

So Which Thief Are You?

Bill Beuckman Sr

Copyright Pending

Greeting

Greetings and great is your day, with joy and blessings, to all you thieves. You will understand this greeting a little later as you read. I cannot begin to tell you how God has burdened me, and that Holy Spirit has guided and directed me to do this. This is truly a privilege to serve and share with you. I became a Christian when I was 18 years old, and my life has never been the same since. Has it been easy or have I majorly screwed up in my life? Yes, but, by God's love and grace God has seen me fit to use me for His will and to glorify Him. He uses and leads me to lead others to Christ. By witnessing so many times in my life I have found a way to share the gospel of salvation and now want to share this with you. I want to keep it simple and basic only for the fact that this is the only way I witness and I encourage you to do the same. You do not have to make it difficult. You are simply sharing your faith from your heart. What I am going to say next I cannot say enough times to let you know how important this statement is. Humbleness and humility along with the Holy Spirit and God's word, the scriptures, makes you a very dangerous and serious threat to the enemy. The example of this is Jesus in the wilderness for 40 days and nights and satan lost, defeated end of story. I am also going to use the name Chris for the sole purpose of having a name to use while presenting this information. I pray that God puts a burden of desire to witness to the lost.

Obedience

Definition: an act or instance of obeying

1 Peter 3:15 **15** But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

I love this subject in that it just does not get any simpler than as stated above. So let me say this right up front. You can get rid of your excuse that you do not have that gift from God that is given to only a few (Eph. 2:10, Phil. 4:13). You are sharing your faith. You either do it or you don't, it is your choice.

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:16-20 **16** Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. **17** When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. **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, to the very end of the age."

“Draws”

John 6:44 44 “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.

Do you see that word “draws” that I bold, underlined, and italicized? It’s a small word but **WE** are a part in that word that involves us being up front, Holy Spirit burdened, God’s perfect timing, God’s plan, being personally involved, first hand witness of this day, real miracle. How special is this when God says (Holy Spirit burden) Bill I want you to witness to Chris. Yes it is that real, it really happens.

How do you explain a friend in a hospital on his death bed and you are on your way to work, at least a half hour late already and you decide to see him after you get out of work. The Holy Spirit gives you a burden not to wait, but to see Chris before work. Did I mention I was already half hour late? So I get on the bus and asked John the driver if he could let me off at the hospital and was informed it would be a violation to him and a fine of \$500 if caught. So as we get close to the hospital it just so happens that there was a traffic problem at the intersection and he HAD to let us all out, (are you ready for this), 100 feet from the door to the hospital. Did I mention I was already 30 minutes late for work? When I walk in the security was not going to let me up there because I was not family, yet at the door was his personal nurse going out for her break and told them it would be ok to let me go up. So I go up to intensive care and there lead him to the Lord. So I go to work and as I walk in the office I said how sorry I was for being late and got all these strange looks. When I looked at the clock I was 5 minutes early. Now the next day when I went in the office one of my coworkers said sorry to hear about your friend Chris, he passed away yesterday at about 2pm. In my time when I wanted to wait after work to see him it would have been about 7pm and Chris would have died and would have gone to hell. But the Holy Spirit knew God’s timing, clearing all the problems to reach Chris, and with the burden, directed me to be there before his last breath.

Another time I was at a meeting and this young girl is for some reason hanging around the attendance table and the conversation starts about salvation and she accepts Christ. But this gets better. So the meeting has taken place and after this, a young man is playing a game and we got into a conversation and now has accepted Christ. This gets better. So now parents are picking up their children from the event and see this young lady standing by her mom so I waved good bye and her mother comes over by me. With this her daughter tells her mom that she is now a Christian and has accepted Christ. The mom is now crying in happiness. Now a boy comes to where we are at and she says oh this is my son. Guess who it was? Yup and then he says to his mom I have accepted Christ. Now she is crying her eyes out and says I have been praying for them to know the Lord for a long time. Now I am crying. To know I was involved in being a part of this mom’s answer to prayers was such a real blessing and privilege!

I give you these 2 examples not to brag about what I did. I considerate it a privilege and honor to serve my God as a servant, but only to show you, “on being up front, Holy Spirit burdened, God’s perfect timing, God’s plan, being personally involved, first hand witness of a this day real miracle.” Every time I am obedient to share God’s word of salvation to someone it is not by chance, but I am in the “draw” to do God’s will, and you can do the same. It is your choice. I consider it an honor to serve our Lord no mater how small the task because it is all a part of His perfect plan for what He wants done in that person life.

