

## *Foreword*

How should we talk to those who don't know Jesus Christ is Lord? This is the question David Gay looks at from the only proper perspective available to Christians, the biblical perspective. What is your authority, believer, for the way you speak to the unbelievers God sends your way? Too often we are led away from the biblical perspective by the ideas of men, ideas prominent in society, ideas that 'have secretly slipped in among [us]' (Jude 4); ideas, sadly, that can be heard from the pulpit or platform, or read in books written on evangelism. We should lament the unholy influence of the world on us believers, an influence so strong that we may find ourselves kowtowing to society's idols of political correctness, the necessity of not offending, and the avoidance of words like 'sin', 'death' and 'damnation'.

Where should we go to find God's tried and tested method for preaching, teaching, gossiping or texting the glorious good news of Jesus Christ – if not the New Testament? Step by step, meeting the objections of those who prefer the ideas of worldly wise-men, David Gay takes us to the Scriptures that teach us the apostolic method. Paul was not a man appointed by God to take a deceptive or incomplete gospel to his hearers. That would have been no gospel at all. Whether talking to believers or heathens, he never shirked the responsibility of telling anyone who would listen about the righteous wrath of God that awaits all who will not trust in the salvation offered by Christ. When did you last hear a believer telling unbelievers about their perilous position under the wrath of God? When did you last do that yourself?

Such talk is not unkind. On the contrary, it is cruel not to confront those who have the idea that the love of God somehow applies to all people whether they respond to Christ's call or not. The position of all that have ever lived, except Christ himself, is that we are mired in sin, and hell-

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bound but for the grace of God. That grace is to be offered to all and offered indiscriminately. But only those who repent, trust and believe in Jesus Christ will be saved. To pretend that men, women, boys and girls can sit safely and sleepily under an undemanding message that gives no offence to their cherished sinful ways is wicked. It is exactly what Satan wants. So if you want to do his wicked work then compliment unbelievers, taking the greatest care not to disturb their comfortable sleepwalk through this life. Don't confront them with the shocking news that they are racing down easy street, the way to the lake of fire. Don't give them the hard news – just a gentle rocking of their complacency, tickling their ears so that their sleep will be undisturbed until they face the tragedy of death without Christ.

But you don't want to do that – for the sake of your soul and theirs. So take the advice given in this book. It isn't David Gay's advice. It isn't even Paul's advice. In fact, it's not advice at all! It's the way God told us to speak to those who don't yet know his Son.

Steve Guest