

## EVERYWHERE EVANGELISM

### Acts 8:4

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. Most of us are familiar with the significance of the second chapter of Acts as it records the beginning of Christianity.
2. In the next several chapters, the apostles faced great dangers as they proclaimed the message of the cross. (Acts 5.40-42)
3. Through everywhere evangelism, in a relatively short period of time, the gospel had been preached to every creature. (Col. 1.6)

#### I. EVERYWHERE EVANGELISM CAUSES GROWTH

- A. The disciples of Christ practiced everywhere evangelism despite the opposition that surrounded them. (Acts 8.1-4)
  1. The apostles were not the only ones “*preaching everywhere*”, but all the disciples. (Acts 8.4)
  2. The disciples were not concerned about political correctness. (Matt. 15.12-14; Acts 7.51-53)
- B. Everywhere evangelism resulted in thousands of baptisms.
  1. From the day of Pentecost throughout the book of Acts, direct preaching caused growth. (Acts 2.38; 4.4; 16.5)
  2. The church grew even in the face of competing religious beliefs and commitments. (Acts 17.22,23,34; 19.27,28)
  3. Everywhere evangelism worked everywhere it was tried!

#### II. THEY HAD THE FAITH TO MOVE MOUNTAINS

- A. **MATTHEW 17.20:** “*if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there, '...'*”
  1. Faith based on the word with the confidence that they could accomplish what God had them do. (Phil. 4.13)
  2. They had faith in the Sonship of Christ and in His resurrection. (1 Tim. 4.10; 1 Cor. 15.29-32; Acts 21.13)
- B. Do we have the kind of faith in gospel to move mountains?
  1. The Lord’s church grew through most of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, but has recently diminished in numbers.
  2. There has been a shift in mindset in our politically correct atmosphere. (John 8.44; Acts 7.54; 2 Tim. 2.25)
  3. Christians today are not convinced that the world is lost without the gospel. (James 2.18)

**CONCLUSION:** Labor always comes before the reward. (v. 6)

## NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. ♦ North Las Vegas, NV ♦ 89030  
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: [Pruitt@nlvchurchofchrist.com](mailto:Pruitt@nlvchurchofchrist.com)  
[www.nlvchurchofchrist.com](http://www.nlvchurchofchrist.com)

#### MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS :	9:00AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP:	9:50AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP:	6:00PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS	7:30PM

*Worshipping  
God “in Spirit  
and truth”  
(John 4.23)*

NOVEMBER 22ND, 2009

#### “IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS”

During this time of economic uncertainty it is easy to feel depressed and discouraged. With the high unemployment rate many have lost their jobs and finding it difficult to replace their income. Thousands of dollars have been lost with the stock market crash a few years ago causing some to lose their retirement. But there is always reason to be thankful.

Paul suffered the loss of all things. If he was not afraid to lose his life due to starvation, he would have by the constant attempts to take his life by stoning and beatings. Yet even in great despair Paul encouraged the brethren in Thessalonica “*in everything give thanks*” (1 Thes. 5.18).

The blessing found in Christ are more abundant than anyone can measure (Eph. 1.3; Ps. 23.5). Paul could lose his home, his clothing, even his own family, but the blessings of Christ were of more value than anything else he possessed. It was his relationship with God and the hope of eternal life that led him to say that “*we are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed*” (2 Cor. 4.8,9).

The next time you feel in deep despair, lonely, and discouraged, take time to count your blessings. For they number more than you realize and you have more reason to rejoice than you think. Then take a moment to give thanks to God for everything. For all blessings flow from Him (James 1.17).