I want to leave you with two more thoughts. 1) What If God had a task for you to do? You were in the right time and place but were not obedient, and this person was to literally be a person to change the history in this world? 2) Your time has come and you are home with our Lord and you hear this voice SCREAMING and YELLING in the worst pain and suffering possible. It’s a good friend, mom, dad, sister, brother, or your children and yelling “Why didn’t you tell me, you knew about this place, you knew this was going to happen, Why didn’t you tell me?”

The Privilege of Witnessing

Lets begin. Always start with prayer for wisdom and guidance and a open mind and open heart. Remember that any time is witnessing time. God's perfect timing, is not always your timing. Just be ready. It could be by a passing comment, an opening of a door. Someone walk up to you asking a question, a request from someone on or about your faith, someone over hearing a conversation, an incident that requires action and your walk and your talk was an influence. Just be ready, any and all times.

Watch your walk and your talk! Christ like.

Colossians 4:5-6 **5** Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. **6** Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

There is a reason for everything. God has put you there for His purpose, and not by chance. God chose you. You cannot fail when you are obedient to share your faith. What if a person went to someone else and said “if that is what a Christian is all about I want nothing to do with it”. That one careless moment might have been the time the Holy Spirit had prepared their heart to make a decision to accept Christ.

Do not “ARGUE”, you are sharing your faith.

The Holy Spirit will convict their hearts with the scriptures. They might come back to you again. They will feel comfortable. They will not feel threatened on what they are thinking with you.

Ways to start sharing is ask questions and listen. People want to share.

If you were wrong on something, and a friend knew about it, wouldn't you want your friend to tell you, so you could make a choice?

Do you think there is a heaven or hell?

What do you really believe in?

May I share my faith with you?

If what you are believing is not true, would you want to know?

“If you died and stood before Christ what would you say to Him to let you into Heaven?

And there is only one answer that you can give Him.”(This is my favorite opening. Second to none)

Being Ready. Just as a carpenter has a hammer, and a doctor has his instruments, we need ours. I carry a pocket Bible and a Tract sheet (there is a copy of mine in this packet) all the time with me. I am ready to do my job. When I have witnessed to someone regardless if they become a Christian or not I give them the tract sheet to take with them. I want to make sure they have the word if they want to look it over with their bible later. Remember there was a reason. It was not by chance, that we met and talked and the Holy Spirit is still at work even though I am not there.

I want to say if someone has showed no interest into accepting our Savior. **YOU DID NOT FAIL.** They have rejected the word of God, not you. God will honor your effort. If they do not accept Christ that is **“OK”** They are not ready yet. There is a reason. You are in one of these steps.....tilling the ground, preparing the soil, planting the seed, weeding, watering, fertilizing, pruning, harvesting. **Each step is very important, and it's also important that it's where God has brought you and them together. Not by chance. You are a part of God's purpose in their life.**

Is it easy?

No, it's not easy at first, but each time it gets easier, and then there comes the time you can't wait to do it again. Let's break this down to the word fear. What is fear? It is nothing more than the lack of knowledge and lack of experience of what you are afraid of.

Fear of rejection.
 Fear of what others will think.
 Fear that I do not know enough.
 Fear of losing my friends.
 Fear of not knowing how, and the list goes on. All excuses

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the **Spirit** is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

I just do not see the word of **“fear”** listed above which means we know where this is all coming from. Guess what?

Philippians 4:13 **13** I can **do all** this through him who gives me strength.

Ephesians 2:1-10 **1** As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, **2** in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. **3** All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. **4** But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **5** made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. **6** And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, **7** in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. **8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9** not by works, so that no one can boast. **10** For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Really take a good look at verse 10 a few times and let it sink in.

Your sin

I really want you to really hear this segment because this is where only you have a special effect or a special relationship to someone to accept Christ as their Savior. You should always pray before you witness and in this case please make sure you do. This is not a normal witnessing. Everybody sins, Romans 3:23. There is adultery, drunkenness, pornography, drugs, stealing, and it goes on, but you have been forgiven, you are a child of God, and your eyes, head, heart, and desires have all been changed from a power from within called the Holy Spirit. So let’s take your sin, and you know and see a non-believer going down that road where you have been. You see it and you recognize the signs. Do you really think that person is happy where they are at? You know the answer. I mean you know that pain, the hurt, and the results of what they are doing. You know what are the results and outcome both ways, as a sinner and as a child of God. One is disaster and the other is totally victory. You are not a joke but the real thing, to be able to approach this person and relate the whole picture to their blind eyes. Their sin has totally engulfed their whole being. You have the best chance of anyone to really reach this person. They will see that you are not a fake. Your worst sin can be your biggest weapon to lead others to Christ. Humbleness and humility, which the world seems to believe are weaknesses, along with the Holy Spirit and the scriptures the word of God, is a winning combination and all powerful. Consider Jesus in the desert being tempted by satan for 40 days and nights, and satan lost . Amen and Amen.

