

WHY WE DO NOT EVANGELIZE

Jesus has implemented a specific method of bringing salvation to the world. He could have chosen to implant the knowledge of salvation in the minds of humanity. Instead, He chose to communicate the good news through the teaching and preaching of those who have already been saved. However, many are not fulfilling the great commission and making disciples of all nations.

One of the reasons why we do not evangelize is because of a misunderstanding of church. Because we do not know how to correctly answer them, we find it more comfortable to just not say anything. Another reason lies in the fact that do not feel comfortable telling people about the negative consequences of sin. Jesus tells us to preach the gospel. He then says that *“He who believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned”* (Mark 16.16). Jesus also tells us that there are two paths. One path leads to eternal life. Another path leads to destruction (Matt. 7.13,14).

People want to believe that they are going to heaven. Attend any funeral of anyone. It does not matter if they are a member of the Lord’s church, a member of a denomination, or not religious at all. They are eulogized as if they are now in a place of comfort. Everyone wants to believe that heaven is in their future. Nobody wants to believe that they are on the path that leads to destruction. Because of that, we are uncomfortable bringing up the fact that someone is lost.

We cannot show someone how to be saved without also showing them that they are lost. We cannot help someone travel the road to eternal life without teaching them that they are currently on the path to eternal destruction. It wasn’t until the Jews knew they were condemned that they cried out, *“men and brethren, what shall we do?”* (Acts 2.36). Therefore, we do not evangelize, because it is difficult to show someone that they are lost.

We need to remember that everything we do is to be out of love. Paul tells a hesitant and apprehensive Timothy that *“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind”* (2 Tim. 1.7). It is love that drives us to help the lost. But to help them, they need to know that they are lost.

There is no greater gift than forgiveness. There is no better mission than to offer that gift to the world. CLP

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

May 7 2023

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

JESUS PAID FOR OUR MISTAKES

Personal responsibility is very unpopular in our culture. Everyone wants to blame someone else for their own mistakes. It isn’t a new phenomenon. The tendency of casting off blame has existed since the beginning of time when Adam blamed his wife, and his wife blamed the serpent (Gen. 3.12,13).

God places the blame for our mistakes squarely on our shoulders. I cannot blame the way I was raised, peer pressure, or ignorance. My sins are my fault. The day is coming when I will pay for the mistakes I have made (2 Cor. 5.10).

Two thousand years ago, Jesus suffered in ways that were inhumane. His flesh was turned into hamburger. Flies would burrow into his open wounds, but He would be unable to bat them away because His hands and feet were stapled to the cross. By His suffering and death, Jesus paid the price for our mistakes (Matt. 20.28). Centuries before Jesus paid our ransom, Isaiah predicted that day by writing, *“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities”* (Isa. 53.5).

We do not deserve to be saved. We should pay the penalty for our own sins. Yet Jesus paid for our mistakes. The Bible calls that grace (Eph. 2.8). We access that grace when we have a faith that moves us to obey the commands of the gospel (Rom. 5.1).

EVANGELISM FAQ'S

2 TIMOTHY 4:2

INTRODUCTION:

1. Christians have a powerful message of hope that can change destinies when shared. Are you evangelizing?
2. Evangelism inherently carries with it questions that demand answers in reference to its mandate and method.

I. IS EVANGELISM A COMMAND?

- A. **MATTHEW 28.19:** *“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.”* The phrase, *“make disciples”* is an imperative.
- B. **MARK 16.15:** *“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”* The word *“preach”* is an imperative.
- C. **LUKE 24.46,47:** *“Thus it was necessary... that repentance and remission of sins should be preached”*

II. IS THE GREAT COMMISSION APPLICABLE TODAY?

- A. In the context in which the great commission is given, Jesus was addressing His apostles.
 1. **MATTHEW 28.16:** *“Then the eleven disciples...”*
 2. **MARK 16.14:** *“Later He appeared to the eleven”*
 3. **LUKE 24.33:** *“and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together”* (cf. Acts 1.15)
- B. The book of Acts is replete with examples of individuals who were not apostles fulfilling the great commission.
 1. **ACTS 6.8:** *“Stephen, full of faith and power”*
 2. **ACTS 8.4,5:** *“Philip...preached Christ to them.”*

III. ARE YOU FAITHFUL IF NOT EVANGELIZING?

- A. Consider the idea of being faithful and sound.
 1. The word *“sound”* means *“healthy”* and is used in four different ways. (2 Tim. 1.7; Titus 1.9,14; 2.8)
 2. We cannot apply our own definitions to faithfulness.
- B. To answer the question: No, you are not faithful.
 1. Many are evangelizing without realizing it, and therefore are still faithful. (1 Pet. 3.1; Phil. 2.14,15; Matt. 5.13-16)
 2. Failing to convert people to Christ does not indicate unfaithfulness if you are making an effort. (Acts 17.23)

CONCLUSION: Preaching the gospel is the method God chose to communicate and save the lost.

WHY WE DO NOT EVANGELIZE

How much do you have to hate someone to not share with them the gospel? If you truly believe what the Bible says about eternal destinies how can we not tell people about Jesus? If we truly believe that Jesus is the only way to change directions and be set on a path to forgiveness (Acts 4.12), then why are we not helping people turn to God? Consider some reasons why we might not be more actively engaged in personal evangelism.

We may not be sharing the good news of Jesus because the religious world does not fully understand the concept of the church. In Matthew 16.18, Jesus promised to build His church. He did not promise to build multiple churches. In Acts 2, people responded to the gospel by repenting and being baptized (Acts 2.38). When they did, *“the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved”* (Acts 2.47). The Bible clearly teaches us that people are added to the church when they are saved.

To which church are the saved added? The way that many brethren talk about the church is in terms of competition. It is *“my church”* in competition to *“their church.”* When we talk to others about salvation using those kinds of terms, we leave the impression that we are just one of many churches. Therefore, when tell someone that they must be a member of *“our church”* to be saved, they interpret it as *“you think your church is better than our church.”* Because there is so much misconception concerning the Lord’s church, we don’t know how to respond to those who see it as a competition. As a result, we just don’t say anything.

We need to remember to communicate the church concept accurately. It is not *“my church.”* It is not one church in competition to another church. We know that, but the way we communicate, we leave the impression that this is the way we see it. Instead, we need to help the religious world understand that the church is made up of those who have received the mercy of God (1 Pet. 2.9,10). If you have been forgiven through Jesus, then you are among the people of God. That’s the church. We can then take them through the Bible and show them what is required of us to receive God’s mercy. We will find passages that connect forgiveness with faith (Acts 10.43), repentance (Acts 3.19), confession (Rom. 10.9,10), and baptism (1 Pet. 3.21).

It is when an individual does what Bible says in order to be saved, they are not added to a denomination. They are added to the Lord’s church. If we can master this concept and help people understand how to identify the true people of God, it may give us more confidence to share the gospel with the lost. CLP