

Why Evangelism?

When a person has a passion for the “lost” and is doing something about it, then it is unlikely there is much wrong with that person spiritually.

Nothing is more corrective to our spiritual defects than a renewal of our concern for those who do not yet know Jesus Christ as their personal saviour.

If God isn't real to us, or we haven't lately felt His presence in our lives, it may be that the way forward is to become an active witness for the gospel message.

2 Corinthians 5:17-20 [NIV] *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.”*

The reason that God the Father sent His Son Jesus the Christ to the earth to die for us is to reconcile the world, **NOT** just us whom He has called at this time.

When we are involved in evangelism we are “tuned into” the most important thing that has ever happened in the history of humanity, and is constantly on God's mind.

It is sad, but true, that we can be experts on the doctrine of the Atonement, but be failures in pointing men and women to their Saviour Jesus Christ.

We can be perfectly orthodox yet perfectly useless as far as our calling is concerned.

When we “stick our necks out” as far as evangelism is concerned we get God's total attention.

Isaiah tells of a group of devout people who were seeking God's attention but failed to get it.

Isaiah 58:2 [NIV] *“For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them.”*

Obedient to God, fasted, yet God did not answer.

Isaiah 58:3-5 [NIV] *“‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?’ ‘Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarrelling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. **Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for a man to humble himself? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying on sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?’**”*

Diligent and very humble in their fasting and a great outward show of humility.

But all of this was for the personal needs of the person fasting.

What kind of fast did get God's attention?

Fasting is likened to giving up our lives for some cause.

What should we be giving up our lives for? [**Romans 12:1**]

Isaiah 58:6-7 [NIV] *“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter, when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?”*

God will be behind all we seek to do, He will be there answering our prayers.

We will be the light that God called us to become.

God will also satisfy all **our** needs.

How then do we get God’s attention today?

If we all get involved in what “*tunes in*” to the reason God sent His Son to die on the cross, we will then have God’s full attention.

We need to realise that those whom we are try to bring to Jesus Christ are helplessly locked into sin, and need a Saviour.

Our approach to these lost people needs to be an even balance of God’s Word and personal zeal and compassion for the lost.

Very often people who are theologically sound in God’s Word have little “*burden*” for the lost.

Also often people who have a great zeal for the lost have a poor understanding of God’s Word.

God is love but He is also sovereign over all He has created and sustains.

Without basic knowledge of this concept and an ability to show it from God’s Word, we will **not** know how to lead a person to Christ.

Nor will we be able to help this person mature and then lead others to Christ.

We all have to ask ourselves the questions

Have I led anyone to Christ lately?

Do I know how to do this personally?

Could I point that person to repentance and salvation from God’s Word?

If we don’t go into the world to seek those who are “lost” God will set us aside and call another group of people to do this, His work, of bringing reconciliation and salvation to this lost world.

Revelation 2:1-3 [NIV] *“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands: I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.”*

A group of people we can all relate to but notice what was lacking.

Revelation 2:4-5 [NIV] *“Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.”*

Remember our “*first love*” how we all tried to convert all our friends and relatives.

Notice the fearful warning, the removal of our place in the churches of God.

Revelation 2:7 [NIV] *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”*

We will be well rewarded if we respond to what the Holy Spirit is saying to us today.

God has done this in the past.

There would never have been a Salvation Army if Methodism had been what it should have been.

There would never have been Methodism if the Puritans had been what they should have been.

But the Puritans became so cold, self-centred and so locked into predestination that God raised up a John Wesley.

If we are not what we should be God will just put us aside and raise up another church to do His Work.

John 6:44 [NIV] *“No-one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

God in His Sovereignty chooses who and when He will call people, but He uses His children to be instruments in His hands to bring the people to Him.

If God sees we are zealous to bring the “*lost*” to Him, He will bring us in contact with those He has chosen to call at this time.

Ephesians 1:4-6 [NIV] *“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will, to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.”*

Romans 8:29-30 [NIV] *“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.”*

Both these scripture are true, the initiative and choice when people are called is always with the Sovereign God.

But with these we have to also read:-

Matthew 28:18-20 [NIV] *“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

2 Corinthians 5:17-20 [NIV] *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore*

Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."

Let us follow Jesus Christ when He said and lived out these words in His life.

Luke 2:49 [King James] *"And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"*

Christ's business is our family business.

Luke 8:21 [King James] *"And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it."*

The work of evangelism is our family business as Christ's brethren and God the Father's created children.

John 9:4 [NIV] *"As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no-one can work."*

John 4:34-38 [NIV] *"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour."*

Only then will we also be able to say at the end of our physical life the same as our Saviour did.

John 17:4 [NIV] *"I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do."*