

Hell's Best Kept Secret (French)

by Ray Comfort

The sermon emphasizes the importance of understanding the wrath of God and the consequences of sin in evangelism, and how the law is used to bring sinners to Christ.

Duration: 56:00

Scripture: Exodus 20:3, Luke 10:25-28, John 1:45-51, John 3:1-21, Acts 2:1-41, Romans 3:20, 1 Timothy 1:8

Topics: "Evangelism"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker tells a story about two men in a plane, one given a parachute and told it would improve his flight. The first man initially doubts the parachute's effectiveness and is humiliated by other passengers when he puts it on. He eventually takes it off, thinking the captain doesn't mean it. The second man, however, gratefully puts on the parachute because he knows he will be jumping out of the plane. The speaker uses this story to illustrate the importance of understanding the true motive and purpose behind our actions, particularly in the context of personal evangelization.

Transcript

... Christian ministries around the world have come together to create the International Curriculum. These teachings are to help the Church in different nations and to equip Christians in the comprehension of their faith in order to become active servants of Jesus Christ. This teaching is entitled Personal Evangelization.

This is the first session taught by Ray Comfort. My name is Ray Comfort. I'm going to share a teaching with you called Hell's Best Kept Secret.

In the late 70s, God opened an itinerant ministry to me. Living out of travel, I found to my horror that up to 80% of those making a decision for Christ were falling away from the faith. Let me bring it up to date for you.

In 1991, a major denomination was able to obtain 294,000 decisions for Christ. They could only find 14,000 in fellowship. In other words, they couldn't account for 280,000 of their decisions.

This is normal, modern evangelical results. I discovered this way back in the 70s. So I made it a matter of prayer and began to study the gospel proclamations.

A man like Charles Spurgeon, John Wesley. What was the difference with Charles Spurgeon in England or John Wesley? And how God used them in a powerful way in the world. I discovered that there was a

principle there that is practically ignored by the evangelization that we do now in our society.

The Bible tells us that the law of the Lord is perfect. To illustrate the function of God's law, let's look for a moment at civil war. Imagine if I said to you, I've got some good news for you.

Someone has just paid a \$25,000 speeding fine on your behalf. You'd probably react by saying, that's not good news. It doesn't make sense.

I don't have a \$25,000 speeding fine. My good news wouldn't be good news too, it'd be foolishness. But more than that, it would be offensive to you.

Because I'm insinuating you've broken the law when you don't think you have. But if I put it this way, it may make more sense. On your way to this meeting, the police, the law, clocked you at going 55 miles an hour through an area set aside for a blind children's convention.

There were 10 clear warning signs stating that 15 miles an hour was the maximum speed. But you went straight through at 55 miles an hour. What you did was extremely dangerous.

It's a \$25,000 fine. The law was about to take its course when someone you don't even know stepped in and paid the fine for you. You are very fortunate.

Can you see that telling you what you've done wrong first actually makes the good news of someone paying the fine for you make sense? If I don't clearly bring instruction that you've violated the law, then the good news will seem foolishness and offensive. But if I clearly bring instruction that you've violated the law, then that good news will become good news indeed. Now in the same way, if I approach an impenitent sinner, someone whose understanding is darkened, and say, Jesus Christ died on the cross for you, it'll be foolishness to him and offensive to him.

Foolishness because it won't make sense. The Bible says that. It says the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness.

And it'll be offensive to him because I'm insinuating he's a sinner when he doesn't think he is. As far as he's concerned, there are a lot of people worse than him. If I follow in the footsteps of Jesus, it may make more sense.

If I can take the time to open up the divine law to open up the ten commandments and show the sinner precisely what he's done wrong then what he becomes, as James says, convinced of the law as a transgressor the good news will not be foolishness it will not be offensive it will be the power of God unto salvation. Now with those few thoughts in mind by way of introduction let's look at Romans 3 verse 19. We're looking at God's word to see what it says about the law in Romans 3 verse 19.

