians 2:4-9

4But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5**even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6**and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7**so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8**For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9**not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Romans 10:9

If you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

John 3:36

He who believes has life, but he who does NOT OBEY does NOT have life; instead, the wrath of God remains/abides on them.

John 14:6

I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except through Me (Jesus).

If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don't like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself.

- Augustine

The gospel is not speculation but fact. It is truth, because it is the record of a Person who is the Truth.

- Alexander MacLaren

Our religion is not Christianity so much as Christ. Our gospel is the knowledge, not of a system, but the saving knowledge of a personal Savior.

- James H. Aughey

Application:

Go share the love and light of Christ with our dark and dying world!

The more fully that the gospel is preached, in the grand old apostolic way, the more likely is it to accomplish the results which it did in the apostolic days.

- Horatius Bonar

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will BE My witnesses... locally, regionally, and globally!

By the light of nature we see God as a God above us, by the light of the law we see Him as a God against us, but by the light of the gospel we see Him as Emmanuel, God with us.

- Matthew Henry

3. MISSION

Illustration:

It will not do to say that you have no special call to go to China. With these facts before you and with the command of the Lord Jesus to go and preach the gospel to every creature, you need rather to ascertain whether you have a special call to stay at home.

- Hudson Taylor

Explanation:

The MISSION declared: **Ephesians 2:10**

10For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

John 20:21

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, so now I send you."

Matthew 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. *19* Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, *20* and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, even to the very end of the age."

Mark 16:15

Go into all the world and preach The Gospel.

The One who calls you to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature is the One who by your consent, goes into all the world and preaches the Gospel to every creature through you!

- Major Ian Thomas

If the devil were wise enough and would stand by in silence and let the Gospel be preached, he would suffer less harm. For when there is no battle for the Gospel it rusts and it finds no cause and no occasion to show its vigor and power. Therefore, nothing better can befall the Gospel than that the world should fight it with force and cunning.

- Martin Luther

Application:

The Christian that is bound by his own horizon, the church that lives simply for itself, is bound to die a spiritual death and sink into stagnancy and corruption. We never can thank God enough for giving us not only a whole Gospel to believe, but a whole world to give it to.

- A. B. Simpson

Matthew 5:14

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden”

The real test of a saint is not one's willingness to preach the gospel, but one's willingness to do something like washing the disciples' feet - that is, being willing to do those things that seem unimportant in human estimation but count as everything to God.

- Oswald Chambers

Luke 10:27

Jesus answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’ and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.”

The glory of the gospel is that when the church is absolutely different from the world, she invariably attracts it.

- Martyn Lloyd-Jones

CLOSE:

Many pastors criticize me for taking the Gospel so seriously. But do they really think that on Judgment Day, Christ will chastise me, saying, 'Leonard, you took Me too seriously'?

- Leonard Ravenhill

For What?

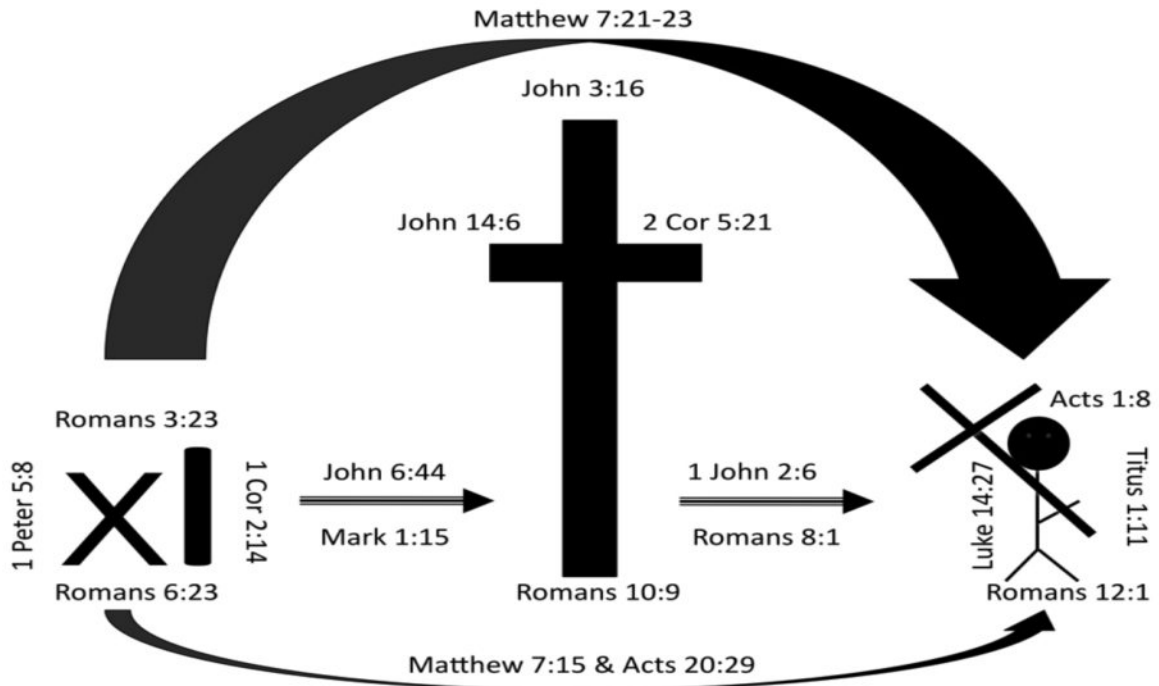
God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars.

