

Coast Counties Missionary Baptist District Association
Congress of Christian Education
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Syllabus: Evangelism That Empowers Our Churches

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Course Description

What Constitutes Successful Evangelism? Perhaps, you would think, that it is fantastic preaching, or old timey gospel music, maybe it could be the very attentive audiences that would gather. But the answer; "We may have all these and not have a real evangelism; or we may have successful evangelism without them."

Others may add, "Any meeting or campaign that would add significant numbers to church rolls." the answer, "We may have successful program and not many be added to our churches." or many folk could increase church membership without successful evangelism."

Are The Seven Churches in Book of Revelations Still Relevant? Can the sturdy of them provide Valuable insight to our Churches today?

Let us briefly consider three points:

First, if the God-ordained conditions are not fully met, failure is inevitable.

Second, They were not prepared for the work; were formal, worldly and unspiritual; were without faith. Putting nothing of value into the work, they got nothing out of it. Or the work was not properly followed up.

Third, faithful members of the church for many years and never been born again — "had a name to live and were dead" spiritually [Revelation 3:1].

Purpose: "What constitutes successful evangelism?" The answer, "Preaching the Gospel according to Divine conditions and directions." In the great commission, as given by Matthew, Jesus said, "Teach all nations" [Matthew 28:19]. Make disciples, is what the word "teach" here means. Mark puts it in these words, "Preach the Gospel to every creature" [Mark 16:15]. Luke states it thus, "Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations" [Luke 24:47]. And in Acts 1:8, Jesus said, "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 Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of course students should know and quote scripture used when speaking with non-Christians, How and when to approach people, Safety protocols all students should be aware of, Compose a five min personal testimony.

Best practice to refer someone to different church. Prayer used as an icebreaker, What literature should you have available, How to handle rejection. How to overcome fear. How to measure evangelist success.

Course Materials: Needed, Christian Bible, KJV or NIV

Course Conclusion: Each student will have opportunity to gain hands on evangelism experience while canvassing their respective communities and engaging potential converts.

Day 1

What is success in evangelism? Men are dying, Redemption is an accomplished fact, and Salvation is possible for all.

Day 2

The Key to reaching (Evangelizing) Family, Friends and young adults.

Day 3

Churches that are not intentional about Evangelism, typically is weak in Evangelism.

Day 4

Sharing the Gospel. Evangelism is dying, and churches are dying. What are you doing to lead your church in evangelism? - Three questions you might be able to use.

Closing,

****The people of God do not serve him in order to be forgiven but because we are forgiven.**

turns back to moderator.

Source Material from: The Doctrines That Must Be Emphasized In Successful Evangelism by

**Evangelist L. W. Munhall, M. A., D. D.,
Quotes from Holy Bible: KJV and NIV,**

****excerpt from Donald Whitney's book: *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life***

DAY 1

The word evangelism comes from a Greek word meaning, "to proclaim the good news." An evangelist tells others the good news about Jesus Christ.

Watching people awaken to their faith in Christ because of your personal evangelism work is one of the greatest joys you can experience as a Christian

The first motivator for evangelism is the chief commandment in the Holy Scripture which is to "Love the Lord your God. (Matt 22:37)

5 signs that you are a natural evangelist: Franklin Graham++

Acts 1:8 ; Jesus said , " But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Yet while we all have the power to be witnesses to the broken and lost, God has appointed and gifted some with a natural and exemplary drive and call to evangelize. The office of an evangelist is one of the ordinations that God gives to us in Eph 4:11. It's his way of setting evangelism by the church in hyperdrive by assigning a group of people to pave the way.

1. There's is an undeniable value for the lost
2. You can't help but share your testimony to others
3. it's easy for you to connect with new acquaintances
4. The gospel excites you to the point that you just keep talking about it
5. You have led people to the Lord

Romans 10:14: How can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? The message must be sent and delivered for it to be received, Paul writes - no matter the cost or the risk.

The apostle Peter urged us in (1 Peter 3:15). Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? (14) But even if you should suffer for what is right you are blessed.

When asked, "what must I do to be saved?" Peter in Acts 2:38 replied repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. About 3000 people believed, was baptized and added that day.

Acts 8; Philip and the Ethiopian official : The Ethiopian was reading Isaiah the prophet;

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. (33) In his humiliation he was deprived of justice, Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”

Philip asked him do you understand what you are reading? The eunuch replied “how can I,” unless someone explains it to me?” Then Philip began with that very passage of scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

++Opening: Know this; this is not my gospel, not yours, not your Pastor's but God's gospel. That we share.

Imagine you have the secret of life in your grasp, the answers to all life's questions — and the best news yet? You can spill that secret over and over, and it only gets bigger and better, not just for you but for everyone else, too. Good news: As Christians, we do have that “secret,” only it's not a secret at all, but a truth meant to be shared.

The sharing of that truth — the good news of Jesus — is called evangelism.

What Is the Meaning of The Word Evangelism?

Evangelism means preaching, announcing, or otherwise communicating the gospel, our salvation. It's delivering the message that Jesus Christ is not only the Son of God but also gave His life as a sacrifice for our sins. In doing so, He ensured eternal life for anyone who believes.

As we are told in John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” And again, as Jesus tells us in John 14:6, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Accepting that good news and then telling others about it, so they know too, is the definition of evangelism.

The Word Evangelism Come From The Greeks.

declare, bring, or preach this good news. Notice the word “angel” tucked inside the word — an angel is a messenger. Those who practice evangelism are indeed delivering a message: One of extraordinarily good news, life-giving and transformative, with eternal ramifications.

