

21st Century Evangelism

Lesson One

When someone mentions “Evangelism” to you, what comes to mind? Getting doors slammed in your face? Endless hours walking up and down a street telling everyone they are going to hell? Endless hours arguing with someone about where Cain got his wife?

Most people do not have a favorable view about evangelism. There are books you can read that tells you how it is suppose to be done, but it seems everyone has a different idea about it. We know we are suppose to because God tells us in many places in Scripture to “go” and preach the Gospel (Mark 16:1, Matthew 28:19,20, 1 Peter 3;15). So, with fear in our hearts, and every eye upon us, we set out to do what we are told to do... Evangelize. But, what does that mean? Does it mean going door to door, or using a radio, television, or the Internet? Does “Evangelism” mean selling everything we have an moving to a forgotten country? Just exactly what does Evangelism mean in the 21st century.

There are only two places in Scripture that mention “Evangelist”, Acts 21:8 and 2 Timothy 4:5. The original word used in both of these verses is yoo-ang-ghel-is-tace', and literally means “A preacher of the Gospel”. Biblically speaking, a “preacher” is someone who “heralds” or “proclaims” the Gospel. So, in a strict secular view, an Evangelist is simply someone who officially brings News.

As followers of Jesus Christ, the message we are to “herald” or “proclaim” is that through faith in Jesus Christ we can become a citizen of the Kingdom of God. This message has not changed since Jesus sent His disciples out and told them to preach the Gospel to the whole world. Gods Word does not Change (Matthew 23:35), and God does not change (Hebrews 13:8), but, how we present it does. Society changes but the Gospel does not. Culture changes, but the Gospel does not. Government changes, but the Gospel remains the same. Churches, people, and customs all change, but the Gospel remains the same.

So, with all that said, and “Evangelist” is a person who heralds the good news about salvation through Jesus Christ, and an “Evangelist” is a person who adapts and changes his deliverance of that message, but NEVER changes the message. An Evangelist is a person with a message that never changes. It is a “joyful” message, It is a victorious message, and it is a message everyone needs to hear. In short, Evangelism is “joyfully proclaiming that the good news of salvation prophesied in the Old Testament has come to pass in Jesus the Messiah.”

This “good news” has just as much to do with the here and now as it does the hereafter. Of course the Gospel is concerned about a persons eternal destiny, but God is also concerned about His children here right now. God’s Grace gives us strength not to do those things that He does not want us to do (ungodliness), and to not do what our human lust would rather do (worldly passions). He has given us the Holy Spirit to comfort us, guide us, teach us, and chastise us when needed (John 14:26). He has promised never to leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5), and to bless us abundantly (John 10:10).

So, in closing this first lesson we conclude that 21st century Evangelism must be “Bold”, and must offer “hope” for this life as well as the one to come. 21st century Evangelism must also be “genuine” and must be consistent with Scripture, never changing, and always focused on Jesus Christ.

Test

21st Century Evangelism

Lesson one

(1) List two Bible Verses where we are commanded to Evangelize

(2) List two Bible verses that talk about someone being an Evangelist

(3) The Word "Evangelist" in the Bible literally means...

A Pastor

A preacher of the Gospel

A Prophet

(4) The message an Evangelist should be proclaiming is?

The good news of Jesus Christ

That their church is the correct one.

You can lose your salvation

(5) God's Word changes?

(6) The message never changes, but the way we deliver it will.

True

False

(7) The Gospel Message is only concerned about eternity.

True

False

(8) The Evangelist message must always focus on...?

The Church

Sin

Jesus Christ

Whatever a person wants to hear

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Lesson Two

We discovered that Evangelism is “joyfully proclaiming that the good news of salvation prophesied in the Old Testament has come to pass in Jesus the Messiah.” But, how do you do this? Is there a right way and wrong way? The answer to this question is “Yes”.....and “No”.

First, in order to Evangelize, you must first be evangelized. You must know that you are a child of God. There are far to many unsaved people running around trying to act like they are saved, but not having any real spiritual birth.

Before we go any further, I would ask each of you who take this class to examine yourselves whether or not you are truly saved:

2Co 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

The thing to remember is that salvation comes thorough Jesus Christ and trusting in His Sacrifice for forgiveness of sins. Just knowing this does not save you. Liking the idea and believing that this is true does not save you. Salvation comes from believing God and repenting, turning your life over to Him and living for Him. True salvation produces a change in ones life. It is not a religious experience, it is a new birth....

Joh_3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Joh_3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

1Pe_1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

True salvation takes place the moment God comes and takes up residence within your life. You become spiritual born again. There is a change, a lasting

change. 2Co_5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:
old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
Has this new birth taken place in your life. Do you KNOW you are a child of
God? 1Jn_5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the
name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that
ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

If not, stop right now. There is no sense of you going any further until you get
this settled. Go to the contact page of this site and email me...raise your
hand and interrupt me in class right now... Do whatever it takes to get it
settled.

Ok, if you are going further, I assume you are a born again child of God. So,
back to the question. Is there a right way to Evangelize? Yes, and No. God
created us all different, we all have different gifts (1Co_12:28 , Romans 12:6-
8) And as such, we all minister differently. God likens us to different parts of
the body (Romans 12:3-8). As far as HOW we evangelize, there is no real
wrong way. But when it comes to the message, there is only one right way,
and that is the message salvation through Jesus Christ (Galatians 1:8).

Let us take a brief look at four major types of Evangelism. The first method
of Evangelism is, Relational Evangelism: Relational Evangelism is an
evangelistic method modeled after Jesus in John 13:1-20 and is a
combination of simple acts of kindness and intentional sharing of the gospel.”
Using Christ as the ultimate model, this style of evangelism implies a sincere

and humble attitude in putting others first. It is a natural yet subtle way of
witnessing to the lost. This is a very good method to Evangelize if you are
just starting out witnessing to others. One of the disadvantages of this
method is that in many cases, it take a long time to see any results. And, in
many cases, you may never see the fruits of your labor.

The next method is Confrontational Evangelism. Unlike relational

evangelism, confrontational evangelism seeks immediate results. In this style of evangelism, the Christian worker walks right up to complete strangers and confronts them about their lifestyle and their need for salvation. Sadly, in many cases, this confrontation turns in to name calling, antagonizing and very rude and mean statements being thrown around. Many people who call themselves “street preachers” engage in this type of evangelism. They will use 2 Timothy 4:2 as their battle cry, as well as a few other verses. When backing up their style of evangelism, they are very quick also to point out that Jesus called people names as well, and even make a whip and drove people out of the synagogue. While this is all true, it might be worth noting that the only people Jesus ever called names was the religious do gooders of His day, and the whip was for people inside the synagogue who were using it for their gain. When it came to lost sinners, Jesus “taught” them, “ate” with them, and “healed” them. He warned them in love about their sin, and told them of judgment to come, but He never screamed at them or cussed them out, or called them names. There is a time for spirit lead confrontation in love and humility.