- Martin Luther

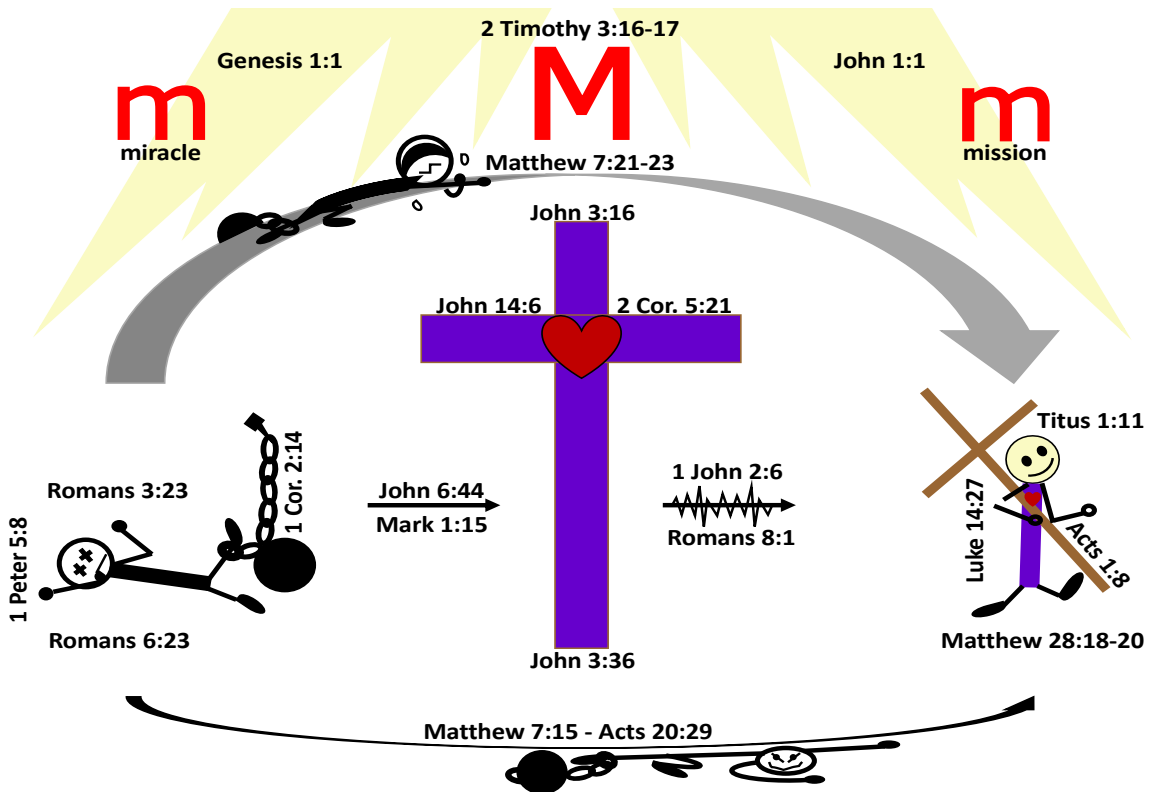
God's people need to unashamedly and uncompromisingly stand on the Bible. We need to unashamedly proclaim a Christian worldview and the gospel, all the while giving answers for the hope we have.