While the word “evangelism” isn't mentioned a lot throughout the Bible, its theme is woven throughout the New Testament. All four gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John — are rooted in evangelism, and scholars often refer to the writers as “the evangelists.”

For Jesus had a message, one He came to earth to deliver, teach, die, and rise again for every single one of us. And we are tasked to deliver that message both by Jesus and every other apostle in no uncertain terms.

Evangelism: What Is its Purpose?

Evangelism, which is spreading the gospel, is important to Jesus. As the Bible tells us, Jesus came so that we may live. Jesus wants everyone to know this truth so they, too, can be part of God's holy kingdom. His directives to evangelize are peppered throughout Scripture.

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus tells us, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing 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." We are to spread this good news everywhere — to the ends of the earth — secure that He is with us always.

Jesus says much the same thing in other verses: Matthew 9:37-38, Matthew 10:7-14, Matthew 12:30, Luke 19:10, and Luke 12:8, to name a few. In Mark 16:15, Jesus tells us to preach the gospel "to all creation." The purpose is so others will know, too, and believe — and in that believing also receive eternal life.

As Jesus tells His disciples in John 5:24, "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life." It is a gift available to all.

Evangelism: Why is it so Important?

So every believer is called to be an evangelist, in a sense, in a personal one-on-one context with neighbors and friends and coworkers, and that they're doing evangelism when they simply become available in the course of conversations as the Holy Spirit prompts and gives opportunity to talk about the good news of Jesus, that Jesus Christ is the son of God, who was sent by the father to live a perfect life in our place, to die on a cross for our sins, and by his resurrection, give us eternal life, the forgiveness of sins, and the power to change. So that's evangelism to me.

What Does the Bible Say about Evangelism?

In addition to Jesus' own words about the importance of evangelism, His apostles said — and did — much the same. We know from the Book of Acts that after Christ's resurrection, the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and scattered across the land, preaching the word (Acts 8:4-25).

In Romans, the apostle Paul spends time instructing the early church about the desperate

need for evangelism so all can be saved. As Paul asks, "How, then, can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" (Romans 10:14).

The message must be sent and delivered for it to be received, Paul writes — no matter the cost or risk. The apostle Peter urged us to "always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15).

We also see examples of evangelism throughout the New Testament, particularly in the Book of Acts. For example, Acts 2 tells us how Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, preached boldly to the crowd, and about 3,000 people believed and were baptized (Acts 2:41).

In Acts 8, the Holy Spirit prompted Philip to approach an important Ethiopian official who was riding in his chariot south on a desert road toward Gaza. Philip obeyed, and when he heard the official reading the book of Isaiah, he used that to strike up a conversation that ultimately led to sharing the good news with the man — who believed and was baptized (Acts 8:26-40).

Also, in Acts is the story of how Paul and Silas shared the gospel with their jailer after a violent earthquake. The jailer believed, "he and his whole household" (Acts 16:34), and Paul and Silas baptized them all.

Different Styles

What are the different styles of Evangelism?

The six styles are: **Direct, Intellectual, Testimonial, Relational, Invitational, and Service**. Every single person has God-given gifts and abilities that fall into one or more of these six approaches.

A church community will have all of the styles present.

So I leave it to you, Ask yourself – What style of evangelism best fits me?

First, Ministers and people in large numbers are awakening to the fact that the so-called "new theology" and up-to-date methods are utterly barren of spiritual results. Prof. A. H. Sayce once said, "Higher criticism saves no souls."

Second, Because of this indisputable fact, many are turning again to the doctrines of the historic faith, for it is seen that they are still workable and produce results as in former times.

Life and opportunity are ours. Men are dying, and the whole world lieth in the wicked

one, Redemption is an accomplished fact, and salvation is possible for all.

We have been chosen to tell out the message of life and hope; and are assured of glorious success if faithful; if unfaithful we had better never been born.

Marching orders: (Mat 18 – 20 NIV) 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

"What is success in evangelism?"

When the person you witness to comes to Christ? Certainly that's what we want to happen.

But if we measure evangelistic success only by conversions, are we failures whenever we share the gospel and people refuse to believe?

Was Jesus an 'evangelistic failure' when people like the rich young ruler turned away from Him and His message in (Mark 10:21-22) 21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.

”22 At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. - Obviously Jesus did not fail.

Then neither are we when we present Christ and His message and people turn away in unbelief. We need to learn that sharing the gospel is successful evangelism.

We ought to have an obsession for souls, and tearfully plead with God to see more people converted, but only God can produce the fruit of evangelism called conversion.

" Whenever we share the gospel (which includes the summons to repent and believe), we have succeeded. In the truest sense, all biblical evangelism is successful evangelism, regardless of the results." ** excerpt from Donald Whitney's book *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*.

THE CONDITIONS

What are the conditions? In the great commission.

Discipleship. Jesus commissioned only such. Consider this teaching in book of Luke;

(Luke 14:25-27 NIV) Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. 27 And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Test of Discipleship

" If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."! 2 Cor. 5 :17. 2 John 3 : 8.

If the heart has been renewed by the Spirit of God, the life will bear witness to the fact. our lives will reveal whether the grace of God is dwelling within us. A

change will be seen in the character, the habits, the pursuits. The contrast will be clear and decided between what they have been and what they are.

In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

Jesus's Main point! There is a cost in order to be a disciple. We must be willing to give up everything for Jesus. Following Jesus requires commitment and faithfulness,

All believers are called to acknowledge the Lordship of Christ and show him preference over all earthly ties.

However, take comfort in this promise from Jesus.(Mark 10:29-30 NIV)

29 "Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel 30 will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.

John 8:31-32 NIV) 31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

(John 15:5-8 NIV) 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will

be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Day 2

The Key to reaching (Evangelizing) Family, Friends and young adults.

