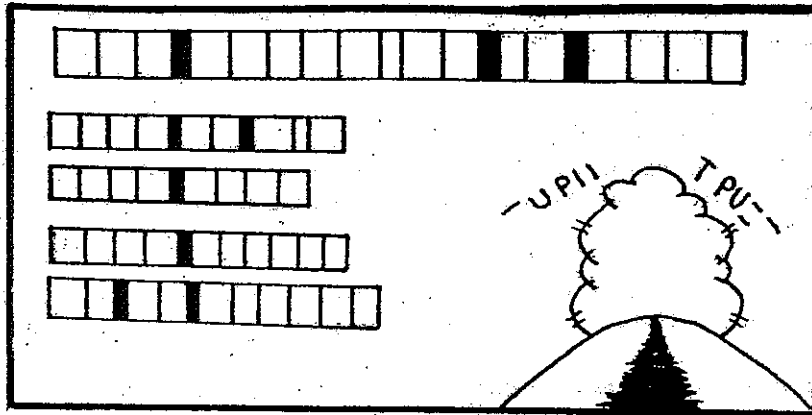


Adult Open Air Message

"The Opposite is True"

Before



Introduction:

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, my name is _____. I would like to use this sketch board to illustrate a truth in life that sometimes we overlook. If you look at the box at the top you will see that I will make yellow words with a black paintbrush (draw in "The Opposite is True"). Sometimes in life the opposite is really true isn't it? Think about this statement that I will draw up on the board...

Box 1: Play to Win. (Draw in to finish the statement)

Generally everyone knows about the Mass. Lottery, Powerball etc. I'm sure that many of you play the lottery to win the mega-bucks. When you play, you play to win, right? And that is what the lotteries slogan is: Play to Win! But we all know there are more losers than winners. That is why you walk on the sidewalk and see all those winning tickets on the ground! Statistics actually tell us you have a better chance of getting struck by lightning than winning the lottery. So, really, the opposite is really true (point to the title of the message). More people play and loose than play and win. Also...

Box 2: Rush Hour. (Draw in to finish the statement)

Everyday most of us experience thousands of people packed on a highway, beeping their horns, listening to traffic reports, and taking in that wonderful and fresh carbon mon-oxide all because of rush hour! This problem is so bad that our government has decided to do the largest highway project ever called "The Big Dig" So, really the opposite is true. Rush hour should really be called slow hour because people are rushing but are going nowhere. Here is a more personal saying in which the opposite is really true...

Box 3: Good People go to Heaven. (Draw in to finish the statement)

For most of our lives we have been told by our parents and teachers to be good. And even some of us from our religious background have been told that good people go to heaven. But if you are following the title of the message, I would like to prove to you that the opposite is really true, actually only bad people go to heaven and not good people. Let me explain...

TIME TO PREACH!

The Bad News:

Preparation for the gospel: If it is true that we have to be good enough to go to heaven, how good do you have to be? As good as your next door neighbor? Mother Teresa? Adolph Hitler? What is the standard to know how good you have to be?

A). Because we are talking about heaven, it is God who sets the standard, not us. Here is the standard that God requires of us to live by: The Ten Commandments. (hold them up) What God says is "good" is to keep all of these commandments without breaking one of them. God says we should not lie, steal, covet, commit adultery, misuse his name etc.

B). Would you consider a liar and a thief a good person? Of course not. But let me ask you a question. Have you ever lied? Stolen? Had sex before marriage? Used God's name as a curse word? Jesus said even if you have hated someone you are guilty of murder. The answer is yes and so have I. The breaking of God's laws is called sin (1 John 3:4). And all of us have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

C). Therefore the opposite is really true. Only people who confess to being bad (sinner) have a chance to be forgiven by God. Romans 3:10-12 (There are none who are good, only God)

D). Think about the words Jesus said as He stood in the temple and addressed the crowds by saying that tax collectors and harlots will enter the Kingdom of God before you (Matthew 21:28-32, Luke 15:2,19:7). Why did Jesus say this? Because thieves and the sexually immoral were willing to repent at the preaching of Jesus. Are you willing to repent today?

The Good News:

The deity of Christ and His plan of Redemption: Philippians 2:6-11, Matthew 1:21-23

Christ's sinless life: 2 Corinthians 5:21

Death and Resurrection: (Draw in cross and arrow) 1 Corinthians 15:1-6, 1 Peter 2:24

Our Response:

Repent (Draw in Turn): Luke 13:3. *Or Perish:* 2 Thess. 1:8,9 Rev. 20:11-15

Believe (Draw in Trust): John 3:16, Acts 10:43, 16:31- *forgiveness and eternal life*

After

