**Line in the sand**

1. **Introduction-**
2. **The essentials of Christianity**

<https://www.sermonspice.com/sermon-illustrations/29963/essential-truth>

* Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings.**32**And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” Jn 8:31

**B, The essentials of Crossroads Community Church**

1. We believe that there is a God that loves us and wants a personal relationship with us.
2. We believe that God has given us the bible, His inspired word, to be the basis for knowing Him and His will for our lives.
3. We believe that Jesus Christ is God and became a man to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins that we might have a relationship with God if we accept Him as Lord and Savior.
4. We believe that we can have a relationship with God because of God’s grace and Christ work on the cross. The relationship is not a result of the works that we do.
5. We believe that God has uniquely designed and equipped each of us to mature and to be fruitful while helping others to come to know Christ.

“In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, In All Things Charity”

1. **Why we are doing a series on the essentials of biblical Christianity in 2020**
2. **The story of an unbiblical Christian-**
3. Unbiblical Christianity
* Jesus replied, “You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. **7**Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God. Mk 7:6
* “I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! **16**But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! **17**You say, ‘I am rich. I have everything I want. I don’t need a thing!’ And you don’t realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. Rev 3:15
1. Following false prophet-
* Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world. I Jn 4:1
1. **The story of a biblical Christian-**
2. See our need for Jesus-
* For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.**24**Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. **25**For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. Rom 3:23
1. Give control of our future to Jesus-
* My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Gal 2:20
* Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.**25**If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. Mat 16:24

**The essentials of good news of Jesus have been hidden-**

* If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing.**4**Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. II Cor 4:3
* For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.**4**They will reject the truth and chase after myths. II Tim 4:3

**Questionnaire sent to 10,000 pastors in 1980**

            8,000 pastors responded

1. Was Jesus born of a virgin?
2. Is Satan and hell real?
3. Is the bible the word of God?
4. Is Jesus the Son of God, is He divine?

**When people who consider themselves Christians and who attend church were asked about their personal beliefs:**

Have a biblical worldview           10%

Claim God is their highest priority in life  14%

Absolute moral truth exist, is defined in the bible 16%

My success in life is based on my level of obedience to God        36%

Jesus Christ sinned while He was on earth                     41%

Holy Spirit is a symbolic- not a living entity                      58%

Satan is symbol of evil, not a living/life impacting entity                59%

Most important decision ever made was asking God for forgiveness, Jesus to be savior      20%

Totally committed to investing in spiritual development    18%

My most important relationship in life is with Jesus          23%

1. **Why is knowing and following the essentials important?**
2. The truth will set us free to serve God and others-
* God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.**9**Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. **10**For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Fph 2:8
* “The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’ mat 25:23
1. We will not be deceived-
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1. **Summary and application-**
2. **Know the truth-**
* Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings.**32**And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” Jn 8:31
1. **Know the essentials-**
2. **Seek God wholeheartedly-**
* For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.**12**In those days when you pray, I will listen. **13**If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. **14**I will be found by you,” says the Lord. Jer 29:11
* If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing.**4**Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. II Cor 4:3