One of the great misnomers of friendship evangelism is the idea that it is more difficult to witness to strangers than it is to people with whom you have a developed and committed relationship. Yet most Christians, when asked who are the most difficult people to reach in their sphere of influence, will say that is friends and family. There are several reasons for this.

1. Family and friends are those who know us the best. So, many Christians refrain from spiritual conversation with them because they fear being labeled as hypocrites.

2. Family and friends are more comfortable giving Christians a sharp retort or an angry response. Christians are fearful of the repercussions they may face as a result of sharing the gospel with family and friends. Unlike with a stranger who the Christian may see only once in his lifetime, a family member and friend are seen frequently. If a gospel conversation goes bad, the tension created in the ongoing relationship could become very uncomfortable.

Christians are fearful of doing anything to jeopardize the friendship or relationship they worked so hard to cultivate. Sadly, this mindset brings to light an inescapable truth. Many who believe they are engaged in "friendship evangelism" care about their friendships and relationships more than they care for the eternal soul of their friend or family members.

Christians who believe :

"You must develop a relationship, are putting the traditions of men over and above the clear teaching of Scripture.

Or, "People will not care about what you have to say until they know you care." Or, "Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words."

Or, "You shouldn't shove the gospel down people's throats."

But, it is wrong to say that friendship evangelism earns you the "right" to preach the gospel. That right belongs to you as a believer already. It is up to you to be wise when and how you present it.

Unsaved family and friends need to hear the gospel. And Christians want to see their

unsaved family and friends receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. But Christians' indifference, which is manifested by their refusal to share the gospel, is in conflict with their love and concern for those same people.

When some Christians say, "I'm not sure what to say to so-and-so," what they might be saying is, "I'm afraid to say anything at all."

Remember to whom you are talking

When sharing the gospel with a friend or family member, it is important to remember that the person in front of you is not a stranger. Therefore, do not talk to him like one. In other words, don't leave your friend or family member feeling like you don't know him, when in fact you know him well. Carry on the conversation with the same tone, comfort, and ease as you would in any other conversation with that person.

Be Honest

Good open-air preachers and street evangelists know that even a stranger whom they meet in a brief moment of time can discern if the evangelist is blowing smoke. If this is true with strangers (and it is), then it is even more so with the people who know you best — your friends and family members.

Never beat around the bush. If your relationship is a good one, then it is based, in large part, on the level of honesty within the relationship. Be straightforward, yet sensitive and respectful, when initiating the conversation. "John, I want to talk to you about spiritual things." "Sue, I'm concerned for your soul." "Bill, can I share my faith in Christ with you?"

Never Sacrifice Content for the Sake of the Conversation

Everything you would say to a stranger on the street regarding the law and the gospel, you should say to a friend or family member. Granted, you may not say it the same way; but you should say it nonetheless. The content of your message (the law and the gospel) should be the same with each lost person, regardless of your relationship. Remember, the power of your evangelistic effort is not in your personality, your affability, your friendliness, etc. The power of your evangelistic effort is in the message itself, the content of that message, the gospel.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek, (Romans 1:16).

Take Note: Your evangelistic conversations with friends and family members should include the discussion of sin and its eternal consequences (judgment, wrath, hell), along

with the deity of Christ, His humanity and sinlessness, the cross, Christ's sacrifice, justification by faith, the resurrection, repentance, and faith. Whatever you would say to strangers regarding their need to repent and believe the gospel, you should also say to your friends and family members.

Remember Your Place

A critical mistake many Christians make when sharing the gospel with family members, in particular, is that they forget their place in the family structure. This is especially true when trying to share the gospel with the older generations.

Parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, great-grandparents do not like to be schooled by those who are young then they. They grew up in a day and age when one's spiritual convictions were deeply personal. Emotions were kept private. Religion and politics were often avoided. So, asking grandma at the Thanksgiving table if she ever told a lie might not be the best approach.

I have found that using a testimonial approach often works. In other words, instead of placing grandma on the spot by asking her questions about herself, share your story with grandma. This means that you communicate the law and the gospel to her by using yourself as an example.

Explain how you learned what sin was, how you came to a knowledge of your sin, and how that made you an enemy of God. Instead of telling her she would spend eternity in hell, explain to her how you came to the realization that the just punishment for your sins against God is an eternity in hell. And then continue through the presentation of the gospel.

Conclude with your testimony of how you answered God's call on your heart to repent and believe the gospel and how God saved you by the grace of God alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone.

Remember, your older relatives (like grandma) are smart people with lots of life experience. By sharing your testimony, the law, and the gospel you will not embarrass them. You will show an appropriate level of respect without compromising the message.

You Must Be Willing to Sacrifice the Relationship for the Soul of Your Friend or Family Member

You must be willing to sacrifice everything, lose everything, forfeit everything in this life for the furtherance of the gospel of Jesus Christ. You must be willing to bear your

cross in order to live by the two greatest commandments of loving God and loving people (Matthew 22:37-40). This is a sacrificial love (John 15:13). Whatever you are unwilling to give up in obedience to and love for Jesus Christ (even relationships) is an idol. And idolatry is a sin against God.

To refuse to share the gospel with a friend or family member because you are afraid it might cost you the relationship is to love yourself more than you love them. In so doing, you are making your relationships of greater importance than their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

Witnessing to friends and family members is not easy, but it is absolutely necessary. Swallow your fears and love them more than you love yourself. Be wise in your presentation. Pray in preparation and wait for the right opportunity to speak to them. Then, present the law and the gospel with humility, honesty, respect, patience, kindness, and love. Trust the Sovereign Lord in your efforts.

