

Why were the evangelistic efforts of Peter and Paul different?

There is much great debate surrounding the evangelistic work of Peter and Paul. Many believe that they need to follow the pattern laid out by Peter due to its supposed effectiveness while others believe that they need to follow the pattern laid out by Paul due to the difference in knowledge.

1. What was the basic message?

Acts **2:21-24; 10:36-40**

Acts **13:23-30; 17:23-32**

Peter preached that Jesus was killed and that He rose again on the third day. Paul either preached that Jesus was killed and that He rose again on the third day or he preached that there is but one God who is not made by men's hands but is the creator of the heaven and the earth and all that is in it. There is one God to whom all must give an account and by whom all will be judged. That judge is Jesus who was raised from the dead.

2. Who is the audience?

Acts **2:5-14; 10:30-35**

Acts **13:16-22; 17:16-22**

Galatians **2:7-9**

Peter's audience was exclusively among the Jewish people or people who had converted to Judaism. Paul's audience was primarily among the non-Jewish people. Paul dealt mostly with pagans who recognized a plurality of god-like beings.

3. What were the results?

Acts **2:37-41; 10:44-48**

Acts **13:42-44; 17:32**

After Peter preached to the Jewish people, the Spirit of God convicted them of their sins and they are converted. When Paul preached to the Gentile people, some believed but many wanted to hear more about this Jesus.

4. What was known or unknown by the audience?

Deuteronomy **6:4-7**

Acts **19:24-29**

The Jewish people and the converts to Judaism, Peter's audience, knew that there was but one and only one God to whom they would give an account. They knew of the reality of sin and only needed to understand that the proper sacrifice to God for the payment of sin is the sacrifice that Jesus Christ had made when He offered up Himself on the cross. The Gentiles, Paul's audience, believed in many gods who were largely disinterested in the affairs of mankind. Their only hope was to somehow please the god of their choosing and receive some sort of protection from him.

5. What did the audience need to be convinced of?

Romans **5:6-11**

John **16:7-11**

1 Corinthians **1:22-24**

Romans **14:9-12**

The Jewish people, Peter's audience, only needed to be convinced that the payment for their sins could only be paid for by Jesus, who is the Christ, the Messiah. The Gentile people, Paul's audience, needed to first be convinced that there is but one God who is angry with them because of

the greatness of their sins in order that they may understand why Jesus died and that they need to depend entirely on the person and work of Jesus Christ on the cross.