

15

RESTORING THE CHURCH - PRINCIPLES OF CHURCH LIFE

Evangelism

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this lesson is to convince every believer of their personal responsibility to be a witness of the Lord Jesus Christ and to equip them with a basic knowledge of the Gospel message that they might be able to share it with others.

KEY VERSE:

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Matthew 28:19-20

I. WHAT DOES THE WORD “EVANGELISM” MEAN”?

The Greek word from which we get our English word “evangelism” simply means “to tell” or “to announce good news.” In Christian circles this word refers to the “good news” or the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

II. WHY IS THE “GOOD NEWS” NECESSARY?

- A. God, who is absolutely righteous and holy, created man in His own likeness and image (Genesis 1:26-28).

- B. The first man, Adam, fell into sin and out of fellowship with God, thus marring the image in which he was created (Genesis 3:1-21).
- C. Because we are all offspring of Adam and we were made in the image of our father Adam (Genesis 5:3), every man born into the world is born in sin and “shapen in iniquity” (Psalms 51:5; Romans 3:9-12; 5:12).
 - 1. All are children of wrath (Ephesians 2:3).
 - 2. All are under condemnation (Romans 3:19).
 - 3. All have a rendezvous with death (Hebrews 9:27; Romans 5:12).
 - 4. All are dead in trespasses and sin (Ephesians 2:1).
 - 5. All are alienated from the life of God (Ephesians 4:18).
 - 6. All are hostile to the law of God (Romans 8:7).
- D. Man has separated from God for so long that he has become used to the unnatural and he actually loves darkness rather than light (John 3:19).
- E. There is no possible way for a sinful, disobedient man to dwell or have intimate fellowship with a holy and absolutely righteous God.

III. WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS?

- A. God took the initiative in bringing man back into fellowship with Himself by sending Jesus Christ to be the head of a new race (Galatians 3:26-29).
 - 1. Christ was also the image of God (Hebrews 1:3).
 - 2. Christ did not fall into sin as Adam did (Hebrews 4:15).
 - 3. Christ received the full penalty for sin in Himself, though undeserving (Romans 5:8).
- B. All who receive Christ as Saviour accept the finished work of Calvary as the only way to salvation, repent of their sins and acknowledge the lordship of Jesus Christ, receive the new birth experience and are born into Christ (John 3:1-5; Acts 2:38-39; John 14:6).
 - 1. In Christ we are made righteous (Romans 4:5, 22-25).
 - 2. In Christ there is no condemnation (Romans 8:1-2).
 - 3. In Christ we are conformed to the image of God (Romans 8:28-30).
 - 4. In Christ we have peace with God (Romans 5:1).

- 5. In Christ we have access to the Father (Romans 5:2).
- C. Man is ultimately restored to a place of full fellowship with the Father and becomes a partaker of the riches of His glory (Ephesians 1:18; Colossians 1:27; Romans 9:23).
- D. God has provided one way of salvation for all men, whether Jew or Gentile (Romans 3:10; 5:21).

IV. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE TO TELL THE “GOOD NEWS”?

- A. God's way of salvation is not discovered by man; it comes to him by revelation and must be preached to him from the revealed Word of God (Romans 10:17-18; 16:25-26).
- B. The Gospel message has been entrusted to the Church (Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 3:9-11).
- C. All believers are responsible to respond to the command of Jesus, for the Church is comprised of people (Mark 16:5-20; Acts 1:8).

V. WHAT DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACH US ABOUT OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO TELL THE “GOOD NEWS”?

- A. The primary ministry of Jesus was to evangelize (Luke 4:18; 43; Matthew 11:5; Luke 8:1).
- B. The ministry of those whom Jesus sent out was evangelism (Luke 9:6).
- C. Paul was ready to preach the gospel everywhere (Romans 1:15; 1 Peter 3:15).
- D. The early church recognized its responsibility in evangelism (Acts 5:42; 8:4, 12, 25, 36, 40; 13:1-5; 14:7, 21; 16:10 etc).
- E. The good news must be shared, for this is the only way it is spread (Romans 10:12 - 18).

F. There is a necessity that we all be involved in this area (1 Corinthians 9:16).

G. We should not preach only when we get paid for it (1 Corinthians 9:18).

H. Paul gives special commendation to the churches at Rome and Thessalonica for their efforts in evangelizing in their communities and beyond their borders (Romans 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 1:8).

CONCLUSION:

The Kingdom of God is a kingdom of light, as opposed to the darkness of Satan's kingdom. God is Light (1 John 1:5) and so is His kingdom. The very nature of light is that it is outgoing. Light is diffusive, penetrating, searching. Light spreads itself all over space and fills all things. God's kingdom is also like this. It is the very nature of God and His Kingdom to spread itself and expose all areas of darkness.

Since this is the case, it is not all strange that the Church of Jesus Christ, which is God's vehicle and time-manifestation of the Kingdom of God, would be involved in evangelism. The only "good news" in this world of darkness is the Light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As members of the Body of Christ we are responsible to get the Word out.