The third type of evangelism is called Lifestyle Evangelism. In this type of evangelism, the Christian seeks to win people to the Lord simply by living a good, godly life. Ephesians 4:1 is one of the Bible verses they will use to back up their style of evangelism. While it is important to live a life in keeping with what you are preaching, simply living a good life will not win anyone to the Lord. James_2:26 tells us, “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” It is important to live a life that makes people stand up and pay attention, but if we don’t exercise some form of communication along with that lifestyle, it will go nowhere.

And then lastly, the fourth type of evangelism is Intellectual Evangelism: This last form of evangelism simply uses intellectual material passed out either by hand or by being left some place in order to present the Gospel. There is very little to no confrontation that takes place, no friendships are built, and no lifestyle to maintain. The Evangelist simply mails, passes out, or leaves the Gospel message with others or in places that others will find it. This method of evangelism is very good for new Christians, Christians with disabilities, or older Christians who just can’t get around very good, and also for those who are not good talking to others.

In concluding this lesson, it is important to understand, that each type of evangelism has it’s place. Each style can be done in several different ways, and each has it’s strong points and drawbacks. The key to understanding this lesson is to always be ready to give an account for the hope that is in you (1 Peter 3:15), whether it is by means of intellectual evangelism or one of the other three.

TEST

21st Century Evangelist

Lesson Two

(1) What is the classroom definition of Evangelism?

(2) In order to Evangelize, a person must first be..?

Baptized

Evangelized

rich

(3) True salvation is?

Not possible

Only available to God's chosen

A new Birth

(4) 2 Corinthians 5:17 says "all things become..?"

New

Old

broken

(5) List the four types of Evangelism mentioned in this lesson

(6) Describe the method you feel is the best way to evangelize and why.

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Lesson Three

So far we have looked at what Evangelism is, some characteristic of , and the fact that before a person can evangelize, they must first have been evangelized themselves. For this lesson, I want to spend some time looking at evangelism principles from the early church. Sometimes, to see where you are going, you must see where you came from.

The truth is, “the church does not need more gimmicks and newer programs” today. What we need is to return to the model that God has given us through the examples of the Apostles and the early Church.

HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERED AND DIRECTED

The first thing that we see when we look back to the example of the early church is that they were filled and directed by the Holy Spirit.

Act 1:4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

Act 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.

Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

As you read through the book of Acts, you will see that this dependency on the Holy Spirit was not a one time thing, but was a life style. It was who they were, not who they pretended to be.

Read also: Acts 8:26-40 / Acts 10:9-39 / Acts 16:6-10

What do all of these readings have in common? It was the Holy Spirit that directed them. The principle we learn here is very clear: If the 21st Century Church is to have any affect in Evangelizing, it must be directed and powered by the Holy Spirit.

ROOTED IN SCRIPTURE

The second thing we see from our the early church examples is that today s evangelism must be rooted in God’s Word. Jesus Himself used Scripture to announce His earthy Ministry (Luke 4:14-30). Peter, then, following Jesus’ example, drew a large crowd and started to preach. Some of the first words out of His mouth were, “But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; (Act 2:16). He then went on to quote David in verses 25-28, 34-35.

Again, following the same example, Philip quoted Isaiah when talking with the Eunuch in Acts 8:35. James used Old Testament Scripture at the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15:15-19 as well. And, many time the Apostle Paul quoted and referred to Scripture in his Missionary travels. The sad truth is, many church and Evangelist today rely upon their own wisdom and strength to evangelize, and this is the reason for such dead churches.

CENTERED ON JESUS

The third example that we see from the example of the early church I that their evangelism was centered on Jesus Christ. If you are talking about anything other then Jesus Christ, you are not evangelizing. You, your Church, your programs, your pet doctrines, your thoughts or feelings, or even your ideas have nothing to do with evangelism. Real evangelism is always centered on the life, death, resurrection and works of Jesus Christ.

Read Acts 2:22-24 and write down all the details Peter mentioned about Jesus in these three verses. No less then eight details are mentioned about Jesus in these verses, and then as you read on, it is very clear that all Peter is doing is centering his sermon on Jesus Christ (verses 32-36).

STRESS REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS

Peters message convicted the listeners so much because he was filled with the Holy Spirit and he was keeping his message centered on Jesus Christ. It convicted them so much in fact that they cried out “Men and brethren, what shall we do” (V. 37)?

Peters reply in verse 38 is the same thing our evangelism should be proclaiming... “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Jesus himself, after He was baptized called for people to “repent ye, and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:15). You see, evangelism is about Jesus and His desire and ability to forgive sins. BUT, there must be repentance before there is a new birth.

Evangelism is not a “self help” program. Evangelism is the good news that when we repent of our sins, God is “faithful and Just to forgive us of our sins, and to cleans us of all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9)

STRATEGIC AND SPONTANEOUS

Effective evangelism, just like during the early church days, must be intentional. It has to be planned and thought out. Jesus gave His disciples His strategy when He told them in 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.”

Today, this same message applies to us. Our Evangelism should always start at home. Family, friends, neighbors, and yes, even our enemies need the Lord. Our first and foremost mission field is those right around us. As we evangelize those, then our city, county, state, and country. As we reach out further, our eyes should then start turning to ways we can help those abroad in other countries.

If we are truly living a life of evangelism, not only will we be strategic, we will also be spontaneous. We will look for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others

There are several examples of this “spontaneous” evangelism in Scripture. Take the time to read about Philip, in Acts 8:26-40 and notice how he took advantage of the situation to evangelize. Another good example is found in Acts 16:16-36. Here Paul and Silas uses an unfortunate side trip into prison to evangelize.

If we are filled with the Holy Spirit, keeping Jesus Christ foremost in our lives, and ready to share the Gospel with others, God will always give you the opportunity. He is just waiting for someone to say, “here am I Lord, send me”

TEST

21st century evangelism

Lesson Three

- (1) Sometimes, to see where you are going, you must...?
- (2) List five characteristics of the early Church Evangelism.
- (3) Give one scriptural reference for each of the five evangelistic characteristics mentioned.