What are the directions?

First, "Go into all the world" and tell it "to every creature." The field is the wide world; and the good news is for every soul of man.

Second, It is to be "preached." The God-sent preacher has no message of his own. It is the King's message he is to proclaim. According to the heraldic law, if the herald substituted so much as a word of his own for the king's, he was beheaded.

Third, The preacher is to be brave, a witness. All the apostles, like our Lord, went to martyrdom for faithfully proclaiming the Word of God. The Master said, "If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you" [John 15:20]. And, "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets" [Luke 6:26].

Paul said, "If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ" [Galatians 1:10]. The mind of the natural man is enmity against God [Romans 8:7]; therefore the unsaved demand of the preacher, "Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits" [Isaiah 30:10];

Because of this, it requires courage in these days to speak faithfully the Word of God.

Simon Peter when he said to the threatening, rulers of Israel, "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" [Acts 4: 20].

There never was so much need of fearlessness on the part of the servant of God as in these days; brave true men, who will not receive honors of men, or seek their own, are absolutely necessary to successful evangelism.

THE METHOD

The following is the method:

The words of the Gospel "are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). If the repenting sinner receives them into his heart and life to believe and obey them (James 1:21); the Holy Spirit operating through them accomplishes the new birth (James 1:18), and he will be "born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever" (1 Peter 1:23). Saved, "By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:4-7). See also John 1:12-13; Galatians 6:15; Ephesians 2:1-3; Colossians 2:13 etc.)

Repentance:

How shall a man be just with God? How shall the sinner be made righteous? It is only through Christ that we can be brought into harmony with God, with holiness; but how are we to come to Christ? Many are asking the same question as did the multitude on the day of Pentecost, when, convicted of sin, they cried out, "What shall we do?"

The first word of Peter's answer was, "Repent." At another time, shortly after, he said, "Repent . . . and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out."

Repentance includes sorrow for sin, and a turning away from it. We shall not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; until we turn away from it in heart, there will be no real change in the life.

There are many who fail to understand the true nature of repentance. Multitudes sorrow that they have sinned, and even make an outward Acts 2 : 38; 3 : 19. reformation, because they fear that their

wrong doing will bring suffering upon themselves. But this is not repentance in the Bible sense. They lament the suffering, rather than the sin.

Such was the grief of Esau when he saw that the birthright was lost to him forever, but there was no genuine repentance for sin, no conversion of purpose, no abhorrence of evil.

Pharaoh, when suffering under the judgments of God, acknowledged his sin, in order to escape further punishment, but returned to his defiance of Heaven as soon as the

plagues were stayed.

These all lamented the results of sin, but did not sorrow for the sin itself.

But when the heart yields to the influence of the Spirit of God, the conscience will be quickened, and the hidden things of darkness are made manifest. Conviction takes hold upon the mind and heart.

He sees the love of God, the beauty of holiness, the joy of purity ; he longs to be cleansed, and to be restored to communion with Heaven.

CONFESSION.

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whosoever confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." The conditions of obtaining mercy of God. are simple and just and reasonable. The Lord does not require us to do some grievous thing in order that we may have the forgiveness of sin.

We need not make long and wearisome pilgrimages, or perform painful penances, to commend our souls to the God of heaven, but he that confesseth and forsaketh his sin shall have mercy.

The apostle says, " Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." Confess your sins to God : only he can forgive them, and your faults to one another. If you have given offense to your friend or neighbor, you are to acknowledge your wrong, and it is his duty freely to forgive you. Then you are to seek the forgiveness of God, because the brother you have wounded is the property of God, and in injuring him you sinned against his Creator and Redeemer. Prov. 28:13, James 5:16

Those who have not humbled their souls before God in acknowledging their guilt, have not yet fulfilled the first condition of acceptance.

If we have not experienced that repentance which is not to be repented of, and have not with true humiliation of soul and brokenness of spirit confessed our sins, abhorring our iniquity, we have never truly sought for the forgiveness of sin; and if we have never sought, we have never found the peace of God.

The only reason why we do not have remission of sins that are past is that we are not willing to humble our hearts and comply with the conditions of the word of truth. Explicit instruction is given concerning this matter. Confession of sin, whether public or private.

should be heartfelt, and freely expressed. It is not to be urged from the sinner. It is not to be made in a flippant and careless way, or forced from those who have no realization of

the abhorrent character of sin.

The Psalmist says, "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." Psalm 34:18

True confession is always of a specific character, and acknowledges particular sins. They may be of such a nature as to be brought before God only; they may be wrongs that should be confessed to individuals who have suffered injury through them; or they may be of a public character, and should then be as publicly confessed. But all confession should be definite and to the point, acknowledging the very sins of which you are guilty.

FAITH AND ACCEPTANCE.

The Lord says,

"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." * "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you."

you are a sinner. You cannot atone for your past sins, you cannot change your heart, and make yourself holy. 1 Matt. 9:6. 2 John 20: 31. But God promises to do all this for you through Christ.

You believe that promise. You confess your sins, and give yourself to God. And promise serve him. Just as surely as you do this, God will fulfill his word to you.

Faith. Until the sinner changes his mind with regard to his relation to God, and resolves with all his heart to do it, his faith is a vain thing, he is yet in his sins; but, when he sincerely repents and turns to God, and believes the record God has given of His Son, his faith is of the heart and unto righteousness. (Romans 10:9-10. See also Hebrews 11:6; Romans 10:17; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 2:8; Galatians 3:6-12; Galatians 2:16-20; Romans 4:13-16; Romans 3:21-28; Acts 16:30-31; John 6:47).

