

**WHAT IS THE GOSPEL:  
STRAIGHTFORWARD  
TALKS ON EVANGELISM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649747092

What is the gospel: straightforward talks on evangelism by Charles G. Trumbull

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**CHARLES G. TRUMBULL**

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# What is the Gospel?

STRAIGHTFORWARD TALKS  
ON EVANGELISM

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By  
CHARLES GALLAUDET TRUMBULL  
Editor of The Sunday School Times

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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TIMES CO.  
PHILADELPHIA

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## A FOREWORD

*By the General Secretary of the Evangelistic  
Committee of New York City*

HAVING learned that the laymen of Great Britain were unusually active in evangelistic endeavor, I crossed the Atlantic in 1909 to make a study of the work they were doing. To my surprise, I learned that there were less than 10,000 ordained preachers and over 50,000 unordained preachers in the non-conformist churches. I found an organization in London with about 400 members who were available for evangelistic work at the weekends, at their own charges. Some of these men were members of the House of Lords and the House of Commons. They were bankers, barristers, manufacturers, merchants, etc. I found another organization with about 750 members who were available for open-air meetings. There were similar organizations throughout England, Scotland, and Ireland.

During the voyage home I asked God to help me contribute a little at least toward encouraging lay workers in New York City to engage in aggressive evangelistic work. Realizing the truth of the old adage, "It is difficult to teach an old dog new tricks," I began with the point



## *A Foreword*

of least resistance, the Young People's Societies. We conducted Evangelistic Institutes in which the representatives of these societies were taught the evangelistic message and evangelistic methods, having on our platform some of the most eminent teachers in the East. Gradually members of men's organizations in the churches and representatives of the Y. M. C. A. participated in the institutes. As a result, during the season of 1917 over eleven hundred meetings were conducted by these volunteers, and the Gospel was preached to over 260,000 persons.

Mr. Charles Gallaudet Trumbull, Editor of *The Sunday School Times*, gave seven lectures on *The Evangelistic Message* at the Evangelistic Institute in 1918. Although the attendance at this institute was not as large as it has been in other years, which is easily accounted for by the absence of so many of the young men who are "with the colors," the interest was deeper than it has ever been. This was doubtless due to the fact that Mr. Trumbull, avoiding controversy, presented the Gospel message so clearly that the man in the street could understand it.

Interest in things vital is increasing. The spirit of lay evangelism is spreading throughout the world. Lay workers are assuming the responsibility that God gave in the great commission, "Go . . . and preach the gospel . . ." It is possible that more aggressive evangelistic work is being done for the soldiers in our army

## *On Evangelism*

than has ever been done in the history of any army in any country in the world. Women are eager to do their "bit." In many instances they are filling the gaps in church work as well as in business left by the young men who have gone into the service. They have even gone so far as to take charge of open-air meetings that formerly were led by young men. Some of them are giving the message in public.

These lectures by Mr. Trumbull make the message so clear that it is easy for lay workers to grasp it. The undersigned earnestly hopes that the lectures will have a large circulation, that they may be used as a basis for study in institutes throughout the land. Such institutes do not always need a living teacher. Frequently a text-book such as this can be used effectively. Those who desire to "be fit for more than they are filling the gaps in church work as well as in as a basis for group study, electing one of their own number as leader. Every Young People's Society in the land can increase its efficiency by mastering *The Evangelistic Message* as it is given here in "What is the Gospel?"

ARTHUR J. SMITH.

