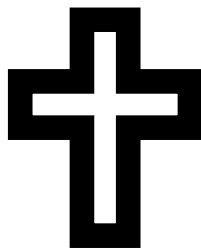


Twelve Lessons
on
Personal Evangelism

Compiled & Written

by

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PERSONAL EVANGELISM DEFINED & DEMANDED – LESSON 1

Introduction: The content of our message as believers is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We must understand the definition of the Gospel before we can apply the principles of personal evangelism. Webster defines the Gospel as “the teachings of Christ and his disciples.” These “teachings” consist of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. The word Gospel means “good news”. The “good news” is that Christ came “to seek and to save that which was lost.” The Gospel is the most important message of the Bible. In fact, it is the primary message.

1. The Gospel addresses man’s need of salvation.
2. The Gospel applies to every man, because all men are sinners.
3. The Gospel answers man’s questions concerning the uncertainty of life and death.
4. The Gospel attains man’s redemption.

The objective of this study on Personal Evangelism is to acquaint the student with the all inclusive purpose of Scripture. The revelation of God through Scripture is solely for the salvation of depraved humanity.

Redemption is the theme of the Bible. It is the eternal plan of God for mankind. Understanding that redemption is the heartbeat of God, the individual believer should embrace the same. This study will equip the believer with the information necessary to become a proficient soul-winner.

Lesson Goals:

1. Understand the concept of personal evangelism from a biblical standpoint.
2. Recognize our responsibility to personally take the gospel to the unsaved.

Definitions of Important Terms/Phrases:

1. Evangelist – A “publisher of glad tidings;” a missionary preacher of the gospel (Eph 4:11). This title is applied to Philip (Acts 21:8), who appears to have gone from city to city preaching the word (Acts 8:4, 40). Judging from the case of Philip, evangelists had neither the authority of an apostle, nor the gift of prophecy, nor the responsibility of pastoral supervision over a portion of the flock. They were itinerant preachers, having it as their special function to carry the gospel to places where it was previously unknown.
2. Evangelism – Evangelism is derived from the Greek word *euaggelion*, meaning “gospel” or “good news.” The verbal forms of *euaggelizesthai*, meaning “to bring” or “to announce good news” occur some fifty-five times (Acts 8:4, 25, 35; 11:20) and are normally translated with the appropriate form of the word “preach.” Evangelism has to do with the proclamation of the message of good news.

I. PERSONAL EVANGELISM DEFINED

A. Specific Definition

1. In the body of Christ, God has granted a great diversity of gifts to enable the church to promote the Gospel. Every Christian is given a specific gift or gifts to help in the ministry of the local church. Although believers are not endowed with every gift, there is one responsibility shared by all. This responsibility is Personal Evangelism.
2. Personal evangelism may be defined as follows: “The promulgation (declaration or publication) of the Gospel of Christ by an individual acting independently which results in the sinner’s repentance of sins and the acceptance of Christ as Saviour.” This action is commonly referred to as “soul-winning”.
3. Soul-winning is not the following. Often people do these things to soothe their conscience.
 - a. Influencing people to become a member of the local church
 - b. Baptism, or other religious activities
 - c. Educating people on the Bible, getting people to turn over a new leaf, or moral reformation
 - d. Giving out tracts, inviting to church, or “visiting”
4. Billy Sunday defined soul-winning as “a definite effort to lead a definite person to accept a definite Saviour at a definite time.”
5. Christianity should not be considered as a religion in the traditional sense. Christianity is not a religion. Religion may be defined as man looking for God. Christianity is man sharing God with man.

B. Biblical Definition

1. Proverbs 11:30 – “*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.*” This verse teaches two aspects of soul-winning. It is wise to win souls and it takes wisdom to win souls. The wisdom needed to win souls comes from the Word of God, the source of wisdom, and not man’s wisdom.
2. Psalms 126:5-6 – “*They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.*” Soul-winning

requires a burden for those who are lost. Success is based largely upon tears.

3. Mark 16:15 – “...Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.” This verse reveals the magnitude of the task and responsibility.
4. Acts 2:46-47 – “And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”
Acts 20:20, 31 – “And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” These verses describe the manner in which we are to witness. It is personal and from “house to house”.
5. John 1:40-41 – “One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.”
John 1:43,45 – “The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” These verses teach the personal witness of the believer.

II. PERSONAL EVANGELISM DEMANDED

A. By Order from Christ

1. The order of Christ for personal evangelism was given on five different occasions. It is important to note that each time the Lord Jesus Christ spoke after His resurrection and before His ascension, He focused on the importance of His followers to evangelize the world with the Gospel. Last words are often considered to carry the greatest weight and importance of anything previously stated. Jesus’ emphasis on soul-winning signifies the gravity of the matter.
2. The order of Christ is generally identified as the Great Commission.
 - a. Matthew 28:18-20 – “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
 - b. Mark 16:15 – “...Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.”
 - c. Luke 24:46-48 – “And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things.”
 - d. John 20:21 – “Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.”
 - e. Acts 1:8 – “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”
3. Generally, the Great Commission may be divided into three distinct parts.
 - a. Win the lost to Christ – “preach the Gospel” and “teach all nations”
 - b. Baptize the convert – “baptizing them”
 - c. Teach the convert to win others to Christ – “teaching them to observe all things... I have commanded”

B. By Obligation of the Christian

1. We are obligated by the cross of Christ. The suffering of Christ should motivate the believer to become a soul-winner. Hebrews 12:3 – “For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”
2. We are obligated by the command of Christ. The believer is obligated to be obedient to Christ. Soul-winning is not an option. If you are not a soul-winner, you are backslidden.
3. We are obligated by our profession. If we profess belief in Christ, we must demonstrate compliance with the principles set forth in the Word of God. Soul-winning is definitely part of the principles of God’s Word, therefore we must practice it. In reality, the only parts of the Bible we believe are the parts we practice.
4. We are obligated by the consequences of judgment: “The soul that sinneth it shall die” – Eze. 18:20; “The wages of sins death” – Romans 6:23; “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:” – Hebrews 9:27; “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast

into the lake of fire” – Revelation 20:15.

5. We are obligated by four basic appeals.
 - a. Appeal from above – God calls with Fatherly love, Christ pleads with Redeemer’s compassion, the Spirit urges with a constant whisper.
 - b. Appeal from beneath – The millions in hell, such as the rich man, beg for a witness.
 - c. Appeal from within – The saved soul yearns for the opportunity to tell of Christ.
 - d. Appeal from without – The Macedonian call can be heard from the lost.
5. We are obligated to the sinner. Romans 1:14-16 – *“I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”*