WARNING !!!

Under no circumstances, I repeat, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES assume that someone is a Christian. I have seen, heard and witnessed where satan has deceived, imitated, lied, blindsided and convinced people to believe they are a saved, born again, child of God, AND it was so good I had thought that they were saved until I

started to witness to them. God through the Holy Spirit gives me a red flag usually in a statement or an event that had happened, that just puts a burden on my heart. Then my witnessing begins.

I cannot stress enough, I do not care who they are, how good they are, where in their faith they are, who's family they are in, what position in the church they hold, what church they go to, how Godly they speak or act, and even if they help in leading a sinner's prayer with someone who is accepting Christ (yup, I witnessed this first hand and then I was privileged enough to lead them to the Lord), DO NOT ASSUME they are a Christian. Period. End of statement.

3 Parts to Witnessing

THE ROMANCING

This is where you find common ground with each other. Sharing an interest either good or bad. A time of bonding such as a common sin problem, sharing your faith or idea, or just being at the same event. Common ground. Common interest.

THE PITCH

The convincing of a need or exposing a wrong for a right, or a lie to a truth.

THE CLOSING

This is a time for an action or a decision to be made, to commit or resolve an issue. To make right the wrong or to change the lie to the truth.

Response to Wrong Answers

I was baptized when I was younger.

Acts 10:46-47 Then Peter said, **46**“Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” **47** So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

Romans 6:4 **4** We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Acts 2:38 **38** Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”

I try to live a good life, I am a good person.

James 2:10 **10** For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Ephesians 2:8-9 **8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God **9** not by works, so that no one can boast.

I am always helping people.

Ephesians 2:8-9 **8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God **9** not by works, so that no one can boast.

I know all about God and Jesus.

Romans 10:9-10 **9** If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

I go to Holy Mackrel Church almost every Sunday.

If you get into a bible based praise church, you will be led by the Holy Spirit which is not religion, it is God!

Ephesians 2:8-9 **8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God **9** not by works, so that no one can boast.

Once in a while I get the question on purgatory.

Luke 23:42-43 **42** Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” **43** Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 **6** Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. **7** For we live by faith, not by sight. **8** We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

Example of Witnessing

In my opinion I cannot think of a better way to lead someone to Christ then to take them to Calvary with Jesus on the cross bleeding and dying for our sins with two thieves, one denying and the other accepting Christ. This to me is the purest example of salvation and that is why I use it. I will say it is not the only way to lead people to salvation, and that you do have to develop your own way and style to witness that makes you comfortable in sharing the gospel. So with that said lets get started.

ROMANCING

So I meet up with Chris and he has a real concern, like for an example, lack of money for paying some bills, or just anything to draw a conversation. So I will make a real assumption to get him set up for witnessing. “Well you know Chris, being a Christian our God will meet your needs.” Whatever his answer is to this I always respond, “That is great, when did you become a Christian?” At this point you will probably know if Chris is a Christian or not.

THE PITCH

This is where I really get to his thinking and where he is at in his life or faith. If you ask “can I ask you a question?” this conversation could end or go in another direction. I get the question out to Chris in a statement that is direct question and to the point to where I want to go with him.

“Chris, **I just gotta ask you this question**, if you died right now and pretend I am Jesus standing at Heavens gates, and I say to you Chris give me one reason why I should open the gates and let you into Heaven, what would you say? And by the way there is only one answer you can ever give me according to God's word.”

DO NOT SAY ANOTHER WORD. Look Chris right in his eyes

For each wrong answer just say “I'm sorry Chris I can't let you in”

Keep looking in his eyes and say nothing until you believe he has given you all his answers.

Now you know where he is coming from and where to continue on.

(Look at the Wrong Answer section for scriptures to back your answers up if needed)

At this point I say “Chris how does that really make you feel?” I can say at this point there is some real concern coming from him.

Now take him to the cross.

“Chris when we celebrate Good Friday? We are celebrating the crucifixion of Christ on the cross right?”

They all say yes

“Was there not two other thieves next to Him?”

They all say yes

(This is where I got the title for this pamphlet)

You can take him to scriptures if you want (Luke 23:39-43), but in my own words I tell him the story.

After I tell him the story I ask him “Why did Jesus say to only one thief today you will be in Paradise?” Please give extra punch to the word TODAY.

This is where you can **explain** about accepting (Romans 10:9, John 3:16) Christ as your Savior and the sinners prayer

THE CLOSING

Here it comes. The big question and the title.