CLP

## THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

### 1 CORINTHIANS 9:16

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. Paul took seriously His responsibility to preach the gospel, and could not fathom not being active in his evangelistic efforts.
2. Gospel: [euaggelion] “good news”. The message by which one is free from sin encompasses the entire New Testament.
3. There is only one gospel by which man must be saved. Yet this gospel can be perverted. (Gal. 1.6,7)

#### I. THE FACTS OF THE GOSPEL (1 CORINTHIANS 15.1-4)

##### A. 1 CORINTHIANS 15.4: “Christ died for our sins...”

1. The death of Christ was necessary to offer remission of sins to man. (Heb. 9.16-22; John 12.23,24; 1 John 1.7)
2. Through death, Christ, defeated Satan. (Heb. 2.14,15)

##### B. 1 CORINTHIANS 15.4: “...and that He was buried...”

1. The burial of Christ was not to be among the wicked, but among the rich. (Isa. 53.9; Matt. 27.57-60)
2. Yet, His body did not see corruption. (Acts 2.26,27)

##### C. 1 CORINTHIANS 15.4: “...and that He rose again...”

1. What if Christ did not rise? (1 Cor. 15.17-19)
2. The risen Christ gives hope. (Rom. 6.8,9; 1 Cor. 15.22)

#### II. THE COMMANDS OF THE GOSPEL (ROMANS 6.16,17)

- A. The gospel is not only about the good news, but what we must do to access His grace. (Rom. 10.16; 1 Pet. 1.22)
- B. What are the commands of the gospel?
  1. Belief and confession of faith is a necessary part of our response to the gospel. (Rom. 10.8-17)
  2. Repentance and baptism are prerequisites for entering into Christ. (Acts 3.19; 1 Pet. 1.22-25; Acts 8.35,36)

#### III. THE PROMISES OF THE GOSPEL (EPHESIANS 3.6)

- A. The promises extended to those who obey the gospel are numerous and varied. (Eph. 6.15; Col. 1.23; 2 Pet. 1.4)
- B. However, the greatest of the promises is eternal life.
  1. **1 JOHN 2.25:** “And this is the promise that He has promised us – eternal life” (cf. 1 John 5.11-13)
  2. Who has the promise of life? (2 Thes. 1.8)

**CONCLUSION:** The gospel is not meant for the few, but for all.

## BEING THANKFUL FOR FAMILY

Of the many attributes that are worthy of expounding upon, we cannot overlook Paul’s appreciation for his family. We do not read much about his physical family, but Paul often wrote about how much he cared about his spiritual family, the church. (cf. Eph. 3.15). To the Philippian brethren he wrote, “*I thank my God upon every remembrance of you*” (Phil. 1.4).

Paul had a close relationship with those who were of like precious faith. Though some had abandoned him, he cared deeply and valued the help and support that brethren provided. He speaks well of help offered by Onesiphorus who visited him in prison. He did not help Paul once and then feel satisfied to have done his duty. He repeatedly helped him of which Paul writes that “*he often refreshed me*” (2 Tim. 1.15-18).

Through his epistles, Paul frequently expressed his affection to the brethren. To the Philippians Paul wrote that “*how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ*” (Phil. 1.8). And even though his affection was not reciprocated, Paul expressed his love to the Corinthians saying that he would “*gladly spend and be spent for your souls, though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved*” (2 Cor. 12.15).

It may be argued that no one was closer to Paul than Timothy. Paul looked upon Timothy with great affection as a son (1 Tim. 1.2; 2 Tim. 1.2). There was no one Paul mentions who shared so much in common. There was no one who was as concerned for the welfare of the brethren. So much so, that Paul described Timothy by stating that “*I have no one like-minded who will sincerely care for your state*” (Phil. 2.19).

This time of year always makes us think about family and be appreciative of our loved ones. But let us never forget the spiritual family and be ever thankful for the affection, support, encouragement, and commonality that we have with our spiritual brethren. For it is our brethren who lift us up when we are down (1 Thes. 5.14). It is our brethren who stir us up toward love and good works (Heb. 10.24). It is our brethren who strengthen us and protect us from the deceitfulness of sin (Heb. 3.13). And through our love for one another, we ought always to do our best to value our relationships.

As we are counting our blessings and being thankful for God’s bounty, let us be sure to include our spiritual family. CLP