Now we know that lots of the things the law says says to those who are under the law and we know that God's word says that every mouth may be stopped and all the world not just the Jews but all the world might become guilty before God. So one function of God's law is to stop sinners' mouths and leave them guilty before God. The following verse, Romans 3 verse 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall be no justice justified in his sight for by the law is the knowledge of sin So God's law tells us what sin is 1 John says that sin is transgression of the law Now let's look at Romans 7 verse 7 Romans 7 verse 7 says What shall we say then?

Is the law sin?

God forbid No, I had not known sin but by the law Paul says he didn't know what sin was until the law told him And over in Galatians 3 verse 24 says these words Galatians 3 verse 24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ that we might be justified by faith So the law acts as a schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ that we might be justified by faith in his blood The law doesn't help us it leaves us helpless it doesn't justify us it just leaves us guilty before the judgment of the almighty God Now the tragedy of modern evangelism is that around the turn of the century when it forsook the law and its capacity to drive sinners to Christ modern evangelism had to find another reason for sinners to respond to the gospel And the issue that modern evangelism chose was the

issue of life enhancement The gospel degenerated into Jesus Christ will give you peace joy, love and fulfillment that will illustrate the unscriptural nature of this very popular teaching I want you to listen very carefully because the essence of what I'm saying pivots on this next story The man who was seated in a plane the first is given a parachute and told to put it on because it will improve his flight He's a little skeptical at first because he can't see how bringing a parachute in a plane could possibly improve the flight After a time he decides to experiment and see if the claim is true As he puts it on he notices the weight upon his shoulders he finds that he has difficulty in sitting upright he notices that he has difficulty in getting up and walking but he comforts himself

because he was told that putting on the parachute would improve the flight So he decides to give the thing a little time and as he waits he notices that some of the other passengers are laughing at him because he's wearing a parachute in a plane He begins to feel somewhat humiliated as they begin to point and laugh at him he can't stand it no longer he slinks in his seat and straps the parachute and throws it to the floor Disillusionment and bitterness fill his heart because as far as he was concerned he was told an outright lie The second man is in the parachute but listen to what he's told he's told to put it on because at any moment he'll be jumping 25,000 feet out of the plane he gratefully puts the parachute on he doesn't notice the weight upon his shoulders nor that he can't sit

upright his mind is consumed with a thought of what would happen to him if he jumped out of that parachute Let's analyze the motive and the result of each passenger's experience The first man's motive for putting the parachute on was solely to improve his flight The result of his experience was that he was humiliated by the passengers He was disillusioned and somewhat embittered against those who gave him the parachute As far as he's concerned it'll be a long time before anyone gets one of those things on his back again The second man puts the parachute on solely to escape the jump to come Because of his knowledge of what would happen to him without it he has a deep-rooted joy and peace in his heart knowing that he's saved from sure death This knowledge gives him the ability to withstand

the mockery of the other passengers His attitude towards those who gave him the parachute is one of heartfelt gratitude Now listen to what the Mother of God says She says, put on the Lord Jesus Christ He'll give you love, joy, peace, fulfillment and lasting happiness So the sinner responds in an experimental fashion puts on the Savior to see if the claims are true and what does he get?

The promise of temptation, tribulation and persecution The other passengers mock him So what does he do? He takes off the Lord Jesus Christ He's offended for the word's sake He's disillusioned and somewhat unbidded And quite rightly so He was promised peace, joy, love, fulfillment and lasting happiness And all he got was trials and humiliation His bitterness is directed at those who gave him the so-called good news

His latter end becomes worse than the first Another inoculated and bitter backslider Saints, instead of preaching that Jesus improves the flight we should be warning the passengers they're going to have to jump out of the plane So it's the point that a man wants to die and after this the judgment And when a sinner understands the horrific consequences breaking God's law then he will flee to the Savior so that he can escape the wrath that's to come And if we're true and faithful witnesses that's what we should be preaching that there's wrath to come that God commands all men everywhere to repent because he's appointed a day in which he'll judge the world in righteousness It's one of happiness It's one of righteousness It doesn't matter how happy a sinner is how much he's enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season Without the righteousness of Christ he'll perish in the day of wrath Scripture says Riches profit not on the day of wrath but righteousness delivers from death Peace and joy are legitimate fruits of salvation But it's not legitimate to use these fruits as a drawcard for salvation If we continue to do so sinners will respond with an impure motive lacking repentance Can you remember why the second passenger had joy and peace?

