

Evangelism

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2 Tim. 4:5

Evangelism comes from a Greek word that means to “herald.”

2 Tim. 4:5, “*But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.*”

It means to tell the good news about Jesus death, burial and resurrection.

Evangelism is the heart of Christian activity.

Let us study this vital subject today.

It is urgent.

Souls that do not hear and obey the gospel will not be saved.

2 Thess. 1:7-9, “*And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;*”

The receptacle for lost souls is horrible.

Luke 16:19-31, “*There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father’s house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said*

unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.”

Place of torment (pain, weeping, and gnashing of teeth).

Place of darkness.

Place of remembering.

It is eternal. Matt. 25:46, *“And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”*

Every minute souls are dying — do we feel for them? Jesus saw the urgency of saving sinners. He died for them.

Paul felt the urgency. Col. 1:28, *“Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.”*

Souls that do not bring the message will be lost also.

Ezek. 3:16-20, *“And it came to pass at the end of seven days, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand.”*

James 4:17, *“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”*

Thus, evangelism saves the sinner and the messenger.

Evangelism is commanded.

Jesus' purpose in coming and dying was to save sinners.

1 Tim. 1:15, *“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”*

All God's saved are commanded to preach and teach.

Mark 16:15-16, *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”*

Paul understood the gospel to be the gospel of reconciliation (sinners reconciled to God).

2 Cor. 5:18-19, *“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 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.”*

Example: early church took the command seriously (Acts 8:4).

Evangelism makes us co-laborers with God.

2 Cor. 6:1, *“We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.”*

He uses us to spread His gospel.

2 Cor. 4:7, *“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”*

It is a great honor to work with God in this great effort.

Do you feel good in working with God? Do you ever think about it?

It should be something that we enjoy doing constantly.

Evangelism operates on the law of reaping and sowing.

Gal. 6:7, *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”*

Word is the seed.

Luke 8:11, *“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.”*

Seed must be sown for there to be a harvest.

Examples for Acts:

3,000 added. Acts 2:41, *“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”*

5,000. Acts 4:4, *“Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.”*

Multitudes. Acts 5:14, *“And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.”*

Unless we evangelize (teach the word to the lost), many will die that we could have helped.

Conclusion

We see the importance of evangelizing. Do we feel the urgency?

Success depends upon evangelism being a high priority with us.