Obedience. Faith is a vital principle. "If it hath not works, is dead, being alone" (James 2:17-18). Two things are required of the believer, immediately upon his profession of faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord, namely, verbal confession and water baptism. "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:10 See also Psalm 107:2; Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9;

1 John 4:15 etc.) "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). The believer is not saved because he is baptized; but, baptized because he is saved. We are saved through faith alone, but not the faith that is alone, because "Faith without works is

dead, by itself."

Water baptism is a divinely ordained ordinance whereby the believer witnesses to the world that he died with Christ, and is risen together with Him," an habitation of God through the Spirit. (See Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38, 41; Acts 8:12-13, 16, 36-38; Acts 9:18; Acts 10:47-48; Acts 16:15, 33; Acts 19:5; Acts 22:15-16; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21; 1 John 2:3; 1 John 3:22).

Churches that are not intentional about Evangelism, typically is weak in Evangelism.

Seven Reasons Why Evangelism Should Be a Priority of Your Church

Evangelism is dying in many churches today.

Churches are dying.

People are going to hell without Christ.

It is perhaps the greatest tragedy today

Look at the data. Pew Research Center study as of 2020 about 64% of Americans identify as Christian. Fifty years ago that number was 90%. The fastest growing religion in the world is Islam. In 2021 a Gallup poll shared that for the first time ever church membership dropped below 50% nationally. Among Millennials, only 36% identify with a church. And where you find numerical growth, you are more likely to find that the growth is transfer of Christians from one church to another. That's not evangelism.

It is believed that the overall decline in church attendance will continue unabated.

It has become apparent that some of the people who said that they're coming back later clearly aren't coming back – ever.

Pastors and other leaders must fall on their faces before God and ask Him to reignite their congregations with an evangelistic passion.

When evangelism dies as a priority in the church, the church has already begun to die.

So why should evangelism be one of the highest priorities in your church? Though the reasons are many, allow me to share seven of them.

Because Christ commanded it. We typically refer to the Great Commission of

Matthew 28:18-20 as our evangelistic and disciples-making command. But there are many other places in the New Testament where the priority of evangelism is clearly evident. Christ commanded it. We must do it. In describing His earthly mission, Jesus said, The Lord "hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised." Luke 4:18.

This was His work. He went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by Satan. There were whole villages where there was not a moan of sickness in any house, for He had passed through them and healed all their sick. His work gave evidence of His divine anointing. Love, mercy, and compassion were revealed in every

act of His life; His heart went out in tender sympathy to the children of men. He took

man's nature, that He might reach man's wants. The poorest and humblest were not afraid to approach Him. Even little children were attracted to Him. They loved to climb upon His knees and gaze into the pensive face, glowing with love.

He wept over Jerusalem, the city He loved, which refused to receive Him. They had rejected Him, the Saviour, but He regarded them with pitying tenderness. His life was one of self-denial and thoughtful care for others. Every soul was precious in His eyes. In all men He saw fallen souls whom it was His mission to save.

Jesus said, "Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again." John 10:17

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." 1 John 3:1

Because Christ is the only way of salvation. There is no way around it.

- There is only one way. Jesus could not have made it clearer in John 14:6: "Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" Jesus had an urgent message. We must be conveyors of that.
- **Because Christ died for the world.** There is a reason John 3:16 is the most familiar and most quoted verse in the history of humanity. Jesus died for the world. He is the only way, but He has provided a way for everyone. That is a message that is urgent and worth telling.
- **Because churches tend to obsess inwardly when they fail to move outwardly.** Where has a lot of your church's energy been expended lately? Rancorous business meetings? Expressions of petty church preferences? Worship wars? Power struggles? Those are inward obsessions. Lead your church to an evangelistic priority and watch the focus shift for the better.

Because churches become content and complacent with transfer growth. Some churches are growing. Others are adding members without significant numerical growth. But many in both categories are growing at the expense of other churches. Some may be reaching unchurched Christians. That's good, but that's not evangelism. We can fool ourselves into thinking we are evangelistic when we are simply recirculating the saints.

1. **Because evangelistic Christians actually grow stronger as better disciplined Christians.** Those who are evangelistic are obedient to Christ. Being obedient to Christ means that we are following His teachings and becoming a better fruit-

bearing disciple.

Most churches are busy with activities, programs, and ministries. Few churches are truly sending out their members to evangelize those in their communities. The Great Commission has been sidelined so to speak.

FOR MORE THAN 150 YEARS after the Resurrection, Christians had no official church buildings. During this time, evangelism was conducted mainly in homes, in the context of worship and Christian education. Itinerant evangelists were rarely found in the early centuries.

In Michael Green's seminal *Evangelism in the Early Church* (2nd ed, Eerdmans, 2003), he shows that early Christianity's explosive growth "was in reality accomplished by means of informal missionaries." (Green, p.243) That is, Christian laypeople, not trained preachers and evangelists, carried on the mission of the church "not through formal preaching, but informal" conversation — "in homes and wine shops, on walks, and around market stalls ... they did it naturally, enthusiastically ... Having found treasure, they meant to share it with others, to the limit of their ability." (Green, p.243-244.)

It's clear from the New Testament and from other historical documents that one of the main centers of Christian evangelism was in — the 'household.'

A person's strongest relationships were within the household — with blood relatives, servants, clients, and friends, so when a person became a Christian it was in the household that he or she would get a serious hearing.

++If the head of the household became a believer (such as Lydia the seller of dye and the Philippian jailer) the entire home became a ministry center — where the gospel was taught to all the household's members and neighbors. If, however, some other member of the household became a Christian — the wife, children, or slaves and laborers — then the gospel would spread more indirectly.

