

Bible verses to build your life on

Jesus said: "... whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock..." ~ Matthew 7:24

John 3 plan for sharing the gospel

Preface:

I have heard at least one other person do this, but I have done it differently from how they did it because the people I have talked with and the various things that I have seen have shaped my thinking to aim at being able to explain what is least understood and most essential to understand. So, my John 3 plan is focused on the second half of John 3.

So, I guess I need to post the text first, then I can add helpful tidbits.
(the text below is a literal translation from the Greek)

"(14) And in the same way, Moses raised the serpent in the wilderness, so also it is necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up and exalted. (15) That everyone believing on Him will not be being destroyed, but may be having life forever. (16) For God unconditionally loves the people of the world, that He gives His only Son, so that everyone believing on Him will not be being destroyed, may be having life forever. (17) For God did not set apart and commission His Son to the people of the world that He should be condemning and punishing the world, but that the people of the world may be being saved. (18) The one who is believing in Him is not being judged and condemned, but the one who is not believing already is condemned because he has not believed in the only Son of God. (19) And, this is the condemnation: that the Light has come into the world and men prefer loving darkness rather than the Light, because their actions are evil. (20) For everyone committing wickedness is hating the Light and is not coming toward the Light that no one may be exposing his evil actions. (21) But, the one who is obeying the Truth is coming toward the Light that his actions may be being shown in God, as pleasing to God." (John 3:14-21)

Okay, let's try to take this verse by verse, phrase by phrase, so that we can understand more about it and be able to use it to compel people to repent from their rebellion against God and to grow in obedience to God.

"And in the same way, Moses raised the serpent in the wilderness, so also it is necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up and exalted." (John 3:14)

This is referring to a time in the wilderness (Numbers 21), when the people of Israel were headed to the Promised Land, became discouraged, then started to complain against God and Moses, and it looks like they were even complaining about the manna God was supernaturally giving them. So, for all the kindnesses God was showing them,

they were grumbling against Him, and that made Him angry. So, He sent venomous serpents among the people allowing them to bite those who were complaining against Him. Some died from those bites, but many did not die immediately, they just suffered a little longer - it was a strong chastening tool from the hand of God to bring them back to repentance. And, when the people of Israel confessed their complaining attitude and wrongful, self-centered anger (agreed with God that He was right) and cried out to God for help and asked Moses to pray for them, God (in response to their confession and Moses praying for them) told Moses to make a bronze serpent, attach it to a pole and stand it up in the camp. And God told Moses that everyone who looked at the bronze serpent would be healed - not because of some power in the bronze serpent, but because they obeyed the Lord and proved their repentance was genuine. Though there were some who refused to look at that bronze serpent and be healed, some did repent and look to that serpent and were healed.

This is a story that rightly should grow the healthy fear of God in us, and it is also one of many of what is called 'types of Christ'. Meaning - pictures of who Christ is before He came. Romans 10:9 explains - **"that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved"** (Romans 10:9) - Just like the people of Israel who grumbled against God, we have too because we are selfish and make selfish choices and entertain our selfish desires. And just like people who were bitten by the serpents, we too are dying and will suffer judgment forever - we've earned it through our intentional rebellion against God. But, in God's grace, He provided a remedy for us to be made right with Him, and as those who genuinely repented and turned back to God in their hearts and looked to the bronze serpent were healed, so it is today - all who grieve at how they have rebelled against God and repent (agree with God and His Word) and turn to Christ, and growing in following and obeying Him alone - they are saved, not from physical death, but from eternal death. - This is just one of many word-pictures that show Christ, the Jewish Messiah, in the Old Testament. Another very important one is the Passover lamb which was a type or picture of the Future Lamb of God, Yeshua Ha-Mashiach - Jesus, the 'Anointed One' or 'Messiah'. **"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"** (John 1:29) There is much more richness in understanding the Jewish context throughout Scripture, so I encourage you to keep digging into it, we just need to beware of those who place the bondage of keeping the law, or distracted from following Him and instead chasing experiences. Rather, let's keep seeking out those who compel us to learn how to please God better and to learn more of how to love and serve Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. **"Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."** (Matthew 22:37-40).

Okay, let's look at the next verse in John 3:

"That everyone believing on Him will not be being destroyed, but may be having life forever." (John 3:15)

That's a pretty easy follow-through from the previous verse and the Biblical event Jesus references there. One note - when I talk about repentance, I try to drive home the point that it has to be as genuine as possible. For when we come to God half-heartedly and bring our own agendas with us that we want as well as salvation, we will find that we get a 'no deal yet' response. That is why Jesus said the way is narrow - it's too narrow for our extra 'stuff'. We either take Him at His Word and grow in letting go of our stuff in our hearts and learn to follow and obey Him, or we haven't yet come into that marriage-covenant with Christ. But, along with that I try to emphasize that as long as we are breathing, there is still time to repent.

