

Introduction to *The Way of the Master* by Ray Comfort
John Barber

One cannot fully understand what one is saved to unless one also understands what one is saved from. We are saved from the consequences of our sins, which is hell. Jesus said, “If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than, having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire” (Mark 9:43). It was with the knowledge of hell that Jesus graciously and lovingly called people to repent of their sins and to trust him as Lord and Savior. He thus began his public ministry proclaiming, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15).

It is an unfortunate commentary, but we are living in a day when the saving message of Jesus Christ is being lost in our churches. Replacing it is a new set of concerns that are quick to speak of God’s love, mercy, and grace, but are slow to take up the implications of his holiness, judgment, and wrath. Being disturbingly silent on the significant issues of sin and judgment to come, much contemporary evangelism is producing a bumper-crop of unregenerate believers.

The erosion of gospel values first came to my attention years ago as a young proclamation evangelist in Connecticut. I was shocked to discover the extent to which the “softer, gentler” vision of God, heralded by the early nineteenth-century, Universalist, William Ellery Channing, continued to inoculate scores of New England churches to the Christ of the Bible. Years later, I served Dr. Bill Bright as his theological editor. Dr. Bright was well aware of the dangers awaiting the unconverted. His great trepidation for the lost led him to author two additional books: one on the Ten Commandments, and another on the vital subjects of heaven and hell. I was delighted at the thought that he was addressing such important topics. The hours I spent editing the drafts of those two books further solidified in my heart the importance for people to be exposed to the genuine gospel of Jesus Christ.

About the same time, I discovered the evangelism of Ray Comfort. Upon watching his videos, which include Kirk Cameron, it became clear to me that Ray had his finger on the problem. He had made a monumental advance in reclaiming the evangel—all of which he had condensed in an exciting and easy to learn plan called, *The Way of the Master*.

Once I became the pastor of a church, I couldn’t wait to implement Ray’s materials. So far, I have been privileged to lead our people in several training sessions of the *Way of the Master*. The results have been nothing short of remarkable. Not only have trainees developed a greater understanding of the gospel, and a love for the lost, but also we have exposed scores of people to the gospel with the result that many have become Christians. I am also encouraged that some of these new believers have joined our church and are now active participants.

There are many ways to articulate the gospel. But before you begin chapter one of this book let me ask you to set aside any preconceived thoughts you have about personal evangelism and judge everything you read according to the Scriptures. I believe that you will find here an approach that takes its cue from the very way Jesus of Nazareth called people to the family of God.