+++Household evangelism was very important, but from both the Bible and from early historical record we know that simple friendship was one of the main carriers of the gospel. We see it in John 1 when Philip passes his knowledge of Jesus on to his friend Nathaniel.

It is informal but sustained relationships and conversation that will become more important, as many Christian beliefs are highly offensive to people, as was the case in the first century. Now, as then, most people won't show up to hear Christian public

speakers.

Movement toward Christian belief will have to be personal, organic, and incremental. We must question our friends' working answers about meaning, morality, identity, and hope. We must also take time to answer their questions about Christianity.

You are not befriending them just to give them the good news; you are giving them the good news because you love them as a friend.

Personal evangelism has been proven to be the most effective method of evangelism. Peter, the apostle of Jesus Christ, was a product of personal evangelism. Just as Peter was brought to Jesus through one-on-one evangelism, there are people out there that need Jesus Christ, and they are desperately waiting for you to bring the gospel to them.

It is time to take Jesus to the dying world for salvation. Many people are downcast and encounter failures daily in their lives. Such people have already given up on God, as they have lost hope of a better future. These sects of people need Jesus for salvation. Death is on a rampage in the world today, as many go to eternity without Christ.

Disappointment hovers everywhere. Sorrows are multiplying. It is so sad that thousands of people died in the hands of the ravaging COVID-19.

Mortuaries were filled to the brim with corpses. What they need, what we need, urgently is Jesus before it becomes too late.

Any believer that refuses to carry his Bible and preach Jesus Christ to sinners does not love God. We are in a critical moment! Let's take Jesus to them because He is the only solution to man's problem

Don't relax and think that sinners will naturally come to you. We have to carry the gospel of Jesus to their houses. There are people who are extremely difficult to reach out to. In this case, wisdom is profitable. Visit them privately and do not allow detractors to be there. At times, you may not even carry the Bible to reach out to some people.

One-on-One evangelism is so easy, effective and less expensive. It is more expensive to conduct crusade than personal evangelism. And at times, souls that are reached out to at a crusade may not be accounted for, unlike personal evangelism. Moreover, there are people that may never attend a crusade. This kind of people can only be reached through one-on-one contact.

Jesus Christ was a living example of personal evangelism, even after His resurrection (Acts 9:1-6).

The souls of sinners are so precious to God. He is counting on you. Let's go out and win them one-by-one.

For further reading: Luke 21:26; 2Tim.3:5; Matt. 13:38, 47; Luke 5:27-27

DAY 4

Sharing the Gospel. Evangelism is dying, and churches are dying. What are you doing to lead your church in evangelism? - Three questions you might be able to use.

The Son of God came from heaven to make manifest the Father. "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him." John 1:18 "Neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him." Matthew 11:27. When one of the disciples made the request, "Show us the Father," Jesus answered, "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?" John 14:8, 9.

MESSAGE

Now then, as to the message itself:

Timothy was commanded to "Do the work of an evangelist" [2 Timothy 4:5]; and, in doing it, to "Preach the Word...with all longsuffering and doctrine" [2 Timothy 4:2].

Doctrinal preaching is therefore necessary to evangelistic success. But what doctrines?

First, Sin—its universality, nature and consequences.

(a) Universality. "As by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned,...by one man's offence death reigned by one,...by the offence of one, judgment came upon all men to condemnation,...by one man's disobedience many were made sinners," etc. (Romans 5:12 -21). See also Psalm 51:5: Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Psalm 58:3; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:10; 1 John 1:8, 10, etc.)

(b) Nature. There are numerous words in the Bible rendered sin; and these words mean iniquity, offence, trespass, failure, error, go astray, to cause to sin, and miss the mark.

In 1 John 3:4 we are told that "Sin is the transgression of the law." The word rendered transgression is *anomia*, and means lawlessness. Failure to conform to the law is as certainly sin as to violate the commandments of God. Unbelief is sin. (John 16:9; John 3:18).

Because of the "lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life," every mouth is stopped and the whole world is guilty before God. (Romans 3:19).

The Almighty and Sovereign Creator is infinite in holiness. Therefore His "law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good" [Romans 7:12]. Sin is ruinous, heinous and damning: the most awful thing in the universe.

Consequences. Sin separates and estranges the sinner from God; and he becomes an enemy of God by wicked works (Romans 8:7), has no peace (Isaiah 57:21), no rest

(Isaiah 57:20), is polluted (Ephesians 4:17-19), condemned (John 3:18), and without hope (Ephesians 2:12). If unrepenting and unbelieving, the future has for him,

inexorable and awful judgment. (See ; Matthew 9:27; Jude 14:15; Revelations 20:11-13; Revelations 22:11-15, Matthew 25:30-46

the wrath of God. (See Ezra 8:22; Psalm 21:9; John 3:36; Romans 1:18; Romans 2:5; Romans 4:15; Romans 5:9; Romans 12:19; Romans 13:4; Ephesians 2:3; Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 3:6; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; Revelations 6:16-17; Revelations 14:10;

Revelations 16:19; Revelations 19:15, etc.).

eternal torments. (See Psalm 11:6; Isaiah 33:14; Danial 12:2; Matthew 3:12; Matthew 22:11-13; Matthew 23:33; Matthew 25:41, 46; Mark 9:43, 48; Luke 12:5; Luke 16:22-31; John 5:28-29; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Hebrews 10:28-29; 2 Peter 3: 5-12; Revelations 19:20; Revelations 20:14-15; Revelations 21:8, etc.)

The preacher who ignores these three awful and inexorable truths preaches an emasculated gospel, He who preaches the love of God to the exclusion of God's justice and wrath proclaims but idle sentiment.