21st Century Evangelism

Week Four

With this lesson we are now one third the way done with this class. By now you have probably started to notice that Evangelism is something that the Christian Worker has to plan for. It is not something you just “go do”. You must know God’s Word at least enough to share Scripture. You need to have a plan, and you need to be right with God yourself. One of the reasons most evangelistic efforts sees no fruit is because the Christian worker is not prepared. But, there is another reason that evangelism fails many times. That reason is because the Christian workers heart is not in it to start with. They would rather be doing something else...anything, just not evangelism.

Many Christian workers approach Evangelism like a job...something that has to be done, or something that they “have to” do. If you have ever had a job that you did not like, or a job that you loved, you will understand my next statement. For Evangelism to be successful, it must be a way of life, not a job. If you approach Evangelism like a job, people will see it. They will know that you are not sincere, and that you really don’t care. In 21st century Evangelism, people need to know you care. They are looking for something real. The custom of the Rabbi’s during the life of Jesus was to wait until students would come to them and ask if they could be their student. The Rabbi would then take them under their wings and teach them with the hopes that some day, they would pass on the information to others. But, when Jesus started His earthly ministry, He did the exact opposite. In Matthew 4:19, Jesus approaches Peter and Andrew and says, “follow me and I will make you fishers of men”. By doing this, Jesus was establishing a new norm.

No longer was the teacher to sit around and wait for a student to pass on information to, but was to go out and find students to transform. Notice in this verse that Jesus did not say, “follow me and I’ll give you some information”.

No, He said, “I will make you...”. What Jesus had to offer was not just

information, but a transformation. When we approach Evangelism as a Job, we end up just passing on information as the Rabbi's did. But, if it is our way of life, if we really believe and live what we are saying, our Evangelistic endeavors become transforming to those who hear.

“The call to evangelize is a call to do what Jesus did, and it is a very high calling. Evangelism in the local church is not a program, a Bible study, or fellowship time. Evangelism is the very DNA on which the church was born, grows, thrives, and reproduces” (Evangelism for the 21st Century, Dr. Kevin Riggs, page 39). At this point I would like you to read Ephesians 4:11. Notice in this passage that there are five offices in the church.... Apostles, Prophets, Evangelist, Pastors, and Teachers. The Apostle is a “messenger, or someone who is sent”, The Prophet is a “foreteller”, the Evangelist is a person who “preaches the Gospel, the Pastor is “a shepherd”, and the Teacher is “an instructor”. In this verse, Paul is telling us that God calls us to different ministries. And the ministry that has the sole function of preaching the Gospel is the Evangelist. Without this, there is no church. Without evangelism, there is no need for a teacher or preacher. Without the 21st Century Evangelist, the work of the “messenger” and the “foreteller” would be in vain. And if we approach it as a job, the transformation will never take place. Is it any wonder that many churches are closing their doors? Is it any wonder that Christianity has lost it's power?

Another reason, that goes hand-in-hand with this thought is that we have lost our joy. Christians today, especially in America, have no joy in their Christian walk. Church to them is something they are suppose to do, instead of something to look forward to. God created us to be part of a community. He built within each of us a sense of needing to belong. In Hebrews 10:25, Go tells us to not forsake “the assembling of ourselves together...”. God created us to be part of a Christian fellowship. But since so many churches have lost their first love, and there is no room for Jesus inside anymore. The love of many has grown cold. Fellowship and communion together is a thing of the past. The Joy that passes all understanding is gone, and as a result, Evangelism has become a thing of the past. If your not happy about your Christian community, are you going to go and share the Gospel with others?

Probably not. If going to church is boring, Evangelism will be boring. If you don't love Church, you won't love Evangelism. And if going to the house of God is a chore to you, Evangelism will be a chore to you as well. We see a wonderful example of this in Acts 2. In this chapter we read that the community of believers met regularly to teach, fellowship, break bread together, pray. And then in verse 47 we read, "and the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved". You want an effective Evangelistic ministry? Get happy about Church again.

TEST

Evangelism 21st Century

Lesson Four

- (1) What are three things listed in the first paragraph of this lesson that the Evangelist needs to do in order to be Successful?

- (2) This lesson presents three things that hinders Evangelistic efforts. What are they?

- (3) If we really believe and live what we preach, our Evangelistic Efforts will become (what) to those who hear it?

- (4) Evangelism is the very (?) of the local Church?

- (5) If going to church is boring, your Evangelism will be....?

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Lesson Five

Scripture is very clear that God gives each of His children special gift, talents, or callings.

Please read the following verses and take note of the different spiritual gifts that are mentioned, and who gives them....

Rom 12:6-8 1Co 12:1-11 Ephesians 4:11-13

Notice that among the different gifts and callings, Evangelist is mentioned. From this we can conclude that doing the work of an Evangelist is something that God calls us to do. Making excuses, then, is nothing more than that...just an excuse.

What is a “spiritual” gift you might ask. In 1 Corinthians 12:1 the phrase “spiritual gifts” in verse one comes from the Greek word “pneumatikos” and literally means “spirit” or “spiritual things”. The Apostle Paul uses another word in verse four to refer to spiritual gifts, and that word is “charisma” meaning “grace”. Thus, a spiritual gift is a “grace gift” given to an individual by the Holy Spirit to accomplish the work of the Lord. They are not earned, but are given as God desires.

God told the early disciples that after the Holy Spirit came upon them, they would be witnesses throughout the whole world, starting first in their own home (Acts 1:8). This method of spreading the Gospel has never changed and neither has God’s use of evangelism to spread that Gospel.

A discernment must be made here between a spiritual gift and natural abilities. While natural talents are God given, they have nothing to do with a person being a member of the body of Christ. There is no such thing as a spiritual gift of fixing automobiles, gourmet cooking, painting or playing baseball. However, these natural abilities that we are born with can be used in conjunction with Spiritual gifts.

For example, a person with the spiritual gift of mercy could use that gift in conjunction with their natural ability to work on cars, and help someone by fixing their car. A person who has the natural ability to articulate a thought might combine it with a spiritual gift of discernment or prophecy to preach or teach.

Another discernment regarding spiritual gifts is that it differs from the “fruit of the Spirit”. The Fruit of the spirit (love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance {Galatians 5:22,23}) is to build character. The Gifts of the spirit is to build the kingdom of God. Fruits are developed as you grow and mature in your faith. Gifts are discovered as you walk by faith and exercise your faith day to day. Spiritual gifts are about what you do for Christ...Spiritual fruits are about who

you are in Christ.

