

EVANGELISM IS NOT TO BE FEARED BUT LIVED

(Matt. 5:13-16)

Introduction:

1. The numbers on the board are instructive. They don't tell the whole story but they do tell a story.
2. If we would be confident in our standing before God at the end of time we must KNOW that the numbers on the board are going down because of a lack of interest in God and His truth, NOT a lack of our willingness to work for the kingdom.
3. Let us consider Evangelism regarding what it isn't, what it is, and

Discussion:

I. What Evangelism Is.

- A. An evangelist (Acts 21:8; 2 Tim. 4:5; Eph. 4:11), from the Greek word *euaggelistes* (yoo-ang-gel-is-tace), is simply a person who "a bringer of good tidings", "the name given to the NT heralds of salvation through Christ who are not apostles"-Thayer. From a root meaning "to announce good news".
- B. The good news = Gospel = old English for "Good spell". Not an incantation but news or a story.
 1. The source of the Gospel (good news) is of course God by way of the Holy Spirit.
 2. Before the New Testament was written and preserved for us, the evangelist was often miraculously supplied with the truth (Matt. 10:19; Acts 2; 1 Cor. 12:8-10; 2 Tim. 1:6).
 3. But as Paul foretold, once the New Testament was written the miraculous supplying of the truth would cease (1 Cor. 13:8-10). From that time until the end of time the source of the Gospel truth is the New Testament. So to be fully supplied for the work of evangelism is accomplished by the determined study of the New Testament.
- C. Evangelism is accomplished in two main ways, although these two ways are tied to another.
 1. Speaking the truth in love (Eph. 4:15). Every Christian ought to be and is expected to be able to communicate the basic principles of Christianity (1 Pet. 3:15).
 - a. The rebuke to becoming teachers in Heb. 5:12-14 is not a command for public speaking (note Jas. 3:1). That is not to say that public speaking is not a part of evangelism, but not for all.
 - b. The ability to accurately and effectively relate the Gospel to others is expected. If one can do so well enough to do it publically then halleluiaah! Compare with mission work.
 2. Public living is commanded (Matt. 5:13-16) and is the introduction to our speaking (1 Pet. 3:15). Remember the pattern of our Lord, He began to do and to teach (Acts 1:1).
 3. Both the living and the teaching of evangelism are tied to our thinking. When we have the mind of Christ, we will live the life of Christ and we will teach the words of Christ (Phil. 2:5; 1 Cor. 2:16).

I. What Evangelism Is Not.

- A. Public speaking. Evangelism at its most basic of one heart telling another heart the good news of all that God has done for us in Christ.
- B. Surety of increased numbers. No one can do evangelism better than our Lord and few followed Him (John 6; Matt. 26:56). We will probably not be as effective at evangelism as Paul and many forsook him (2 Tim. 1:15). Our evangelism is directly tied to our love and obedience to our Lord, not the potential increase in number of brethren.
- C. Optional. Evangelism is required of the saved in order to be saved. Evangelism is Christians living Christ-like lives and speaking the truth of Christ, thus it is NOT optional.

III. What Is Evangelism To You?

- A. A dread? Do you fear even the word evangelism? Then it is because you lack understanding. Electricians do not fear their work because they understand; so too Christians and evangelism.

We have not been given a spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7; Rom. 1:16).

- B. A chore? Evangelism ought to be a labor of love (1 Thess. 1:3) and not a burden. Living the Christian life IS one under a yoke, but a light one easy to bear (Matt. 11:28-30). As easy as a walk in the light! Jesus did all the hard lifting we are to but follow (John 21:15-19).
- C. A joy? The only time evangelism is not a joy is when we forget the joy of our salvation (2 Pet. 1:9). When we are fully aware of all that God has done for us in Christ (Eph. 1) we cannot help but be joyful. Good news wants to be told. Joy is contagious. Evangelism is rejoicing!

Conclusion:

1. The only thing about evangelism that Christians should fear is if we are not about it. That would mean we are not living the truth and speaking the truth. That would mean we are neither salt nor light. That would mean we are not actually Christians, not His!
2. Let us understand and rejoice in the Lord, and again I say rejoice!
3. Invitation.

2017 SPIRITUAL MENU: HELP YOURSELVES!!				
YEAR	DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	OTHER INFO
2017	Apr. 23-26	SEIBS Lectureship	Knoxville, TN	
2017	Apr. 23-26	OVU Lectureship	Vienna, WV	
2017	June	Jamestown Church Picnic	TBA	
2017	June 18-23	Virginia Christian Camp	Christiansburg, VA	
2017	July	In-House Seminar	Family: Divine Institution of God	
2017	July 21-23	Eric Lyons Gospel Meeting	Jamestown, NY	Is the Bible Reliable?
2017	August	VBS	The Who, What, Why of Christianity	
2017	Aug. 18-24	Polishing The Pulpit	Seveirville, TN	
2017	TBA	Ladies Retreat	Franklinville, NY	
2017	TBA	Men's Retreat	Franklinville, NY	
2017	Oct. 22-26	WVSOP Lectureship	Moundsville, WV	
2017	Nov.	CBI Retreat	Columbia, TN	
More Items to come as they become known				