

# The Church Member and Evangelism

Acts 2:36-41

- The heartbeat of God is evangelism! Reaching those in need! This should be our heartbeat also!
- The Bible is full of examples of God reaching down to redeem and deliver people- illustrate the Exodus story
- God is still interested in this today and He desires to use churches to accomplish the work!
- Some churches think this is a call for social deliverance (tyranny, injustice, poverty, etc.). However, this falls far short of God's ultimate goal- the redemption and salvation of man's soul! What good is it to clothe a man, feed him, give him opportunities to find a job, give him a paradise on earth to live in, and then he dies and spends eternity in Hell? God works from the inside out
- The church is God's program for today, and evangelism and discipleship is the purpose! So as a church- as individuals we must evaluate and ask- are we completing our mission?
- Maybe we are unconcerned? Maybe we are not filled with the Spirit? Maybe we are too focused on ourselves, and not others? Maybe we are not even saved ourselves?
- Soul-winning is the key to Christian living some have said
  - We are being obedient to Christ's command
  - We are forced to affirm our own faith
  - We are forced to live holy and godly lives
  - We are forced to trust the Spirit to do what we cannot
  - God is glorified and we are encouraged by souls who are saved, and God working through us!
- Evangelicals- which by the way most are compromising, shallow versions of Christianity- have forgotten about evangelism!
  - Fear of man bringeth a snare (entrapped)
  - Compromising with the culture, instead of calling out the culture

- What good is a church that is not actively trying to evangelize its community??

### **I. PRAY- ACTS 1:8, 14**

- a. The early church knew the importance of prayer!
- b. Vertical, then horizontal
- c. Matthew 9:36-38- Jesus' order of importance
- d. Jesus' perspective
- e. Who's harvest is it? Prayer helps us realign what we are actually doing
- f. It's God's harvest, God's message, and must be done in God's power- we are just the laborers
- g. Acts 4:29-31

### **II. GIVE**

- a. This church was not afraid to give!- 2:45, 4:37
- b. They gave to Paul and his church planting endeavors- Phil 4:15-17, Ii Cor 8:1-5
- c. The strategy God has given us in found in Acts 1:8
  - i. In order to reach the uttermost, we do faith promise missions
  - ii. This is another great aspect of the church- together we can support worldwide missions!
- d. The goal of wiping out our mortgage is tied into Evangelism- we can be doing a whole lot more to get the Gospel out!

### **III. GO!- ACTS 20:20, 5:42**

- a. In the OT the invitation was to come, now the command is for us to Go!
- b. The mission statement of the church- Mark 16:15
- c. Biblical arithmetic- addition, then multiplication (Acts 5, 6:1, 7)
- d. There is too much theory, and we need more practice!
- e. We must put the G-O- back in Gosepel!
- f. How- personal testimony, Gospel tracts, inviting to church
- g. Church-wide organized time is important- Our soul-winning and visitation times are weekly, and if you can't go then ask me and I'll gladly go with you anytime!

- h. Personal evangelism is important!
- i. We would like all our church workers to get involved in soul-winning
- j. I Thess 1:7-8- So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.
- k. There are no shortage of churches here in our area, but sadly few, if any are going out with the gospel!
- l. There are many methods we can use, but we must be active, not passive about this great command!
- m. Some say we have no tact- well at least we make contact!
- n. Luke 14:16-23-
  - i. No excuses! Total obedience
  - ii. See the people as Christ sees them!
- o. Soul-winning and church planting is God's strategy to reach our world!

#### Conclusion:

- In 1865 the Emancipation Proclamation freed all slaves from their cruel taskmasters. However there were many rural communities in the South where the news did not reach for several years. In fact there are some reports of slavery continuing through the mid 1900's! The slaves had not been told of the freedom they had available to them. 2000 years ago God's Emancipation Proclamation was given through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. Unfortunately we are not proclaiming this glorious truth to those still in bondage to sin and the devil.