

Evangelism

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Evangelism in a nut shell is sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the lost. The winning of souls is a process which incorporates the body of Christ with each member doing his or her part. Not all are called to the office of an Evangelist but we are all called to evangelize.

Every church should have an evangelistic outreach to it's community and beyond. People that are not saved need to hear the message of God's wonderful love and realize that without Christ they are lost. Who is going to tell them? Why are we (Christians) here? Jesus said of Himself. "I come to seek and save the lost" The church must continue His work. In the maze of political correctness many churches have lost their true purpose.

The gospel (good news of Jesus Christ) is the same whether we share it door to door, street witnessing, passing out gospel tracts etc. Most cities have summer events that gives us Christians wonderful opportunities for evangelism.

An example

My home town and other communities have summer parades every year. Some of us at the church that I attend get in these parades and pass out gospel tracts to literally thousands of people. We see it as an opportunity for Jesus. Whether it be tracts, door to door, radio, TV, or the internet; the message is the same - **Jesus Christ !**

John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

Psalms 126:6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

John 4:35 Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

The great commission

The great commission to the church by our Lord Jesus Christ can be found in the following scriptures.

Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Matthew 28:19-20 **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:**

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

This is not a suggestion but indeed, a commandment.

From the above scriptures we find 2 parts to the Lord's command.

I. Preach the Gospel to the lost, baptize the believers.

II. Teach them to observe His commandments.

Get them saved by the gospel and then disciple them.

There are many churches that are diligent with part II. but have lost sight of part I.

2Corinthians 5:18-20 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

The ministry of reconciliation has been committed to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

All Christians (born again children of God) should be a part of evangelism. Let each take part as God gives the ability.

Illustration.

For an army to function and reach it's goals; it takes everyone doing their part. Some carry rifles, some deliver supplies, some cook, some drive trucks, not all have the same function but all take a part.

Not all can go out on the streets, some can pray, some can donate finances, some can pass out tracts etc. but all can be part of an evangelistic outreach in their community.

Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people perish:

The leaders in our churches must get a vision for the lost, set some evangelistic goals for their communities and get their people involved. Amen brother!

Motivation to Evangelize

I firmly believe that the motivation is love; loving God and loving people.

Matthew 22:36-40 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

37 Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.**

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

I. Loving God - first motivation

Notice what Jesus says:

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

If we love God, we will be involved in some sort of evangelism in obedience to His command found in Mark 16:15-16 and Matthew 28:19-20.

Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost and we are to continue in His ministry.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

II. Loving mankind - second motivation

Christians have God's love abiding in them, what we must do is allow it to prevail over all our personal inhibitions.

Please notice.

Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

WE must realize!

That humanity is lost and needs a Savior.

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Ephesians 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

That Jesus is the only way of salvation.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

That the Gospel is the power of God for salvation.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;

That God loves the lost sinner.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

That Salvation is a free gift.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

God doesn't want anyone to perish.

2Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

The consequences of rejecting Christ.

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

[Please read](#) Luke 16:19-31 (A man in hell)

We all know

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Our heavenly Father saw that mankind was lost and was willing to give His only begotten Son that mankind would not perish. You and I must be willing to give of ourselves and be a part in our Father's mission.

It requires sacrifices; of our time, of our finances, of our plans, etc.

Please notice

Mark 10:29-30 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Hebrews 6:10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

The Gospel to Evangelize

The Lord Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom; the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven. The gospel of evangelism or the gospel of Christ, is the good news that by accepting Jesus Christ as one's personal Savior, a person is born again and is then a citizen of the Kingdom of heaven.

Romans 1:15-17 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Ephesians 1:13-14 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Please notice

Acts 8:5-6 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.
6. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

Vs.12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Acts 8:35-37 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

36. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

37. And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

From the example of Philip we can see several things.

1. He preached Jesus - (the Gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ)

Romans 10:14-15 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

15. And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

2. They heard

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

People preach in far away places so that people can hear the Gospel and have faith in Jesus Christ (entrust ones salvation to Jesus Christ and the work of his cross and not self effort.)

3. They believed

Romans 10:8-10 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

9. That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Notice: the Eunuch confessed out loud to Philip

Acts 8:36-37 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

37. And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

4. Then they were baptized

Acts 8:38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

Peters example:

Please read Acts 2:1-41

Vs.14-36 Peter preaches to the crowd about Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:37. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Pierced to the heart - their conscience The Holy Spirit convicted them
Peter's Answer

Acts 2:38, 41 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Vs. 41. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

They repented of their sin of rejecting Christ - (they turned from)

* Repentance in this case was a sorrow for their sin, that led to repentance

They received his word (the Gospel) - (they turned to Christ)

From these verses we find that The message of Jesus Christ was preached to the lost. This message was about the death, burial and resurrection the the Lord Jesus Christ. That if a person would believe in their heart and confess Jesus with their mouth they would be saved.

Once a person accepted Jesus as their personal Savior they were then baptized as the Lord instructed in Mark 16:15-16. This is the biblical pattern of the lost being saved; found in the book of Acts.

The Gospel of Christ is

Incorruptible seed

1Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

The power of God

Romans 1:15-17 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

The Gospel has brought life and immortality to light

2Timothy 1:9-10 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

The Power to evangelize

Please notice the words of our Lord

Acts 1:8 **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

Luke 24:49 **And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.**

Evangelizing the lost will never be accomplished by man's personal abilities, talents, wisdom, or programs.

Peter was a complete failure in following and serving Christ by his own strength, until the day of Pentecost. Upon receiving the Holy Spirit, he became a totally different person.

Throughout the scriptures God's plan was always fulfilled by the Holy Spirit empowering and working through people.