PREPARING AND USING YOUR TESTIMONY

"A truthful witness gives honest testimony, but a false witness tells lies." (Proverbs 12:17)

"Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." (John 4:39)

What is a testimony?

- Telling what you know, or what has happened to you
- Evidence in support of a fact or statement
- An open declaration or profession of faith

A testimony is NOT:

- Preaching a sermon or teaching bible doctrine
- A chance to boast of your messy past
- A chance to show how good you now are – "*The Pharisees challenged him, "here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid*" (John 8:13)

A helpful testimony includes:

- How you came to see your need of Christ
- How you entered into your relationship with Christ
- How the Lord has changed your life and is working in your life today OR a short statement of some practical, tangible thing God has done for you recently.

Why prepare a testimony?

God's Word tells us to say what the Lord has done for us (Psalm 107), and to "*be prepared to give a reason for the hope we have*" (1 Peter 3:15)
Preparing your testimony will help you to:

- Think through what God has done for you
- Identify relevant aspects of your experience
- Make your testimony understandable
- Avoid jargon or embarrassing statements
- Present your testimony in a clear, concise way
- Be ready to give it! – anywhere, anytime

Putting it together:
Ask the Lord to help you
Think through your experience
Follow through this simple outline:

Introduction – short, interesting
Before I came to Christ – What happened – in clear simple terms, so your hearers know what they can do
Life now with Christ – describing the change and present benefits

Now check back over what you have done

- Does it make sense?
- Did I use jargon?
- Did I include irrelevant information?
- Did I include concrete information?
- Would the hearer gain information on how to trust Jesus?
- Does it talk about me or about Christ?

TESTIMONY OUTLINE

Name:

Introduction

Before I came to Christ

How I came to Christ

Life now with Christ

Conclusion