**Theology matters when we consider persuasion in evangelism.**

*Acts 19:8-10 (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:20)*

* What was Paul’s objective?

To **persuade** both Jews and Greeks concerning the kingdom of God.

* What was Paul’s method?

He reasoned with them over a period of months. This reasoning implies a targeted discussion.

This reasoning was directly connected to his objective to persuade them.

* What was Paul’s exhortation?

He was calling them to respond in faith to the gospel, to “confess Jesus as Lord (the king in this kingdom), to be reconciled with God.

While we do not want to practice a decisional evangelism, we must call people to believe. We must exhort them to trust in God and to confess Jesus as their Lord.

* What kind of responses did he get?

Clearly some became disciples, but many rejected the message and increasingly became hostile not only to the message but also to the messengers and to the whole “way”.

**Theology matters when we consider the work of Christ.**

*John 10:10-11*

* What does Jesus say He came to do in verse 10?
* What is the abundant life Jesus came to give? How might “abundant life” be misunderstood, and why is it important to be clear about what Jesus offers?
* How might the metaphor of a “good shepherd” help you to explain the work Jesus came to do and is still doing for His people? (If they are familiar with Psalm 23, you might relate this passage to that Psalm to help them connect to what Jesus is saying.)

* In verse 11, how does Jesus say He is going to accomplish this work?

*Romans 5:6-10*

* What does Paul say was our condition when Christ saved us (v 6, 8, 10)?
* What did Christ do for us while in this state?
* Why did He do this (v 8)?
* What did He accomplish in dying for us (v 9, 10)?
* Why is it essential that we believe in a substitutionary death?