No one will ever truly desire salvation unless he first realizes that there is something to be saved from.

The supreme motive for the atoning work of our Lord was His infinite love for us. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Our Lord, while among men, said, "The word which ye hear is not Mine, but the Father's which sent Me" [John 14:24].

How can any minister reasonably expect to have evangelistic success if he fails to imitate the Master in this particular?

"When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thy hand" (Ezekiel 33:8).

Redemption through Jesus' blood.

"The Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53 :6). "The Son of Man came...to give His life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (1 Peter 3:18). "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (2

Corinthians 5:21). "And ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price" (1 Corinthians 6:20. See also Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:22; Matthew 20:28; Matthew 26:28; John 3:14,16; Romans 3:24:26; Romans 5:9

On no other ground than the cross can the sinner be justified and reconciled to God.

Resurrection. "If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain and your faith is also vain. ...Ye are yet in your sins;" and "they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that are sleeping" (1 Corinthians 15:14-20). Jesus was "declared to be the Son of God with power...by the resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:4).

Therefore the apostles and disciples went everywhere preaching "Jesus and the resurrection." (See Acts 2:24-32; Acts 3:15; Acts 4:2, 10,33; Acts 5:30; Acts 17:18, 32; Acts 23:6; Acts 24:15, 21;

"By the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities, and powers being made subject unto Him" (1 Peter 3:22). "Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25).

Justification. "Being justified freely by His grace you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and without blemish and free from accusation.

Regeneration. The unchristian man is spiritually dead (Romans 5:12), and must be "born again," or "he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). He who receives Jesus as Saviour and Lord, is made a "partaker of the Divine nature" (John 1:12-13; 2 Peter 1:4): "He is a new creature [creation]: old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The Sinner's Need of Christ

Man was originally endowed with noble powers and a well-balanced mind. He was perfect in his being, and in harmony with God. His thoughts were pure, his aims holy. But through disobedience, his powers were perverted, and selfishness took the place of love.

His nature became so weakened through transgression that it was impossible for him, in his own strength, to resist the power of evil. He was made captive by Satan, and would have remained so forever had not God intervened. It was the tempter's purpose to thwart the divine plan in man's creation, and fill the earth with woe and desolation.

In his sinless state, man held joyful communion with God "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:3.

But after his sin, he could no longer find joy in holiness, and he sought to hide from the presence of God. Such is still the condition of the unrenewed heart. It is not in harmony with God, and finds no joy in communion with Him.

Assurance. Salvation from spiritual death by the new birth, and from the guilt of sin in justification, immediately follows "repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" [Acts 20:21].

"For by grace have ye been saved through faith" (Ephesians 2:8). "These things have I written unto you, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, even unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:13).

It is here stated that certain things are in God's Word by which the believer is to know he has eternal life. Here are some of them:

"He that heareth My Word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, *hath* eternal life, and cometh not into judgment, but *hath* passed out of death into life" (John 5:24). "He that hath the Son *hath* the life." "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ *is* begotten of God" (1 John 5:12-13). For confirmation see 1 John 2:3; 1 John 3:14, 24; 1 John 4:20-21; etc.).

"And by Him every one that believeth *is* justified" (Acts 13:39)—an accomplished work. So the Bible uniformly teaches. Believing these words of assurance, one finds peace and joy.

It is the business of the preacher to make this matter plain to converts, that they may be surely and safely anchored; and "that their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, that they may know the mystery of God, even Christ, in whom are all the treasures of knowledge hidden" (Colossians 2:2-3).

The Holy Spirit Comes At Pentecost

(Acts 1: 1-13 NIV) 1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our

native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

Final Exhortations

(Phili 4:4- 9 NIV) 4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters,
whatever is true, whatever is noble,
whatever is right, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—
if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—

think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

The Saviour said, “Except a man be born from above,” unless he shall receive a new heart, new desires, purposes, and motives, leading to a new life, “he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3.

The idea that it is necessary only to develop the good that exists in man by nature, is a fatal deception. “The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” “Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.” 1 Corinthians 2:14; John 3:7.

Of Christ it is written, “In Him was life; and the life was the light of men”—the only “name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” John 1:4; Acts 4:12

Paul the apostle saw all this when he exclaimed, “I consent unto the law that it is good.” “The law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.” But he added, in the bitterness of his soul-anguish and despair, “I am carnal, sold under sin.” Romans 7:24.

He longed for the purity, the righteousness, to which in himself he was powerless to attain, and cried out, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from this body of death?" Romans 7:24.

Such is the cry that has gone up from burdened hearts in all lands and in all ages. To all, there is but one answer, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift" (James 1:17) is from God. There is no true excellence of character apart from Him. And the only way to God is Christ. He says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me." John 14:6.

Shall we not regard the mercy of God? What more could He do? Let us place ourselves in right relation to Him who has loved us with amazing love. Let us avail ourselves of the means provided for us that we may be transformed into His likeness, and be restored to fellowship with the ministering angels, to harmony and communion with the Father and the Son.

What are you doing to lead your church to become more evangelistic?

There are times when as churches and pastors we make things more complicated than they need to be. I sometimes fear that evangelism is made out to be something that you need to learn, that there's a magic course or a seminar out there that will unlock the hidden evangelist in you. Maybe the very term *evangelism* itself strikes fear into you.

Jesus is so refreshingly clear, simple, and helpful when He says that "out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45). That means if you love Christ and His people, you will end up talking about Him. We are not naive and know that the work of seeing people come to faith requires a long haul of speaking, sharing, inviting, and praying.