It was because he knew that parachute was going to save him from sure death And as a believer I have joy and peace in believing because I know that the righteousness of Christ is going to deliver me from the wrath that's to come Now with that thought in mind let's take a close look at an incident on board the plane We have a brand new stewardess She's carrying a tray of boiling hot coffee It's her first day and she wants to leave an impression on the passengers And she certainly does Because as she's walking down the aisle she trips over someone's foot and slops that boiling hot coffee all over the lap of our second passenger What's his reaction as that boiling liquid hits his tender flesh?

Does he go, that's hot! Oh yeah, he feels the pain But then does he rip the parachute from his shoulders throw it on the floor and say the stupid parachute No Why should he? He didn't put the parachute on for a better flight He put it on to save him from the jump to come If anything, the hot coffee incident causes a clingtide to the parachute and he will fall off the jump Now if you and I are put on the Lord Jesus Christ for the right motive to flee from the wrath that's to come the tribulations that strike us when the flight is bumpy we won't get angry at God we won't lose our joy and peace Why should we?

We didn't come to Jesus for a happy lifestyle We came to flee from the wrath that's to come And if anything, tribulation drives the true believer closer to the Savior And as a result, a multitude of professing Christians lose their joy and peace when the flight gets bumpy They lose their joy and peace when the flight gets bumpy Why? Because they are the product of modern evangelism They came lacking repentance without which you cannot be saved You see, there's no way I'm going to take a cure unless I first admit I've got the disease Why should I take a cure if I don't believe I've got the disease?

The law convinces me I'm diseased so they'll accept the gospel Now biblical evangelism is always a law to the proud and grace to the humble Never will you see Jesus giving the gospel the cross, the grace of our God to a proud, arrogant, self-righteous person No, with the law he breaks the higher heart and with the gospel he heals the broken heart Why? Because he always did those things that pleased the Father God resists the proud He gives grace to the humble Everyone who is proud of heart is an abomination to the Lord Jesus told us through the gospels He said, the spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has appointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, the broken hearted the captives and the blind These are spiritual statements The poor mean those who are poor in spirit The broken hearted are the contrite ones those that mourn The captives are those whom Satan has taken captive and the blind are those whom the God of this world has blinded Only the sick need a physician and only those who are convinced of the disease will accept the cure Now, Luke 10.25 we see Jesus doing this giving the law to the proud Now, let

me paraphrase this somewhat for you In Luke 10.25, a certain lawyer stood up and tempted Jesus Here we have a professing expert in God's law standing up and tempting the Son of God He was proud, arrogant and self-righteous So Jesus gave him the law He said, what is your law?

What is your reading of it? And he said, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength your strength, your power, your heart and your mind and you shall love your neighbor as yourself And then Jesus said this do and you shall live And then the Bible says but he willing to justify himself said to Jesus Who is my neighbor? The living Bible brings out more clearly the effect of the law on that man You see, the man wanted to justify his lack of love for some kinds of people So he said to Jesus Which neighbors?

See, he didn't mind Jews but he didn't like Samaritans So Jesus told him the story of what we call the good Samaritan who was not good at all When he loved his neighbors himself he merely obeyed the basic requirements of God's law And the effect of the essence of the law the spirituality of the law of what the law demanded in truth he was going to stop that man's mouth He didn't say another word because he didn't love his neighbor to that degree Remember, the law was given to stop every mouth and leave the whole world guilty before God You see, a similar thing in Luke 18, verse 18 And we read a similar thing in Luke 18, verse 18 We won't turn to it for the sake of time But the rich young ruler said he had kept the commandments So Jesus used the first of the ten commandments I am the Lord your God You shall have no other gods before me to show this man that his God was his money You cannot serve God and mammon So we see the Lord of the proud And then we see grace being given to the humble In the case of Nicodemus who was a humble Jew who acknowledged the deity of the Son of God He was a teacher in Israel So he obviously knew the law And the law was a schoolmaster to bring this godly Jew to Christ Same with the case of Nathanael and John 1 He was an Israelite brought up under the law He was an Israelite indeed Not just in words And there was no deceit in his heart And the law was a schoolmaster to bring this godly Jew to Christ The same with the Jews on the day of Pentecost These were devout Jews from every nation under heaven They were there for eight drinks to slip God's law And the law was a schoolmaster to bring 3,000 to Christ Now 1 Timothy 1 verse 8 which we can turn to tells us once again what God's law is used for 1 Timothy 1 verse 8 says But we know that the law is good if it is used lawfully for the purpose for which it was designed What was the law designed for?

