

REACHING HEARTS AND CHANGING LIVES FOR CHRIST

LESSON ONE: MOTIVATION

INTRODUCTION:

1. The responsibility of personal evangelism is a necessary and essential part of every Christian.
 - a) **PROVERBS 11.30:** *“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise.”* Most Christians understand the need to spread the gospel.
 - b) What does it mean to evangelize? (John 1.35-37,40-42; 1 Pet. 3.1,2; Mark 16.16)
 - c) Why do we not share the gospel? Lack of interest, lack of concern, fear, don't know how.
2. The purpose of this series of classes is not to emphasize our responsibilities, but to help us to know how to reach the hearts of our friends and neighbors.
3. Five Lessons:
 - a) Motivation: Why are we hesitant to share the gospel? What can motivate us?
 - b) Message: What is the message we need to be sharing with the world?
 - c) Manner: How do you approach someone with the gospel?
 - d) Method: What is the specific way to teach someone the gospel?
 - e) Model: An example of conducting a Bible study.

I. ARE PEOPLE INTERESTED IN THE GOSPEL?

- A. Consider some alarming statistics.
 1. Over the last 20 years, there have been an average of 65 congregations of the Lord's church closing its doors and an average of 7,604 members lost.
 2. Why? Aging congregations, people losing interest, the gospel is not shared.
- B. What is your experience in talking to others about the gospel?
 1. In our experience, sharing the gospel is ineffective. (1 Pet. 3.1,2,15; Acts 8.30,31)
 2. In all of human history, we are constantly shown that most people will reject truth.
 - a) **2 PETER 2.5:** *“Noah...a preacher of righteousness”* (1 Pet. 3.20)
 - b) **EZEKIEL 3.11:** *“whether they hear, or whether they refuse.”*
 - c) **MATTHEW 7.13,14:** *“wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.”*
 3. We need to restore our confidence and faith in the effectiveness of the gospel.

II. THE GOSPEL IS GOD'S POWER TO SAVE

- A. **ROMANS 1.16:** *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”*
 1. Power (dunamis): Literally, “ability.” The gospel is God's ability to save.
 2. *“for everyone who believes.”* (Rom. 10.14-17)
- B. Though a far majority of people will reject the gospel, there are still many who are looking for the truth. We cannot deny them a chance to be saved.
 1. Even today, there are those who *“wish to see Jesus”* (John 12.21)
 2. Many still desire to hear the word of God. (Acts 13.42-44,48)
- C. **2 CORINTHIANS 4.13:** *“And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak.”*
 1. Quoted from Psalm 116, David prayed to God for deliverance trusting that God would hear and answer him. (Ps. 116.8-11)
 2. In context, Paul was suffering. Yet he still preached the gospel. (2 Cor. 4.7-12)
 3. To be motivated to share the gospel, we must believe fully in it. (2 Cor. 4.14)