The purpose of Spiritual Gifts....

In 1 Corinthians 12:2-6 Paul mentions four purposes of spiritual gifts. Let us take a look at the verses first, and then use the acronym G.I.F.T to explain them.

1Co 12:2 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.

1Co 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

1Co 12:4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

1Co 12:5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

1Co 12:6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

G --- Grace, Spiritual gifts are a sign that God has redeemed you (V.2)

Notice in verse two that Paul reminds them where they came from. Along with this is the recognition that by “grace are ye saved”. Receiving a spiritual gift from God is evident that God’s Grace has been poured out upon you.

I --- Identification, Spiritual gifts identify you with Jesus (V.3)

When a child of God uses the gift of the Spirit properly, people will know they are of God. It is this spiritual Gift that identifies us with Christ. When the disciples were first called “christians” in Antioch (Acts 11:26), what was it that identified them with Christ? It was the Gifts of the Spirit working through them. The gifts of prophecy, the gifts of healing, the gifts of mercy, and so on. The people of Antioch identified those gifts as being from God.

F --- Function, Spiritual gifts are given to us for service in the body of Christ. (V.4-6)

Notice the words “different, diversities”. The thought here is that each of us have different functions within the body. Just as the human eye does not do what the foot does, but it is part of the same body, so the Pastor does not do what the administrator does, but both are working towards the same goal....evangelizing the lost.

T --- Teamwork, Spiritual gifts demonstrate unity in diversity.

Notice the word “same” in verses 4-6. In spite the diversity in the body of Christ, we are all saved by the same God, sealed by the same spirit, and preach the same message. (V.4-6)

In Ephesians 4:11, Paul list five foundational office gifts given to the church by Jesus Himself. In that list we find the Evangelist mentioned. The reason God has given these gifts to the church is for “the

perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (V. 12). From these two verses we see that evangelism is a spiritual gift that is given to individuals and to the church.

As an individual we are to share the gospel whenever and wherever we can in whatever godly way we can. As previously discussed, there are many ways to share the gospel. This is where combining natural talents with your spiritual gifts may come in handy.

From a “church” perspective, evangelism as a spiritual gift brings about unity and purpose. A church that does not evangelize is a dead, or soon to be dead church. The very DNA of the christian, and of the church is “Sharing the Gospel”....evangelizing. When all of God’s children properly use God’s gifts individually, working in unity with the rest of the local body of believers, the great commission is fulfilled and the body of Christ grows.

In conclusion, Evangelism is a spiritual gift, an office of the church, and a personal responsibility of every single believer. Those with the gift of evangelism have the ability to boldly share their faith and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to teach and inspire others to do the same.

TEST

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Lesson Five

- (1) List five different gifts listed in the verses given.
- (2) Making excuses not to evangelize is simply nothing more than....?
- (3) What is the definition of a spiritual gift as mentioned in this lesson?
- (4) The acronym G.I.F.T describes the four purposes of Spiritual gifts. What did the "T" stand for?
- (5) According to Ephesians 4:11, why did God give these gifts to the church?
- (6) What is the difference between a Natural ability and a Spiritual Gift?

21st Century Evangelism

Lesson Six

So, by now you should have a pretty good grasp as to what Evangelism is, and what it is not. You should be able to identify pitfalls that hinder Evangelism, and you should know what, and how, to incorporate your natural talents and Spiritual gifts into your Evangelistic efforts. From this point on, we are going to focus on “how” to share your faith in an evangelistic manner, and hopefully give you some tools that will help you.

As I mentioned in an earlier lesson, being Evangelized yourself is first and foremost in being able to Evangelize someone else. After that, living a life that would draw others to Jesus is extremely important. Remember, as a child of God, you are a new creature. This new life should be evident to everyone who sees you (2 Cor. 5:17).

Secondly, 1 Peter 3:15 tells us that we should always be “ready” to give an answer to those who would question us about our faith. It should go without saying that you can not evangelize others unless you know what God has done in your own life. “Who”, “What”, “When” and “why” are questions you should be able to answer before anyone even ask the question. And, of course, you should know Scripture to back up what you are saying. Romans 10:17 says, “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” What God is telling us here is that saving faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Giving personal testimonies are good, but without Scripture, it won’t save anyone. Living a godly life should be our goal as born again Christians, but our life example will not lead anyone to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. It is the Holy Spirit that brings about conviction in a lost persons life, and the Word of God is the Spirits Sword (Ephesans 6).

Before we move on, it should be noted that the above mentioned questions answered and incorporated into your own testimony will be very helpful in breaking the ice and leading you into an Evangelistic conversation with someone. However, this is the 21st century. When does anyone have time to listen to your testimony for fifteen minutes or more? The sad truth is, most people will not give God five minutes out of their day. Because of this, having your “ice breaking” message down to three minutes or less is very handy. Thats the time it takes to walk across the parking lot, ride an elevator up to the top floor, or the time it takes for the light to turn green. That two or three minute time frame may be the only moments you have to get someones attention and bring them to the point they want to hear more. This is where the seeds are planted that God will use to grow thier faith. After that, as you part ways, having a Gospel tract to hand them, with your contact information on it, is very wise. What you said to them may not sink in until they get home and the day starts slowing down. It is in those quite moments that the Holy Spirit can work in their hearts. This is when they open up the Gospel tract and the seeds are watered. The next time they see you, they won’t be in such a hurry to get away. Or, if not you, the next servant of the Lord that God brings their way.

But, what if they do stop to listen, or, the next day they pull you aside and ask you to tell them more? What then? Now is where you need to have your Bible handy. If you can’t always have a Bible handy, having a “Romans Road” card, or other salvation tool in your pocket can be very handy. It would be good to memorize the Bible verses that coincide with the Romans Road. They are as

follows...

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Rom 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 10:9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Romans 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Romans 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Romans 8:38-39 "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Knowing these verses, or having them written down and with you at all times will help lead you in the conversation. Remember though, Satan does not want you to Evangelize and he will do anything he can to distract you or the person you are talking to. One way that he does this is by getting you off track with useless questions and discussions that take you away from the cross. When this happens, politely tell the person you will be happy to answer that question later, but right now it is important that you understand your need for Jesus Christ. And then, bring them right back to the verses you are sharing, and continue forward.