Okay, let's look at the next verse:

“For God unconditionally loves the people of the world, that He gives His only Son, so that everyone believing on Him will not be being destroyed, may be having life forever.” (John 3:16)

Does that look pretty familiar? :) It is probably one of the most commonly memorized and most often quoted verses in the world. Yet, with that said, it is often one of the most misunderstood ones too. Let's look at it a little deeper. The word “love” in the text is the word ‘agape’ which is unconditional. And the word ‘world’ is a word that implies the world and its inhabitants - us, so that's why I wrote those. Notice, God is not specific here to a group of people: Jewish, Gentile, etc... - the offer is to “everyone”. But to really get a good understanding on this verse, we have to keep it in context, so let's go through the next few verses and I think we'll be able to see more richness here.

“For God did not set apart and commission His Son to the people of the world that He should be condemning and punishing the world, but that the people of the world may be being saved.” (John 3:17)

Jesus came the first time to redeem those who would repent of their evil deeds and rebellion and follow and serve Him. But, that was His first coming. The second time He sets His feet on Earth, He will be here to bring justice on the evildoers - those who refused to repent of the evil of their hands and doing what is right in their own eyes. A parallel verse to this one is one that I think needs to be stated more: **“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise [of coming back again], as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”** (2nd Peter 3:9)

“The one who is believing in Him is not being judged and condemned, but the one who is not believing already is condemned because he has not believed in the only Son of God.” (John 3:18)

False teachers like Rob Bell and Joel Hunter question if there is a literal Hell where those who refuse to repent of their rebellion go for all eternity, even many are there now: burning right now and will forever and ever and ever. But, Jesus spoke of Hell

and the Lake of Fire 33 different times, and that's just in what we have recorded in Scripture. Jesus spoke more about Hell than anyone else and He also gave more short descriptions of Hell than He did about Heaven. And, every time Jesus referred to Hell it was in the context of warning us to do everything necessary not to go there. Jesus even described a literal story of a rich man and Lazarus - the rich man literally went to Hell and was experiencing the torment firsthand and somehow wanted his family to be warned so they wouldn't join him there. I know the rich man would agree - Hell is so real and so painful, no warning is too strong.

At the same time, this verse also clearly shows that God is not unfair - as He is so often accused. He doesn't condemn those whose hearts are humble and pure toward Him. But, those who love their sin and refuse to repent from that rebellion - condemn themselves, because they reject their only hope. They like their sin, they consistently work to convince themselves that it is okay and surround themselves with others who do the same. But, though they try to explain away their sin, they will still reap what they sow, unless they repent.

Okay, next verse:

“And, this is the condemnation: that the Light has come into the world and men prefer loving darkness rather than the Light, because their actions are evil.” (John 3:19)

This passage is very similar to 1st John 1:5 - **“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.”** ~ Literally - no shade of darkness, at all. This is probably a great time to review the 10 Commandments with them.

The Ten Commandments (a literal translation) - Exodus 20:2-17

- 1) **“I AM the Lord, your God... Do not have other gods instead of Me.”**
~ Ex. 20:2-3
- 2) **“Do not make any carving or any representation or likeness of Me... Do not bow down or serve other gods, for I, the Lord your God AM jealous...”**
~ Ex. 20:4-6
- 3) **“Do not handle or use the Name of the Lord, your God, with dishonor, for the Lord will not hold innocent those who dishonor His Name.”**
~ Ex. 20:7
- 4) **“Mark and remember the day of the Sabbath, to dedicate it as holy. Six days you shall serve and work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God...”**
~ Ex. 20:8-11
- 5) **“Give clear honor to your father and mother, so that your days may be extended and prolonged in the land God gives you.”**
~ Ex. 20:12
- 6) **“Do not murder.”**
~ Ex. 20:13

- 7) **“Do not commit adultery.”**
~ Ex. 20:14
- 8) **“Do not steal.”**
~ Ex. 20:15
- 9) **“Do state a false testimony against your neighbor.”**
~ Ex. 20:16
- 10) **“Do not covet the house of your neighbor or lust for his wife or servants or animals - or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”**
~ Ex. 20:17

Okay, last 2 verses:

“For everyone committing wickedness is hating the Light and is not coming toward the Light that no one may be exposing his evil actions. (21) But, the one who is obeying the Truth is coming toward the Light that his actions may be being shown in God, as pleasing to God.” (John 3:20-21)

I think that's pretty clear and straightforward. As you use this or any other gospel presentation, please keep in mind that leading them to repentance is very important. Also, other regular evangelists mention that it's always great to pray for someone, just don't lead them in a prayer - let them pray out of the abundance of their heart.

~ this is a free resource