

Subj: Evangelism

Text: Matthew 28:18-20

Meth: Topical

Titl: Non-local Evangelism

G.Pp: To instruct and encourage to non-local evangelism.

S.Pp: To examine biblical principles and practices concerning non-local evangelism

Thesis Sentence: The mission of Christ to a lost world is the mission of his church, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

Introduction:

- A. The mission of Christ to this world should stir us to do evangelistic work.
 - 1. He came to save the lost (Lk. 19:10; Jn. 3:17; Mat. 26:28)
 - 2. He is our example (1 Pet 2:21).
 - B. The gospel is the only thing that can save (Rom. 1:16; 2 Thes. 1:8,9). If we sit back and wait for something else to save them, they will perish.
 - C. God's plan of salvation, demands it.
 - D. We will consider our lesson in four points:
 - 1. The Mission
 - 2. The Man
 - 3. The Method
 - 4. The Means
- I. **The Mission** -- It is a command of God to preach the gospel to all the world (Mk. 16:15,16; Mat. 28:18-20).
- A. Assumes Christians will not be stagnant
 - 1. As you are going, teach (go discipling)
 - 2. The goal is to baptize and then to stabilize
 - B. Christianity is a taught, learned religion
 - 1. No one can call on the Lord who has not believed; and no one can believe who has not heard (Rom. 10:13,14).
 - 2. This is the Lord's arrangement: teaching, understanding, conversion, and forgiveness (Mat 13:15).
-- Mat. 13:15 -- For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.
 - C. The target is the world (Mat. 13:38 -- The field is the world)
 - 1. Where there is sin there is need for a Savior
 - 2. 1 Jn. 5:19 -- *And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.*

- II. **The Man** -- The world is yours to illuminate, serve and save
- A. Christians "light candles" rather than "curse darkness." (Mat. 5:13-16)
1. "Shine in the midst of a crooked world." (Phil. 2:15)
 -- *Phil 2:14-16* -- *Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.*
 - a. The honest Christian is a light shining in the midst of the darkness of dishonesty.
 - b. The pure Christian shines as a light in the midst of the darkness of vice and corruption.
 - c. The peace-making Christian shines in the midst of the darkness of struggle, dog-eat-dog conflict.
 2. Christians shine because they have been called out of darkness into "His marvelous light." (1 Pet. 2:9)
 3. Because of this transition from "darkness to light," his philosophy toward the world has changed.
 - a. No longer "What can I get out of it?" but "What can I give?" (Lk 12:15; Eph. 4:28)
 - b. No longer is his attitude toward others "What do you owe me?" but "How can I serve?". (Mat. 20:26-28)
 - c. No longer is his conduct governed by the question "How much fun can I have?", but "Is this pure and wholesome?". (1 Cor. 3:16,17)
 - d. No longer is his confidence based upon the ideas and traditions of men, but upon the simplicity of the gospel of Christ. (2 Cor. 11:3)
- B. The early Christians conquered and claimed the world for Christ.
1. As soldiers for Christ we need to:
 - a. Know the power and craftiness of the enemy-sin and Satan. (1 Pet. 5:8)
 - b. Recognize the supreme power of our Captain who conquered the flesh, Satan and death.
 - c. He has equipped us with "the sword of the Spirit." (Eph. 6:17)
 2. Early Christians conquered by going. equipped by the Lord. (Acts 8:1-4)
 - a. They went.
 - b. They went everywhere.
 - c. They went everywhere preaching.
 - d. They went everywhere preaching the Word.
- C. Let us not be weary in well-doing for in due season, we shall reap if we faint not. (Gal. 6:9)

III. **The Motivation** -- (2 Cor 5:14-15) For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

- A. "Lift up your eyes and look." (Jn. 4:35-38)
 - 1. See its plight. (Rom. 3:23 - all have sinned and come short of the glory of God)
 - 2. See its need for a Savior. "Jew & Gentile" (Mat.1:21)
- B. Vision to see and feel the needs of our fellowman is imperative. (Prov. 29:18)
 - 1. We need tender hearts that care. (Rom. 9:1-3 -- I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh...)
 - 2. We need eager ears to hear. (Acts 16:9-10 -- And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.)
 - 3. We need alert eyes to see. (Mat. 9:37, 38 -- Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.)
 - 4. We need open hands to give like the Philippians did for Paul (Phil. 4:15, 16)
 - 5. We need willing feet to go. (Isa. 52:7)

IV. **The Method** -- Though there is much liberty in determining methodology, keep a few things in mind:

- A. Methodology must be in harmony with the teaching of the scriptures
 - 1. The goal of the gospel is redemption and this is accomplished by: hearing, believing, repenting, confessing, being baptized, living faithfully, and ultimately going to heaven
 - 2. Anything inconsistent with any of these goals is to be avoided
 - a. For example, if the goal is only baptism then force, entrapment, monetary compensation, may be used
 - b. But when all is considered, only faithful teaching will do!
- B. Consider the methodology of the apostles and other early Christians
 - 1. Acts 2:14-36 -- They taught biblically
 - 2. Acts 2:38-47 -- They doctrinally stabilized a growing, serving church
 - 3. Acts 4:1-22 -- They would not be stopped by external persecution
 - 4. Acts 5:1-11 -- They dealt with internal problems swiftly and decisively

5. Acts 6:1-6 -- They insisted on the local church producing her own qualified leaders in service (of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wise)
 6. Acts 7:1-60 -- They were uncompromising in their stand for truth
 7. Acts 8:1-40 -- Wherever they went, and for whatever reason, they went teaching
 8. Acts 9:27-28 -- They were big enough to take in former, repentant enemies
 9. Acts 10:28, 34, 35 -- They rejected class, cultural, and national barriers
 10. They were willing to send and to go to assist in the Lord's work beyond their own community
 - a. Acts 11:22-26 -- Barnabas from Jerusalem to Antioch
 - b. Acts 13:1-3 -- To the untaught gentiles
 11. Acts 11:27-30 -- They determined to help other congregations in need
 12. Acts 14:22-23 -- They exhorted the local church and placed a high priority on developing local leadership
 13. Acts 15; 18:24-28 -- They scripturally resolved doctrinal issues
 14. Acts 17 -- They disputed error
- C. They grew, they multiplied, they turned the world upside down!

IV. **The Means** -- Three biblical ways

- A. Self-support (Acts 18:1-3; 20:33-35 -- I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.)
- B. Immediate congregation support (Gal. 6:6 -- Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.) (cf. Lk. 10:17; 1 Tim. 5:18)
- C. Outside congregation support (2 Cor 11:8 I robbed other churches, taking wages *of them*, to do you service.)

Conclusion:

- A. The greatest work of the church is preaching the gospel.
 1. It is to be made known by the church (Eph. 3:21).
 2. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Tim 3:15).
- B. The world view of the church must be just as wide as that of her head
- C. The examples of the church in the apostolic age challenge us
 1. Church at Jerusalem (Acts 8 :4; 11:22-26)
 2. The church at Antioch (Acts 13:1-3)
 3. Church at Philippi (Phil. 4:15).
- D. Where would you and I be if someone, somewhere, had not said, "Here am I send me?"