“Ok Chris, now that I share the gospel with you, you can see we are all really like the thieves before Jesus, **so which thief are you?** It is your choice in life to either be the thief that denies Christ for who He is, or the thief that accepts Jesus as your Savior and spend eternity in heaven”...**DO NOT SAY ANOTHER WORD.** Let the Holy Spirit work on his heart, and wait for the answer.

At this point there is only two ways to go with this. I want to say at this time if someone has showed no interest into accepting our Savior. **YOU DID NOT FAIL.** They have rejected the word of God, not you. God will honor your effort. **If they do not accept Christ that is “OK”** they are not ready yet. There is a reason. You are in one of these steps.....tilling the ground, preparing the soil, planting the seed, weeding, watering, fertilizing, pruning, harvesting. Each step is very important. It's where God has brought you and them together. **Not by chance. You are a part of God's purpose in their life.** I remember a young man that I had witnessed to, then another person that same day also witnessed to him. A week later we shared again and so did this other person share with him. This young man knew exactly what salvation was all about yet would not commit. Then the next Sunday he comes to church where he hears the word of God again, and when he heard the invitation, he accepted Christ as his Savior.

OR

you lead him in a simple sinners prayer. Before you pray tell him I will say a pray for you and I'm going to ask you to repeat a prayer. Bow your head and say a small prayer for him and simply say repeat this prayer with me **“Heavenly Father forgive me for all my sins and now accept Jesus Christ, your Son, as my Savior. Amen.”**

Please take the time to ask Chris these three questions after the prayer.

How many sins did Jesus forgive you for? Answer is all

How many sins does God see in you? Answer is none

Now what do you say to Jesus when he ask you why I should let you into Heaven? Answer is I accepted you as my Savior.

I do this to make absolutely sure he fully understands and a fast recap if he gives a wrong answer.

If Chris becomes a Christian or does not want to accept Christ, give him the tract I included in this pamphlet so the word of God goes with him. I have seen where this tract has shown up later in their life and had made a difference to them in making their decision.

If Chris accepted Christ I will share about the Holy Spirit. John 14:16-17, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

The very last thing I share with Chris is to tell him how special he is by sharing

Luke 15:10 In the same way, I tell you, there is **rejoicing** in the presence of the **angels of God** over one sinner who repents.

In Closing

I want to say thank you and what a privilege it is for me to share all this information on how to lead others to Christ our Lord. I have given you all the information that I have personally done and used to help you do God's will in our lives. Please remember to start in prayer and know that humbleness and humility along with the Holy Spirit and God's word, the scriptures, is where it all begins. I want to give you my email address

yes2jesusfb@aol.com and the website <http://sowhichthiefareyou.wix.com/free> to have a place to be able to learn, share, or give a praise report.

In the front of my bible is the name of almost everyone that I had the privilege to lead to Christ. The sole reason for doing this is, I see the name and it reminds me of that person of where he or she was at in their life, how God and the Holy Spirit were involved, and how I was a part of that miracle. All because of my obedience, anytime, anywhere no mater of the circumstances. It is a constant reminder, a real proof, a firsthand witness, that God is not dead and miracles do happen. He loves us so much and tries to reach everyone about His Son, and I am so privileged to be a part of it. My real day of joy is when my journey here has ended and I stand before my Lord and look in His eyes and tell Him I did the best I could to bring more Home with me. I could really use a hug right now. I love you.

Psalm 126:6 6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Oh by the way, what if the person you are witnessing too says "Amen" in his prayer after accepting the Lord, and all of a sudden you hear this real loud blasting horn and the clouds open up like a scroll and all glory is heading our way. I want to thank you right now, in advance in case I am still alive when this happens. It's going to happen to somebody, and it could be you. Glory! AMEN!

So Which Thief Are You?

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 3:10 As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one;

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

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

Romans 10:9-10 **9** If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, **you will be saved**. **10** For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Luke 23:39-43 **39** One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” **40** But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence?” **41** We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” **42** Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” **43** Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 **8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God **9** not by works, so that no one can boast.

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 **6** Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. **7** For we live by faith, not by sight. **8** We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

John 14:16-17 **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever **17** the **Spirit of truth**. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he **lives with you and will be in you**.

John 14:25-26 **25** “All this I have spoken while still with you. **26** But the Advocate, the **Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 **19** Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; **20** you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

Luke 15:10 In the same way, I tell you, there is **rejoicing** in the presence of the **angels of God** over one sinner who repents.”

Prayer

Heavenly Father forgive me for all my sins and now accept Jesus Christ, your Son, as my Savior. Amen.