There are many other tools that you can use to Evangelize, and we will be talking about more of them each week. In closing this lesson, I would like for you to write down your testimony of when you got saved. Remember the key questions I listed above, "Who", "What", "When" and "why"? Incorporate the answer to these question in your testimony. Also, remember I said you may only have two or three minutes to talk with someone for the first time? Well, I want you to write your testimony down, answering those key questions, and do it where it can be said in three minutes or less. The average person speaks at about 125 words per minute, so your testimony should only be no more then 375 - 400 words long. In the classroom setting, we will have you give this testimony during next weeks class. If your taking this lesson on line, you will be ask to submit your testimony during the test portion. Be concise, be short and to the point, but be complete. This may very well be the starting point for many souls being saved. Good luck, and God bless.

TEST

21st Century Evangelism

Lesson Six

- (1) What four questions should we always answer while giving our testimony?
- (2) Romans 10:17 tells us that faith comes by what?
- (3) In your own words, what is the Romans Road?
- (4) You were ask in the lesson to write out your testimony, answering the four questions mentioned, and to do so in less then 400 words. Please write that testimony here.

21st Century Evangelism

Lesson Seven

In closing the lesson for last week, you were given the assignment to write down your salvation testimony in 375 - 400 words or less, and while doing so, include some Scripture to support what you are saying, and, answer the questions “who”, “what”, “when”, and “why”. If you are taking this class on-line, try to find someone you are comfortable with to engage you in conversation. While the two of you are talking, look for ways that you can now share this short testimony with them. It is ok if you warn them ahead of time what you are doing, so they know what to expect. This is simply for practice.

If you are taking this lesson in-class, we will now spend a few minutes practicing this on each other. Remember, this exercise is to get you comfortable with, not only looking for ways to witness during casual conversation, but also in giving you some practice in witnessing to others by sharing your own salvation experience, and to do so clearly, and in as short a period of time. Knowing that many of your witnessing opportunities will come and go in four minutes or less.

Now, I would like to turn our attention to tips that you can use while witnessing. Sure, you can just walk up to someone and start throwing a bunch of Bible verses at them..tell them what a dirty rotten sinner they are, and just hope that they will stick around long enough to actually give them the Gospel. OR.... You can do things the way Jesus did them. After all, isn't He suppose to be our example? So, with that said, lets look at some tips that Jesus gave us...

Witnessing Tip #1: Draw Near

Christ was not aloof. He went to where people gathered. He “drew near and went with them” (Luke 24:15). The root meaning of the phrase “drew near” is to come near in time and place. Christ sought out the hurting. He went where the people were. (Luke 14:25, Mark 10:1, Mark 5:21, to name but a few)

While much of the gospel work can be accomplished from afar, ultimately, most people need a personal, real-time connection. They need someone who will reach them where they are and become acquainted with them. They need someone who will sympathetically apply Scripture to their specific situations.

But before we go too far, notice the next verse ... But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. (v. 16).

What an interesting concept! Here Scripture indicates that the eyes of these two men were restrained and they did not know that it was Jesus. The Lord wanted them to be able to focus on what He was saying rather than who He was.

Drawing near to people and witnessing to them does not necessarily require that the first thing we do is adopt an in-your-face, full-disclosure approach; sometimes much more can be accomplished if we

remain “undercover” and reveal things as souls are able to digest them. “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.” (John 16:12).

Witnessing Tip #2: Measure Your Approach

So don't always make your purpose known unless the situation warrants it.

Of course, there are times when you must let people know who you are to avoid being counterproductive. For instance, if you knock on someone's door, they have the right to know right away who you are and why you are there.

However, in other venues, for instance, when you are traveling, you have the luxury of letting things play out, which can provide big advantages for effective witness.

But for this to occur, we need to be aware of the “conversation” and “reasoning” that we hear people using.

The word “communed” in verse 15 comes from the Greek root for logos or “word.” The word “reason” comes from the Greek which means “to be in company with” and the word “reasoned” comes from the Greek word “to investigate”.

We could take this to mean that instead of making Himself known right away, Christ chose to listen to and learn about those He was trying to reach.

Witnessing Tip #3: Listen to Them

Listen to the words people are using, listen to their logic, when you are witnessing to them. You can learn much about who they are and what their needs are. This can provide a foundation and direction for what you later share when it is time to make yourself and your purpose better known. It is easier to tailor your teaching to their specific needs if you listen to their concerns and take them to heart. Knowing for instance that a person is talking about their Mormon church will give you a good indication, when you start witnessing to them, how they are going to respond, and this gives you the ability to be ready and studied up.

What did Jesus do to gather more needed information?

“And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? ” (v. 17).

Here we see that Jesus was probing to find out what they were talking about, and, noticing that they were sad, questioned as to why.

Witnessing Tip #4: Explore Their Hearts

Ask open-ended questions to better know your new friends and get additional background. It is simply amazing the amount of information people will volunteer once they begin talking. When you ask open-ended questions, people often don't feel pressured and will share what's in their hearts. They also feel valued because they are being listened to, rather than "witnessed to" or "preached at."

But did you notice the other element in Christ's question? He not only asked about their conversation, He also noted and asked about what their facial expressions and body language were communicating. Noticing the mood that a person is in, how they are dressed, what they are doing, who they are with, and even learning where they are going, are all good things to know in order to better understand a person so that you can more effectively witness to them.

As we close this lesson, it is worth noting that none of this is any good unless you know enough about God's Word to witness to them. Knowing the Romans Road by heart (as listed below), would be invaluable to a person striving to evangelize others. At the very least, having the first few verses committed to memory can help, and after that, if they stay and listen, you can pull out your "marked" Bible, or witnessing card to show them the other verses as you expound upon them.

Over the course of the next four weeks, you are going to be ask to memorize, or have available to read on a moments notice, the verses that pertain to the Romans Road. They are listed below for you.

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Rom 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 10:9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Romans 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Romans 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Romans 8:38-39 “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

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TEST

21st Century Evangelism

Lesson Seven

- (1) List the four witnessing tips mentioned in this lesson

- (2) Why might it be important to have Scripture memorized while witnessing to others?

- (3) What benefit is there in knowing something about the person you are trying to Evangelize?

- (4) In your own words, list a couple ways that you can get to know someone better before witnessing to them?

21st Century Evangelism

Lesson Eight

Last week we started looking at tips to help you in your evangelistic efforts. In review, the first tip was to “Draw Near” to people. Make yourself available to talk and interact with them. The second tip was to “measure your approach”. Don’t always make your purpose known to them, but strike up a conversation and watch for God’s leading to bring in the Gospel. The third tip we looked at was, “listen to them”. By learning to listen, you can better understand the person you are going to Evangelize, and thus be able to cater your message to them on a personal level. Tip number four builds upon this listening but includes “exploring their heart”. Ask open ended questions so that you can better learn who they are, where they are at, and what type of approach might better work in dealing with them.