The following verse tells us The law was not made for the righteous but for sinners It even lists the sinners Homosexuals If you want to bring a homosexual to Christ give him the 10 commandments Show him his sins against God despite his perversion If you want to bring a Muslim to Christ Muslims accept Moses as a prophet Give them the law of Moses and strip them of their self-righteousness Show them that God requires truth in the inward parts The Bible is filled with examples of the law doing its work in evangelism Think of the woman caught in the act of adultery The law called for her blood Her only avenue was to fling herself at the feet of Jesus And that's the function of God's law Paul spoke of being shot up under the law But you say, you can't condemn sinners They are already condemned He that believes not is condemned already, Scripture says Now, normally in this teaching I go through the 10 commandments But it may be more practical for you If I share with you how I share my faith I'm a strong believer in following the example of Jesus Give a look at John chapter 4 When Jesus approached the woman at the well He spoke in the natural realm first So that's what I do I go up to someone and say, hi, how are you doing?

What do you do for a job? And then I say, did you get one of these? And maybe I give them a gospel tract And then I carry in my pocket pennies with the 10 commandments pressed into them But you don't really need one of these, all you need is something Christian And when they say it's Christian, or you say that it's

Christian They just say, do you think you've kept the 10 commandments? And this is usually what happens Oh, pretty much, I haven't killed anyone I say, have you ever told a lie?

He says, yeah, one or two And then what does that make you? He says, a sinner I say, more specifically, doesn't it make you a liar? He says, oh, I'm not a liar I say, well, how many lies do you have to tell to be a liar? Ten, and suddenly a bell rings One lie makes you a liar, isn't that right? He says, yeah I say, have you ever stolen something? He says, no I say, come on, you've just told me you're a liar Have you ever stolen something, even if it's small? I say, yeah I say, what does that make you?

He says, a thief I say, do you know Jesus said, if you look at a woman and lust after her, you commit adultery with her in your heart? I say, have you ever done that? He says, yeah, plenty of times I say, from your own admission, you're a lying, thieving, adulterer at heart And you have to face God on judgment day And we've only looked at three of the ten commandments If you hate someone, you commit murder in your heart And as you go through the commandments They leave us all guilty And the wonderful thing that happens Is that the work of the law is written in their hearts It says it in Romans 2, verse 15 It says the conscience bears witness Conscience means with knowledge Con means with Science, knowledge So whenever he's lied or stolen or lusted He's known in his heart, but he's done wrong So on the day of judgment, he will be without excuse So the law brings the knowledge of sin You may identify with this, some of you ladies You dust your table down in the morning It's a clean table Then you draw back the curtains And let in the early morning sunlight What do you see in the piece?