- Ken Ham

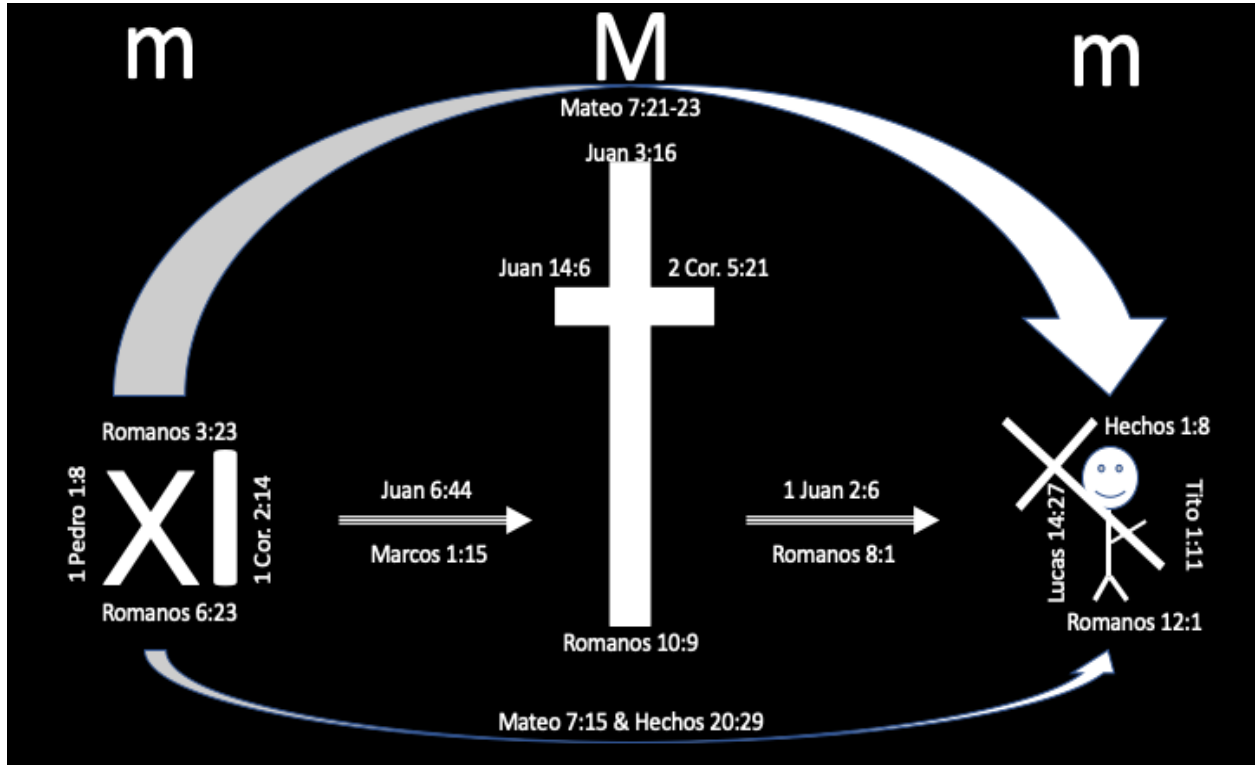
Original Stickman Gospel



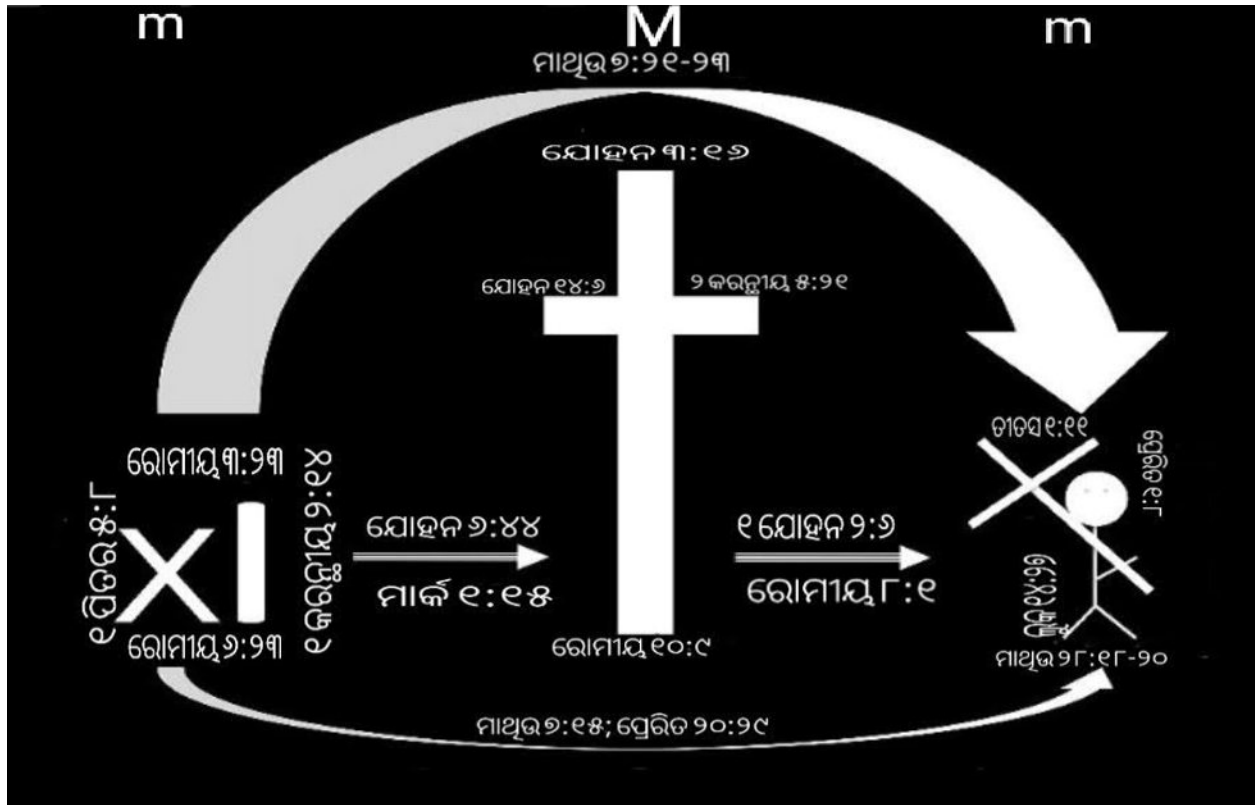
Stickman Gospel 2.0



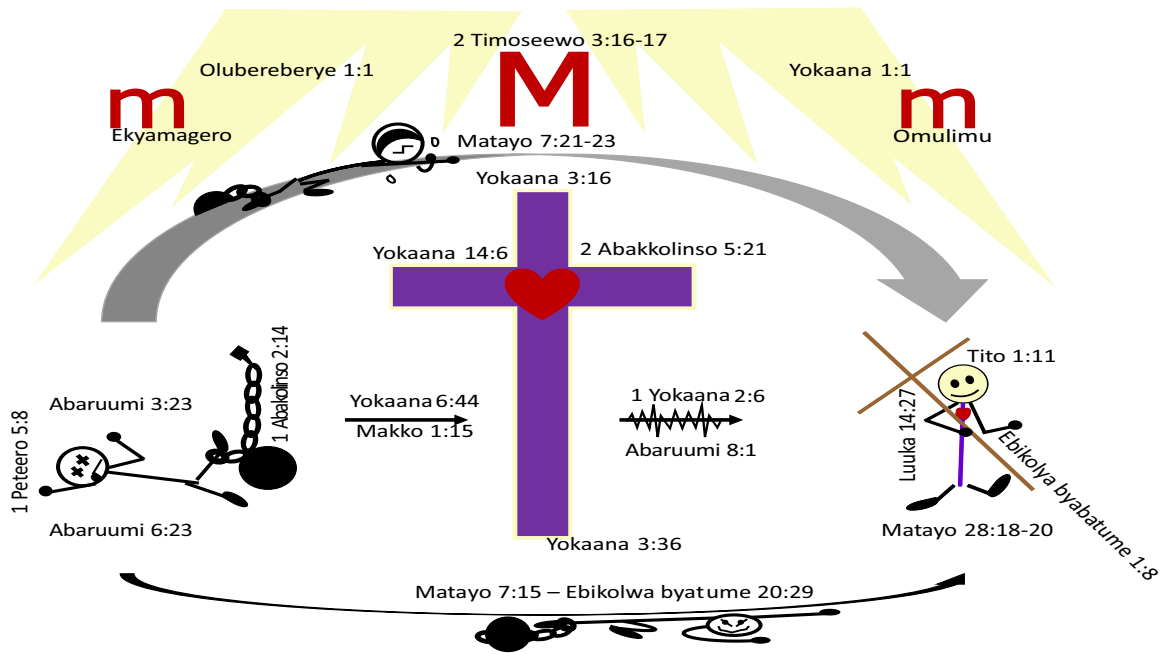
Spanish Stickman Gospel



Indian Stickman Gospel (Odia language)



Ugandan Stickman Gospel



Ukrainian Stickman Gospel



So What?

All around us we see Christians and churches relaxing their grasp on the gospel, fumbling it, and in danger of letting it drop from their hands altogether.

- John Stott

I remember one who spoke on the missionary question one day saying, "The great question is not, 'Will not the heathen be saved if we do not send them the gospel?' but 'Are we saved ourselves if we do not send them the gospel?'"

- Charles Spurgeon

Now What?

There is a moral and spiritual war for the souls of all-humans. And this war must be waged by preaching the Gospel, prayer, and obedience to God's Word.

- David Jeremiah

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank You so much for the Truth and Love of Your Word, will, and ways. Please help us to absorb and apply ALL that You have shared and commanded in the Bible. May our heads be infilled with Your defining Scriptures, for the express purpose of informing, inspecting, and inspiring our sanctified hearts and serving hands.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen and Amen

Related SERMONS:

"The Simple Call Of The Gospel"

1 Peter 2:21

August 28, 2023

Sermon Series: No Matter What!