In closing last weeks lesson, we also introduced the “Romans Road”, plan of salvation. This is basically a list of verses found in the book of Romans that spell out the Gospel. It is easy to use because you can stay in one book of the Bible in witnessing, and do not have to jump all around the Bible. It is just one of many different methods, and of course if you are a more mature Christian and have been Evangelizing for a while, you no doubt have other verses, and other methods you use. AS LONG AS IT IS CENTERED AROUND SCRIPTURE, you can’t go wrong. Holy Spirit will do the internal work as you sow the seeds. Last week you were ask to commit to memory the first few verses in the Romans Road. If you have not, please spend a few moments refreshing your memory, and trying to memorize them.

Now, lets move on to a few more tips.

Witnessing Tip #5: Be Aware of Everything

Ask the Spirit to give you Christ-like awareness and discernment. Jesus saw that these two men were sad (literally gloomy or of mournful appearance), and He specifically asked them why they were so!

Facial expressions matter, and they can tell a lot about what’s going on in someone’s head. It’s never safe to assume anything based on just a facial expression, but it certainly does not hurt to ask.

Jesus’ question and observation drew a revealing response from one of His travel companions.

“And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people” (Luke 24:18,19)

As you “listen” to Cleopas, can you sense his sadness? Perhaps he sounds a little bit angry too.

Interestingly, this is in keeping with the actual meaning of the word translated as “sad,” which can include the idea that the person is also experiencing anger.

But Christ, the master communicator, recognizes that it’s still not quite time to speak. He hears within Cleopas’ question the desire to share even more information, so He beckons Cleopas to continue by asking, “What things?”

As you read Cleopas’ answer, see if you can identify and diagnose the cause for his sad anger:

“And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not” (Luke 24:19-24).

Did you see the reason for Cleopas’ anger? He offered it! So what was the problem? These two were despondent and their conversation with one another was not helping one bit; it was only further depressing them.

Bottom line, they had lost hope and were in a very vulnerable and discouraged state of mind. Jesus, being aware of their demeanour was able to pick up on this and by asking questions, draw the root of the problem out of them.

Witnessing Tip #6: Be Patient

If you patiently wait long enough, people will often tell you their problems and give you a chance to offer a solution. What Christ said next would be of vital importance to them physically, mentally, and spiritually. It could very well be the difference between life and death for them. So what did He say?

“Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?” (Luke 24:25,26)

While at first it could appear that Christ’s choice of words might seem ill advised, they are actually saturated with meaning. First, Jesus says, “O fools” Should a fool know better? Is a fool unintelligent or merely unwise? What exactly is a fool anyway? Well, according to one Scripture, a fool is one who says “in his heart, There is no God” ([Psalm 14:1](#)).

So what we have now is a picture of two individuals who had walked and talked with Christ for three years but were in danger of walking with God no more. They were about to give up completely, even questioning their faith and trust in God.

Let's go to the next phrase: "slow of heart." Slowness of heart in the Greek is "bradeis cardia", and it's where we get the word "bradycardia," which is a term used in medicine today to describe a dangerously low heart rhythm. In other words, their spiritual foolishness had caused them to lose heart.

What was the cause of this life-threatening condition? Because they had not "believed all the prophets had spoken." And because of this selective and faulty reasoning, what was actually a magnificent blessing was something they thought was the worst possible curse; what was depressing them was supposed to be seen as a glorious fulfillment of Bible prophecy. "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?"

Here the entire tone of this witnessing experience changes. Christ moves from being an active listener to being an active presenter of heart-saving Bible truth!

Witnessing Tip #7: Be Complete

Jesus continued to ask open-ended questions until He and those He was witnessing to had shared enough information to have a complete picture of the diagnosis and the solution. No Evangelistic effort is complete until the Gospel has been fully, and completely presented and understood. Never go into a witnessing situation where you are going to be rushed, or not have enough time to spend with the person you are Evangelizing.

Witnessing Tip #8: Be Direct

Once Jesus knew the problem and its seriousness, He wasted no time in directly, but tactfully, sharing not only His diagnosis of the problem but also the solution: believing all the prophets have spoken. Tip toeing around the truth, watering it down, or changing it so as not to offend someone is a complete waste of time. Be loving, be caring, but be direct. Telling someone that being burned with fire is unpleasant may seem like a loving approach, but when their house is on fire, they need to hear, "your house is on fire, get out or you will die".

Now, let us take a look at the Romans Road again. This time, refresh your memory on the first two verses. These verses speak to the fact that we are all sinners. Today, let us look at Romans 6:23. This verse tells us what we have gained because of our sin. It is important that any person you are Evangelizing understands these two points before moving on. (1) We are all sinners, and (2) the wages of those sins is "death".

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 5:8 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 10:9 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

Romans 10:13 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Romans 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

Romans 8:38-39 “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

TEST

21st Century Evangelism

Lesson Eight

- (1) List the first four "tips" in Evangelizing.
- (2) What benefit is there in asking "Open Ended" questions?
- (3) You know you can't go wrong when witnessing to someone if you will remember to center everything around.....?
- (4) At the end of witnessing tip six, Jesus moves from being an active listener to what?
- (5) No Evangelistic effort is complete until.....?
- (6) In your own words, why is it important to be direct in your witnessing?
- (7) Do you know by heart the first three verses in the Romans Road?

21st Century Evangelism

Lesson Nine

Well, we are only a few week away from the end of the semester. Hopefully by now you have gotten a pretty good idea of what Evangelism is, and isn't, and some good tips on what to do and not do. Today we are going to continue looking at Jesus' example on Evangelizing from Luke chapter 24.

Witnessing Tip #9: Offer the Solution First

To be sure that those listening to Him were not devastated by His forthright diagnosis, He shared the conclusion—the hopeful prognosis—they needed to hear before He set out to prove it.

In essence, He said, “Look, I know your pain. I understand it from your perspective, but I’ve got good news for you. You are wrong! What you think is the worst thing in the world is actually the best!”

Of course, He doesn't just leave them with the conclusion. Notice what He does next!

