

WHAT IS IT?

GOOD EVENING LADIES AND GENTLEMAN, and welcome to our meeting! My name is _____, and we are here with the Open Air Campaigners (or if you are out with a church team or other group, you can mention the name).

IT IS INTERESTING TO THINK that you would not be standing here unless you wanted this question answered

(Paint the title **WHAT IS IT?** up on the board). What I am going to do is define a word, and let you guess what the word is.

THE WORD THAT WE ARE TRYING TO DEFINE has something to do with targets.

(Note: If you have a personal experience in dealing with shooting at a target, this would be excellent to inject at this point).

IN ANCIENT TIMES, archers would fire at a target and sometimes miss. In such an instance, the ancient soldier might throw down his bow and mutter in disgust, "Harmartano" which means "I missed." So the word you are trying to guess means "To miss a target."

THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE we should know about this mystery word (Paint in the words **UNIVERSAL**).

AS I PAINT THIS WORD - I am not talking about a famous California tourist trap, er - I mean movie studio; but a different kind of "universal" which means something that every one has.

THE WORD HAS A DOWNSIDE to it as well (Paint in = **DEATH**).

This word we are trying to define can lead to something worse than physical death. (At this point, you may note a personal experience relating to death.) Death is a very unpleasant word. No one likes to look at someone to whom it has happened; no one wants it to happen to them, and no one wants to talk about it, even though it is a very important part of the word that we are trying to define.

HOWEVER, THE WORD does have a good side to it (paint in **MEDICINE**) as it has a cure! It is not like the cures we have in medicine, that may or may not work, but this word can have a 100% cure rate. Based on the principal of any medicine, the disease must be recognized and the cure given. But like any cure, you have to (write in the words "TAKE IT") take it!

THE CURE MOST LIKELY IS really expensive to be able to do so much. It is, but to us, it comes in the form of a gift (using black brush, paint in a ribbon and bow on the box). A true gift is given by somebody who cares (you don't pay for your own Christmas gifts do you?) and to you, even if it is very valuable it is (paint in **FREE** on the tag) Free.

SO WHAT IS THIS WORD that we are trying to define (review the points)? If the audience doesn't get it (write the words **IN** on the red block above the target) it is some thing that is in every one of us. You recognize it in others, or you would not have locked your car or house when you came down here.

THE WORD IS **ETN**... It means to miss a target. It is NOT a finger-pointing word, because all of us stand guilty. What does it all mean? Let me give you two sentences from a book called the Bible, that explains it all.

IT IS **UNIVERSAL** because the Bible tells us in Romans 3:23, that "*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*". That means all of us, not some! Not only does it mess up our world, as we can plainly see, but it keeps us away from God, heaven, and will even send us to hell. Let me give you the next sentence from Romans 6:23 in 3 parts. Part One.. "*The wages of sin is death...*", which means that sin will not only lead us to physical death but separation from God, forever, in a place called hell!

BUT GOOD NEWS FOLLOWS in Part Two.. "*BUT the Free gift of God is eternal Life*" (Paint over sin in red, and write in black

****LIFE****). If we take God's free gift, we are no longer living under a death sentence but have been set free through the One who paid for our sin .

PART THREE "*Through Jesus Christ our Lord*". Jesus Christ though He was the same as God, and was even used to create the universe (John 1:1-3) was willing to take the punishment of our sins on Himself when He died on the cross. Death could not hold Him; He rose from the dead, showing that he had the power to not only create the universe, but the power to pay for our sin as well.

SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT, but like any free gift it must be taken (recite John 1:12). Will you take His gift today? There is a promise attached to it (recite John 3:16), and there is a choice (recite John 3:36).

WHAT WILL BE YOUR CHOICE TODAY? Will you receive God's gift or will you reject it? Make sure you make the right choice.

INVITATION

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