

Need For Evangelism

Written by Kris Brewer

When the idea of *evangelism* is introduced, many people think about religious organizations such as the Jehovah's Witnesses or the Mormons. These religious bodies are very zealous in spreading the message of their belief system. Unfortunately, those with truth (the actual teaching of scripture) are not nearly as zealous in teaching. This leads to many people never having the opportunity to hear the true, unadulterated gospel message. There is an obvious need for evangelism today, even though there are many people who claim to be religious! Jesus, in His day was able to say:

“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!” (John 4:35).

Certainly the same sentiment is true today. There are many who need to hear God's word, not the convoluted mess that is often presented as His word. There are at least three good reasons that evangelism is needed today.

First, evangelism is commanded. Jesus told His disciples in Mark 16:15 to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” There are far too many people who look upon their religion as nothing more than a social organization. They are content to “go to church” and let everyone else decide for themselves what they will do. How often do people go so far as to hide their religion from others, simply because they don't want to be offensive? Jesus thought the message of the true gospel was important enough for all people to hear it. If a religious body has some message other than the unchanging gospel (the case for most religions today) then they have no reason to be evangelizing. There is power in the true gospel message

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(Romans 1:16), but there is nothing but unfounded comfort in most religions today.

Secondly, there are many people who have never heard the gospel. In Romans 1:16, the apostle Paul said that the gospel is the “power of God unto salvation.” Later in the same book, Paul said:

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: *“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,* *Who bring glad tidings of good things!”*

But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says,

“Lord

, who has believed our report?” So then faith

comes

by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:14-17).

If those who have the gospel message are not busy about spreading it throughout the world, then those who are spiritually lost will never have the opportunity to choose to be obedient to God’s commands. 1 Corinthians 1:21 tells us that God determined to save men through the foolishness of the message preached. Without the preaching of the message, one cannot come to believe in God’s will, and they cannot be obedient to Him.

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Thirdly, there are many false gospels that have gone out into the world. Paul wrote about this problem:

“I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:6-9).

Even in the first century, there were many who were corrupting the gospel message. Paul warned that these false gospel would cause men to be “accursed.” Surely, the same consequence comes today as well! The few who have the true gospel message have a responsibility to be busy about the spreading of that message so that men and women can hear the truth. While it is not politically correct to speak of truth as being singular in nature, that is exactly what Paul did, and it is exactly what we must do today. It is our responsibility to seek out the one truth, so that we can enjoy God’s salvation, and not be deceived by the perverted gospels that are so prevalent today.

Is evangelism important today? Absolutely! Just as in the first century, the preaching of the gospel message is what will bring people to salvation. Without it, people may claim to be religious, but that religion is based upon something other than the word of God. While people may feel good about such religions, they do not reflect the unity that Jesus prayed for in John

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17, and they are not the “one church” that He promised to build in Matthew 16:18.