“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself” (Verse 27)

Witnessing Tip #10: Be Prepared to Have an Answer

Christ doesn't just tell them that they are thinking things wrong. He also shows them how to think right through a powerful explanation of Scripture! Jesus knew they were desperate for answers. You could say that He positively reproveth them, offering them the correct view of the situation on the basis of Scripture.

Of course, a systematic topical Bible study—that is, looking at everything the Bible has to say about a subject—can have a powerful effect. This is in fact what an evangelist does in every presentation. It's what we train our students to do: to prove and reprove all things from the Word.

However, you don't need to know everything contained in God's Word to be an Evangelist. But, you do need to continue learning, meditating, memorizing, and studying on a daily bases.

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Witnessing Tip #11: Make It Personal

As Jesus explains this revelation, He does it in the context of His own personal pain experience and God-glorifying testimony—"the things concerning Himself." The most powerful form of witness is often just a simple personal testimony. You must learn to share your testimony whenever it is most useful to do so.

In a previous lesson, I had you write out your personal testimony in 400 words or less. This is an exercise in keeping it short for those times you only have a few minutes to witness. Here, in this sitting, it is assumed you may have a little more time to expound on it. Remember, a person can argue against God's Word. They can argue against who Jesus is, and if there is a heaven or hell. But, they can not argue against what God has done in your life, and what He has done for you. Sometimes, telling others what God has done for you is the only evangelism you may ever get to share with them. Be careful, however, to not overdo it. Christ actually gauged the continued interest of those who were listening to Him. He did this by indicating that He had to continue on His journey as the other two neared their destination.

Witnessing Tip #12: Gauge Continued Interest

Always monitor whether or not you are getting through to someone or to gauge the interest level of those listening and then tie off your time while interest is still at a peak. You don't have to share everything at once. You can feed a person too much of even the best food and give them indigestion! Asking questions such as, "would you like to hear more about this". or, "Do you have a little more time for me to share some more with you" are good questions to ask to find out if the person you are witnessing to is interested. If they are not interested, a stern warning about putting eternal matters off may be in order, and then politely move on...leaving them a gospel tract if possible.

Notice the response of the two men when Christ said He was leaving them ...

"But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them." (verse 29) Now, isn't this the way you'd like people to act at the end of your Bible study? Constraining, begging you, imploring you to stay and show them more?

Of course, the best part of this wonderful passage is found in the next several verses. See if you can spot the results of effective witnessing.

"And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" (Verses 30-32)

Did you see the results?

Effective Bible study helps people literally see Jesus. The Word is so filled with Spirit that it can take broken, helpless, “slow” of heart, sin-sick souls and bring them new life and energy. The slow of heart are instead filled with heavenly heartburn!

Ok, let us now turn our attention once again to the Romans Road. By now you should have memorized the first three verses in this evangelistic road map.

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

These verses speak of our sin condition and the wages those sins have brought upon us..... DEATH. However, the next verse gives the lost sinner some hope. Let us commit this next verse to memory now.

Romans 5:8 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 10:9 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

Romans 10:13 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Romans 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

Romans 8:38-39 “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

TEST

21st Century Evangelism

Lesson Nine

- (1) Why do you think it is important to give people the "solution" first?
- (2) When witnessing, you do not need to know everything about the Bible, but you should be doing what daily?
- (3) Why do you feel it is important to gauge continued interest in your message?
- (4) Can you quote Romans 5:8?

21st Century Evangelism

Lesson Ten

Today we are going to look at the last two witnessing tips that Jesus taught us in Luke chapter 24.

Witnessing Tip #13: Give the Glory to God

Remember, true witness will lead to the worship of the living Christ, not the preacher or teacher! Keep God as your focus, just as Christ always did. Lets see how this played out after Jesus had left.

“And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,

Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread. (Verses 32-35)

Do you see what happened? They went on their way, found the others, and proclaimed “The Lord is Risen indeed”. Proclaiming the Gospel is a form of worship, and this is what they did after encountering Jesus.

Witnessing Tip #14: Make Disciples

True witness will lead and inspire those who have learned the truth to share what they’ve learned with the same boldness and clarity.

What a wonderful and practical picture of effective Word-based witnessing! What a wonderful example of simple techniques that not only the disciples but you and I can use in reaching out to others for the King!

Remember, it was this one simple Bible study, given during a short seven-mile walk, that was used by the Spirit to turn the world upside down! They heard the study and were gripped and equipped by it. Their hearts were set on fire, and they couldn’t help but share it with others. And now you’ve heard it and can go share it with others too!

Ok, let us now turn our attention once again to the Romans Road. By now you should have memorized

the first four verses in this evangelistic road map.

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 5:8 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Today, we will turn our attention to the next two verses in the Romans Road. These two verse turn our attention to what we must do to be saved from our sins. Lets commit these two verses to memory now....

Romans 10:9 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

Romans 10:13 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Romans 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

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TEST

21st Century Evangelism

Lesson Ten

- (1) List the two witnessing tips given in today's lessons.
- (2) From memory, write out Romans 5:8
- (3) Do you know the first six verses in the Romans Road by memory?

21st Century Evangelism

Lesson Eleven

It has been suggested that about every five hundred years, the church holds a yard sale...out with the old, in with the new. We in the 21st century are living through another one. But, this time, the church, it would seem, is completely selling out.

Lets take a moment and look at where we came from...

During the first five hundred years of Christianity, Jesus is born, grows up, is crucified, and ascends into heaven. The Apostles take the Gospel throughout the known world and the Church is born, persecuted, and scattered over the whole earth, and finally moves from being a part of culture to being indistinguishable from culture.

By the end of the fifth century and into the sixth century, the Roman empire falls and the church enters a period known as the Dark Ages. During this time, there are all types of fighting and schisms. Then, At the beginning of the eleventh century, Christianity splits into two distinct groups with Orthodoxy becomes the religion of the East while Roman Catholicism becomes the religion of the West.

In the west, the sixteenth century is the time of the Reformation. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nails his Ninety-five theses on the church door in Witenberg, Germany. The result, by the 1600s we now have the Protestant religion, of which most of our evangelical churches in the United States are a part.

Now, in the 21st century (about five hundred years later) everything is changing again. In some countries where Christianity had all but been eradicated, they are hungering and thirsting for God's Word. Yet, Today, America (as well as many other places in the World) can no longer be considered a Christian nation. We have become a "Post-Christian" nation. It is difficult to define a Post-Christian world in one sentence or even in one paragraph. This is because one of the traits of a Post-Christian nation is something called "Relativism". Relativism is a belief that all points of view are equally valid because all points of view are relative to the individuals experiences. There is no such thing as absolute truth because all truth is subject to context and culture.