Dust What do you see in the air? Dust Did the light create the dust? Oh no, the light only exposed the dust And when you and I take the time to draw back the curtains of the Holy of Holies And let the light of God's law shine upon the sinner's heart So he can see himself in truth Commandment is a lamp And the law is light That's why Paul says, by the commandment Sin became exceedingly sinful In other words, the law showed him Sin in its true light And some who have this knowledge Can now understand That God is angry at them That His wrath abides upon them They can see their weight in the balance Of eternal justice And found wanting And they can therefore understand Why Jesus had to die Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law He became a curse for us God commanded His love toward us And the while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us We broke the law He paid the fine The moment we repent and accept What He did on the cross We are free from the wrath of God Charles Spurgeon A great preacher from a hundred years ago Said they will never accept grace Until they tremble before a holy and just law They will never take the cure Unless they are first convinced they have the disease The law works It converts the soul It makes a man a new creature in Christ He puts his hand on a flower And he dies He doesn't look back Because he is fit for the kingdom So why don't you find yourself a sinner And experiment on him Just try it out Jesus gave us examples Follow it If someone comes to you and says I'm just a terrible sinner I've committed adultery I've got lust burning in my heart I'm filled with jealousy and hatred Give them grace But more than likely You'll find people saying I'm really a good person A lot of people worse than me They go about to establish their own righteousness Being ignorant of the righteousness which is of God So you must give them that life God doesn't want you to get decisions He wants people to be saved And for that they need repentance And they will not repent Because they don't know what sin is So as I said Try it out But as you do Remember this one story You're sitting on a plane You're enjoying the flight And suddenly you hear This is your captain speaking I have an announcement to make As the tail section has just fallen off this plane We're about to crash We're 25,000 feet in the air There's a parachute under your seat So we'd appreciate if you put it on Thank you for your attention And thank you for flying with this airline You put your parachute on and say Boy, am I glad to be wearing a parachute And the person next to you is

watching a movie And you say Excuse me, didn't you hear the captain?

Put the parachute on He turns to you and says I don't think the captain means it Besides, I'm quite happy as I am, thanks Well, don't turn to him You say, please Put the parachute on It'll be better than the movie It doesn't make sense If you tell him to put the parachute on Because it'll improve the flight You're telling him to put it on for a wrong motive If you want him to put it on and keep it on Tell him about the jump Excuse me If you jump without a parachute Splat! Sorry, I beg your pardon I said, if you jump without a parachute Law of gravity He says, goodness me I see what you're saying Thank you very much And as long as that man knows As long as he has knowledge To face the consequences Of breaking the law of gravity There's no way you're going to get that parachute off his back Because his very life depends on it If you look around you'll find There are multitudes of passengers enjoying the flight They're enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season You say, excuse me Did you hear the command from the cat of our salvation Put on the Lord Jesus Christ He turns to you and says I really don't think God means it I don't think God means it God is love Besides, I'm quite happy as I am, thanks Don't turn to him with zeal, without knowledge And say, please Give your heart to Jesus He'll give you peace, joy, love, fulfillment Fill the God-shaped vacuum in your heart He'll heal your marriage He'll heal your alcohol problem He'll take away your loneliness Just give your heart to Jesus No, you'll give him a wrong motive for his dedication Instead of saying, God give me courage And tell him about the jump Say, if you die without the Savior It's appointed a man once to die And after that's the judgment If you've lusted, you've committed adultery If you've hated someone, you've committed murder If you've told one lie, you're a liar If you've lied once, you're a liar In the day of wrath The fist of eternal justice will come down upon you And grind you to pieces God bless you Now, I'm not talking about hellfire preaching Hellfire preaching will produce fear-filled converts Using God's law will produce tear-filled converts This one comes merely to escape the fires of hell And because the law wasn't used to show him he deserves hell He doesn't appreciate God's mercy There's no gratitude in his heart But this one comes knowing he's sinned against heaven He's violated the law of a holy God On the day of justice God must allay all his sins as evidence of his guilt Or mighty God in his holiness Could pick him up as an unclean thing And cast him into hell But instead he's given him heaven He's commended his love toward him And what is he to say that Christ died for him?

He falls on his knees In the blood-sodden soil of Calvary's cross And cries, O God, if you do that for me, I'll do anything for you He says, I delight to do your will, O my God Your law is written upon my heart And like the man who knew he had to pass through the door And face the consequences of breaking the law of gravity Would never take the parachute off because his very life depends on it So he who comes to the Savior Knowing he has to face the holy God on the day of wrath Never forsakes the righteousness of God and Christ Because his very life depends on it Such converts become soul winners Not pew warmers Laborers Not layabouts Heirs Not liabilities From the local church Let's bear in prayer as we close Father, we pray that we'd be as the Bereans And search the Scriptures to see if these things are so And that we'd examine ourselves To see if we're in the faith And Father, if we're not Let us make our calling and election sure By crying out God to give me I'm a sinner By exercising repentance towards God And faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ In his name we pray Amen

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