

ARE YOU REACHING THE LOST
MARK 16:15,16

INTRODUCTION:

1. We are monotheists who believe that there is only one God, as the Bible teaches. (Deut. 6.4; Eph. 4.6).
2. The atheist believes in that which is easily disproved. (Rom. 1.20; Ps. 19.1).
3. How much do you have to hate someone to not share with them the good news of Jesus Christ?

I. WHY WE DO NOT EVANGELIZE

- A. The world has a misconception of the church.
 1. The Bible describes the church as a single universal body of saved people. (Matt. 16.18; Acts 2.47)
 2. We fail to evangelize because it puts us in a conflict of my church versus your church. (1 Pet. 2.9,10)
- B. Condemnation is unpopular.
 1. The world wants to hear *“Well done, good and faithful servant”*, even if it is a false hope. (Matt. 25.21)
 2. We fail to evangelize because we do not feel comfortable warning others of condemnation. (Matt. 7.23)
- C. The world does not accept the conditions of salvation
 1. The biblical concept of salvation is rejected by most. (1 Tim. 1.16; 2 Cor. 7.10; Rom. 10.10; Acts 2.38)
 2. We fail to evangelize because the biblical concept of salvation puts us in conflict with others.

II. HELPFUL HINTS TO PERSONAL EVANGELISM

- A. Start by telling others about Christ. (Acts 3.11-18)
 1. At Solomon’s porch, Peter has the attention of the people because of the lame man who was healed. (v. 11,12)
 2. Addressing the people, Peter began by presenting Jesus to the audience. (vs. 13-18)
- B. Then discuss the steps of salvation. (Acts 3.19)
 1. These were religious people with different beliefs to whom Peter said, *“Repent and be converted”* (v. 19)
 2. Keep the plan of salvation simple. (2 Cor. 11.13)
- C. Address the problem of sin. (Acts 3.24-26)

CONCLUSION: *“Go into all the world and preach...”* (Mark 16.15).

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

July 11, 2021

MEETING TIMES:

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

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).

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).

We must never forget our 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 Thess. 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. CLP

THE COST OF FREEDOM

1 PETER 1:18,19

INTRODUCTION:

1. Because of the redemptive work of Jesus, we enjoy spiritual freedom through His shed blood. (Luke 4.18,19; Gal. 4.26)
2. From what have we been made free?
 - a) We are free from sin. (John 8.32,34-36; Rom. 6.16)
 - b) We are free from condemnation. (Rom. 8.2; Heb. 2.14,15)
 - c) We are free from meritorious works. (Gal. 5.1)
3. What was the cost of our freedom?

I. THE PRICE

- A. **1 PETER 1.18:** *“knowing that you were not redeemed...”*
 1. Redeem: to purchase one’s freedom. (cf. Ps. 49.8)
 2. **1 PETER 1.18:** *“aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers”* Bad behavior learned from others.
 3. **1 PETER 1.19:** *“but with the precious blood of Christ”*
- B. **HEBREWS 9.22:** *“without the shedding of blood there is no remission”* In context, the Day of Atonement (Heb. 9.9)
 1. Remission: Literally, “to send away.” Carries the idea of being made free.
 2. At Golgotha, the blood that came from the body of Jesus was the purchase price for our freedom. (John 19.34)

II. THE PURPOSE

- A. **JOHN 12.27:** *“But now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour?’”*
 1. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed for the Father to save Him. (John 12.27; Heb. 5.7)
 2. **JOHN 12.27:** *“But for this purpose I have come.”* Jesus paid the price because He cares for us. (Matt. 26.53)
- B. **JOHN 10.18:** *“No one takes it from Me, but I lay down it down of Myself.”*
 1. Jesus is the Shepherd who cares. (John 10.11,13)
 2. **JOHN 10.18:** *“I have the power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it up again.”* Lit. “authority”
 3. Power: Literally, authority. (cf. John 19.10,11)
 3. **JOHN 10.18:** *“This command I have received from My Father.”* Jesus paid the price in obedience to God.

CONCLUSION: We are free because of love. (1 John 3.16,17)

A MIND TO WORK

In our society, we see a great divide. There are those who are diligently seeking to work. Faithful Christians offer petitions to God for the opportunity to find gainful employment, so they can provide for their families. In contrast, others seem to do everything they can to not have to work. They are perfectly content letting others do the work to support their slothful way of life.

Not everyone who is being helped by the government is lazy. There are a lot of good, hard-working people who just need some extra help to get back on their feet. There are also some who have no desire to work but see the government as owing them the luxuries of life. It seems to be more and more common to hear some say, “I deserve to be taken care of by the government.”

This is not an article about government aid, but about work ethic that we see so often in spiritual matters within the church. We sing the song, “there is much to do, there’s work on every hand”. The Bible tells us that if we want to be pleasing to God, we need to be *“fruitful in every good work.”* (Col. 1.10). The Bible also tells us that God wants to have a people who are *“zealous for good works”* (Titus 2.14). We are also told that *“those who believed in God should be careful to maintain good works”* (Titus 3.8).

Unfortunately, there is a great divide in the Lord’s church. There are those who work, and there are those who let them work. There are some who are active in reaching out to the lost, encouraging and strengthening weak brethren, comforting the downcast, spending time with their heads in the Bible, serving in the worship service. Then there are some who lazily plug along not working at all, but who do nothing more than occupy a pew a few times a week.

It all begins in the way we think. When the temple and the walls of Jerusalem needed to be rebuilt, the people voluntarily and eagerly got to work. They made great progress in spite of much adversity from those who plotted against them to thwart their efforts. Why were they so successful? **NEHEMIAH 4.6:** *“the people had a mind to work”*. We need to have a mindset that says, *“Here am I! Send me”* (Isa. 6.8).

There is work for every one of us to do. Every one of us needs to step up and do our part. When we do, watch the church grow (Eph. 4.16). CLP