Another belief that has plunged us into a Post-Christian Nation is called "Deconstruction".

Deconstruction is the belief that no single meaning of a text is possible. This involves critically evaluating why a specific belief is believed and why what anyone says is to be taken at face value. Deconstruction goes beyond questioning everything to questioning the possible meaning of everything as well. The goal of deconstruction is to literally destroy a persons ability to truly understand any belief.

2Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

A third trait of a Post-Christian Nation is “Distrust”. This prevailing attitude of distrust speaks out against traditional beliefs and strives to cast doubt on Gods Word. And then, “distrust” leads to a fourth trait, and that is “disillusionment”. Since nothing can be trusted, nothing can be known for certain. In a Post-Christian nation, people have grown weary of all the unfulfilled promises of science, technology, government, and religion. Distrust has grown deep into the culture and disillusionment has become a way of life.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Another Post-Christian trait that the 21st century Evangelist has to face is ”Pluralism”. This is simply the belief that all religions are equally false and/or valid in that all religions offer paths to God...or gods. Interestingly enough, the only religion to be outright denounced under Pluralism is Christianity, and that is because Christianity is one of the few religions that teaches exclusivity.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

After these traits, “environmentalism” and “globalization” are the other two post-christian traits that we face today. Where environmentalism becomes the religion of, and worship of, “Mother Earth”, Globalization seeks to bring everyone together under one religious flag. To accomplish both of these, the Creator of Heaven and Earth is tossed aside and the creation itself is worshiped.

Rom 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

With this said, living in a post-christian nation can be a blessing in disguise. People are open to receiving God today, but they are closed to the traditional, organized religion of yesterday. They are tired of facts, figures, and a nicely put together apologetic. They are looking for something real, meaningful and lasting. Today, it is not enough to say, “Jesus loves you”. It is not enough to say “repent” and “believe”. The Evangelist of the 21st century must be living it before he can preach it. He/She must be convinced that Jesus truly is “the way, the truth, and the life”, before he can convince anyone else. And, he must be “ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 peter 3:15). Your light must become brighter, your hope must become obvious, your opportunities must become limitless, and your faith must become authentic.

Now, let's continue learning the Romans Road. By now we should have memorized the first six verses, and be familiar with how they apply to salvation.

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Rom 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 10:9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Romans 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

The last two verses in the Romans Road do not focus on salvation, but give assurance OF salvation for those who truly, and honestly embraced the first six.

Romans 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Romans 8:38-39 "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

edit text

TEST

21st Century Evangelism

Lesson Eleven

- (1) Which post-christian trait means, "A belief that all points of view are equally valid because all points of view are relative to the individuals experiences"?
- (2) How does "distrust" and "disillusionment" work together?
- (3) People today are looking for something real. What can you do to make the Gospel message "real" to those you are witnessing to
- (4) Do you feel comfortable using the Romans Road as a witnessing tool?

21st Century Evangelism

Week Twelve

We have reached the final lesson of this class. In finishing this class, I would like to leave you with a few final thoughts. As you remember, Evangelism is “joyfully and victoriously proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. Some of Jesus’ last words while walking here on earth was to “Go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:18-20), and the only way that can be done is by Evangelism. While Evangelizing, a person must be bold in their proclamation of the Gospel, and they must offer hope as well.

If you remember, in lesson two we talked about the fact that before a person can evangelize, they must first be evangelized. A lost person can not “joyfully” and “boldly” proclaim the Gospel to others. One of the reasons there are so many different “Gospel” messages out there today is because there are many people who have never been born again who are trying to teach the Word of God. Examine yourself to see if you are truly born again. Remember, there are many different ways to evangelize, but there is only one true message. That one true message must be shared with Holy Spirit power, rooted in Scripture, Centered on Jesus, and it must stress the importance of repentance.

Also, it is good to remember that Evangelism in the local church is not a program, a Bible study, or fellowship time. Evangelism is not "church visitation", and it is not what you see most of the time on religious Television shows. Evangelism is sharing the Gospel (death, burial, resurrection) of Jesus Christ. This is the very DNA on which the church was born, grows, thrives, and reproduces” This is the message of Evangelism. But, the spirit in which it is done is important as well. If you approach evangelism like a job, people will see it and not respond. What we have to share is not merely information, but a transformation. Remember that we said to evangelize, you must first be evangelized... Well, in other words, you must be transformed yourself. If we approach this calling as a job, we end up just passing on information. But, if we approach it as a transformed, born again child of God, then others will see our transformed lifestyle and will respond to it.

During this class we have also gone over several factors that hinder a person from being effective in evangelizing, as well as several tips that can help you. I urge you to look back over those points from time to time and evaluate where you are. The truth is, no matter where you live, every person you meet needs to hear the Gospel message. Every person you meet has other spiritual needs as well. Everyone thinks about God at some point in their lives, and if we allow God to do so, He will bring these people into our paths at the right time. It is up to us to be ready to step in and actively share our faith with them. Remember, gone are the days of the great revival tent meetings where hundreds would get saved every night. People today are most effectively reached one at a time, and sharing your faith with them is not an option...it is our highest obligation and our greatest privilege and responsibility.

As we close, lets take one last look together at the Bible verses found in the Romans Road. These verses are just one of the tools you have to share your faith. As you learn more, grown more, and exercise your faith through evangelism more, God will give you more tools. But for now, lets just get

this one down. By now you should have memorized the following verses.

THE ROMANS ROAD TO SALVATION

complete

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

Rom 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

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TEST

21st Century Evangelism

Lesson Twelve

- (1) List two bible verses where we are commanded to "GO"
- (2) The word "Evangelist" in the Bible literally means?
- (3) The "method" may change, but the "message" should...?
- (4) The Evangelist Message should always focus on?
- (5) In order to Evangelize, a person must first be.....?
- (6) What is a reason most Evangelist fail?
- (7) Making excuses not to go evangelize is simply nothing more then....?
- (8) What is the difference between a natural ability and a Spiritual Gift?
- (9) Why might it be important to have scripture memorized when evangelizing?
- (10) You know you can't go wrong when evangelizing if you remember to center everything around...?
- (11) No Evangelistic effort is complete until....?
- (12) Why do you feel it is important to gauge how interested people are to your message?
- (13) The Gospel message must be shared with Holy Spirit power, rooted in Scripture, Centered on Jesus, and it must stress the importance of.....?
- (14) Evangelism is the very.....?.... of the Church.