

Lesson
17

Personal Evangelism

“What Are Your Responsibilities In Taking the Gospel To the Lost World ?”



In order for you to get saved, someone had to take the time and make the sacrifice to bring the Gospel to you. Now, in turn, you have a responsibility to take it to others.

LESSON 17

The purpose of this lesson is twofold: to give you a basic understanding of your responsibility to evangelize and to give some practical suggestions on how to evangelize.

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INTRODUCTION

Personal Evangelism? We have all heard of TV Evangelism (mass evangelism), but what exactly is personal evangelism?

Personal Evangelism is the sharing of our faith with someone else. It is personally telling the “good news” of the Gospel to another person who needs to be saved.

Undoubtedly, someone shared the Gospel with us. It may have been more than one individual, but we heard about it from another person. It is also probable that we saw the difference Christ made in the way that person lived his or her life. These factors played a major role in our coming to know Christ as our personal Savior.

Now there are those who see the difference in our life since we have trusted Christ and become a Christian. We must share the Gospel with those individuals so they, in turn, have the opportunity to trust Christ. That is personal evangelism.

This lesson is designed to help us understand the concept of personal evangelism and to help us become effective as we determine to share our faith with others.

THE CHALLENGE TO PERSONAL EVANGELISM

1. Romans 10 gives some basic principles about evangelism.
 - a. In verse 1, what was Paul's desire for his people, Israel?
 - b. According to verse 1, what did Paul do because of this desire?
 - c. State in your own words the condition of these people from verses 2 and 3.
 - d. After reading verses 6-13, what is your understanding of the need of the Israelites?

- e. Verse 14 gives three important questions. What are the answers to these questions?

- f. According to verse 17, give a brief explanation of how a person comes to know Christ as Savior?

Summary:

- a. Paul had a desire to see people saved.
- b. Paul prayed for those who needed to be saved.
- c. People cannot get saved by their own efforts or even by religious words.
- d. People need to trust Christ by faith in order to be saved.
- e. No one can be saved without someone sharing the Word of God with them.
- f. We are a proclaimer (preacher) of the Word of God by our life and by our words.

EXAMPLES OF PERSONAL EVANGELISM IN THE BIBLE

From the Life of Christ

1. Read John 3:1-21 carefully.
 - a. According to verse 3, what was Nicodemus' greatest need?
 - b. In verse 4, did Nicodemus understand the truth Jesus gave him in verse 3?
 - c. In verses 4-8, Jesus gives two physical illustrations of the spiritual truth. What are they?
 - d. Read verses 10-21 and follow how Jesus explains the truth. According to verse 15 and 16, how can a person become part of God's kingdom?

- e. According to verse 18, what happens to people who refuse to believe?

From the Life of Paul

One of the great accounts of evangelism is found in Acts 25:13- 26:32. Paul appears before a high government officer named Agrippa and shares his testimony. Agrippa does not receive Christ, but lets look carefully at how Paul presented the Gospel to Agrippa so we can learn some basic principles about sharing our faith.

1. In Acts 26:1-11, Paul tells what he was prior to his salvation. Briefly summarize your life before you trusted Christ as Savior.

2. Acts 26:12-18 records Paul's conversion. It was a significant event. Write down the account of your salvation and what led you to trust Christ for salvation.

3. Read Acts 26:19-23. Paul records the change in his life after salvation. Take a moment to think and to write down the difference in your life since you have been saved.

PUTTING OUR TESTIMONY TO WORK

Sharing our faith is explaining to others what Jesus Christ has done for us. The Bible calls us a witness.

Acts 1:8 “...you shall be witnesses to me.”

A witness is one who tells what he knows. Personal evangelism is telling others what Christ has done in our life. We need to consider some practical principles that may help us as we seek to share our faith with others. One of the most difficult aspects of evangelism is turning the conversation to spiritual things.

1. Learn to build bridges to the unsaved.
 - a. They must see a genuine love and concern on your part for them.
 - b. Use questions to lead into spiritual conversation.
 - ** If there is anything in your life that you could change to make it better, what would it be?
 - ** Have you ever been interested in spiritual things?
 - ** Suppose someone were to ask, “What is a Christian?” What would you say?
 - ** Are you church-going people?

Always remember, questions provoke thought but statements bring reaction.

2. Use your resources
 - a. You are given three valuable resources.
 - ** The Word of God.
 - ** The Spirit of God.
 - ** The people of God.
 - b. Learn to use resources as the key to seeing people come to Christ.
 - You must get the Word to them so the Holy Spirit can use it to bring conviction.
 - You must pray and ask the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and to use your testimony.
 - You can use other Christians to help you work with an individual for whom you are praying.

The Holy Spirit will empower you if you ask Him to fill you and use you as you endeavor to witness and bring people into the family of God.

From the principles taught in this lesson, we should recognize that the following statements are wrong and why.

1. God is a God of love and would not send any one to Hell.
2. A man can save himself by being sincere and good.
3. Living the Gospel without proclaiming the Gospel is sufficient to convince others to trust Christ.

Write down any questions you have regarding this lesson.