We keep sowing, planting the gospel seed. We're acutely aware that God gives the increase. It is His work, and we confidently rest in Jesus' promise that He will build His church (Matt 16:18) I do think, however, God has placed us where we are, and He is in the different circumstances that we face and working in the lives of the people we know.

Here are 3 Questions.

I've found it helpful recently to think of three questions that I hope you might be able to use in praying for and speaking with friends.

Would you like to come to Dinner?

What we talk about as Christians when we speak about hospitality isn't that, though. It's a sharing of what we have and an opening of ourselves and our homes.

Some of you are brilliant cooks, but others of us, like me, struggle on the culinary front. We still have a duty to be hospitable. It always encourages me when I see people going back to one another's homes on a Sunday. However, we can extend that hospitality to unbelievers. This is one good way to reach non-Christians.

Are there people you can think of who you've been praying for that you could get around your table? There's lots of ways of doing it—lunch, breakfast, get takeout, do a potluck supper. If you're worried about conversation flowing, invite a talkative Christian friend to be there too.

“Would you like to come to church?”

This is one of those questions that I think we can have huge fear in asking. We think, “They'd never want to come” or “They wouldn't understand what we're doing.” I've become convinced that people are more ready to listen than we are to speak.

The Bible describes the church as the household of God and says that God lives in the midst of His disciples through the Holy Spirit (Eph 2:22) So, as we invite people to church, we're inviting them to meet with God.

Our prayer as we gather for worship is that as *“an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you”* (1 Cor 14:24-25)

Of course, this is God's work, and we can't make this happen in people's lives. But our job is to be the friendliest we can be in church, welcoming those who are new, being interested in those who've brought along friends or neighbors, looking out for those who are outsiders.

Safety: Always travel by two or more. Ladies when door to door never enter house solo. When on doorstep always stand two to three feet from opening of door. Always pray for power before going out.

Referring people to another church : Acquire list of local churches that are God fearing and Bible teaching. Also when doing so, be sure and call the Pastor of said church to relay all pertinent information.

One Method of Approach: WDJD

1. Would you consider yourself to be a good person?

2. Do you think you have kept the ten commandments?
3. Judgement: if God were to judge you by the ten commandments. Do you think you would be innocent or guilty?
4. Destiny do you think you go to heaven or Hell.

To the Church in Ephesus

2 "To the angel[a] of the church in Ephesus write:

2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not,

and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.

6 But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

To the Church in Smyrna

8 “To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

9 I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.

To the Church in Pergamum

12 “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

13 I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. 14 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. 15 Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16 Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

To the Church in Thyatira

18 “To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

19 I know your deeds, that you are now doing more than you did at first.

20 Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and

the eating of food sacrificed to idols. 21 I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. 22 So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. 23 I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

24 Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets, ‘I will not impose any other burden on

you, 25 except to hold on to what you have until I come.'

26 To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—

To the Church in Sardis

3 "To the angel[a] of the church in Sardis write:

I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. 2 Be watchful and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. 3 Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

4 Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. 5 The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white.

To the Church in Philadelphia

7 "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. 9 I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. 10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

To the Church in Laodicea

14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white

clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

Out of the seven churches which one would you say that your church would represent?

Conclusion

If you didn't come to Christ because you were overwhelmed with your sin, you're not going to survive.

The good news of salvation is so wonderful, so generous, we don't have words to explain all its wonders and glories. Those of us who have received salvation, those of us who have received eternal life and are headed to heaven, understand the wonder of the gift of salvation. We understand what it is to have our sins forgiven, to have the burden of guilt removed, to have a clear conscience, a conscience washed clean of guilt and shame. We understand what it is to have the hope of heaven.

And the more we understand that, the more difficult it is to understand how anybody could reject such a gift. When people come to know Christ, there is an immense transformation in their lives; it is dramatic. They've come to an understanding of the truth, an understanding of God's grace in their lives, which is overwhelming. They then tell the people around them, who are not believers, and they often run into indifference and hostility. This is one of the biggest struggles new Christians have. It's seemingly impossible to understand how anyone could reject such a gift.

What Does the Bible Say about Evangelism?

In addition to Jesus' own words about the importance of evangelism, His apostles said — and did — much the same. We know from the Book of Acts that after Christ's resurrection, the apostles were filled

with the Holy Spirit and scattered across the land, preaching the word (Acts 8:4-25).

In Romans, the apostle Paul spends time instructing the early church about the desperate need for evangelism so all can be saved. As Paul asks, "How, then, can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" (Romans 10:14).

The message must be sent and delivered for it to be received, Paul writes — no matter the cost or risk. The apostle Peter urged us to "always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15).

We also see examples of evangelism throughout the New Testament, particularly in the Book of Acts. For example, Acts 2 tells us how Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, preached boldly to the crowd, and about 3,000 people believed and were baptized (Acts 2:41).

In Acts 8, the Holy Spirit prompted Philip to approach an important Ethiopian official who was riding in his chariot south on a desert road toward Gaza. Philip obeyed, and when he heard the official reading the book of Isaiah, he used that to strike up a conversation that ultimately led to sharing the good news with the man — who believed and was baptized (Acts 8:26-40).

Also, in Acts is the story of how Paul and Silas shared the gospel with their jailer after a violent earthquake. The jailer believed, "he and his whole household" (Acts 16:34), and Paul and Silas baptized them all.

>>>The good news of the historical account of Jesus Christ. Christians evangelize by proclaiming, as well as living, the message that Jesus, who is God in flesh (John 1:1,14; Col. 2:9), died on the cross, was buried, and physically rose from the dead three days later (1 Cor. 15:1-4). It is the proclamation of the good news that we can be saved from the wrath of God through the loving sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ.

See Evangelism