

What Is Evangelism?

Evangelism has been expressed as “One beggar telling another beggar where to find food.” Physically a good example would be found in **2 Kings 7:3-16**, note particularly verses **9-10**. It also has application in the spiritual realm with bringing others to Jesus for salvation (**John 1:40-51**). How can you have the food of eternal life and not want to share it with those in need (note **James 4:17**)?

Evangelism is proclaiming the good news of God’s Kingdom and Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world (**John 3:16-17**). Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God we are to scatter the seed of God’s word wherever we go (**Romans 3:23; 6:33; Luke 8:5-8**). Some soil (the hearts of mankind) are described as being wayside, or rocks, or thorns, and another is described as good soil (**Luke 8:4-15**). We are to plant the seed of God’s word, water the seed, and remember that it is God who gives the increase (**1 Corinthians 3:6-9**).

Evangelism is sharing good news with those who have not heard (**Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16**). It is sharing good news with those who have gone into error with the hope of reclaiming them (**2 Timothy 2:24-26**). It is sharing good news to those who believe they are beyond help (**1 Timothy 1:12-16**). Remember, that the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation (**Romans 1:16**).

There is good news to share with others for whatever condition one may find themselves (**Revelation 2-3**). The Jews were steeped in their “traditions” (**Matthew 15:8-9**). They had judged themselves unworthy of the gospel of Christ and Paul and the others would turn to the Gentiles (**Acts 13:46**). Yet, many of the priests would be obedient to the gospel (**Acts 6:7**).

Paul was concerned about his fellow countrymen (Israel). He said that his prayer and heart’s desire for Israel is that she would be saved (**Romans 10:1-4**). He also knew that the only way that they could be saved was to hear and obey the gospel (**Romans 10:14-15**). How could they hear unless someone went to them? Therefore, whenever Paul had the opportunity, he preached to the Jews the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ (i.e., **Acts 14:1; 17:1-3; 18:4**).

Paul would describe what the gospel was to the Corinthians (**1 Corinthians 15:1-4**). Jesus died for our sins, according to the Scriptures. He was buried and rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures. The Corinthians hearing this message, believed what Paul taught and were baptized (**Acts 18:8**).

The early disciples in Jerusalem were soon persecuted for their faith, some to their death. They were scattered from Jerusalem. However, wherever they went, they went preaching the gospel (**Acts 8:1-4**). Philip would preach the gospel to the multitudes in the city of Samaria (**Acts 8:5-8**). He would also preach the gospel to one individual who was searching for the truth (**Acts 8:26-40**).

We need to be careful in our life as a Christian (**1 Corinthians 10:12**). We do not want to say that we will do God’s will, and then not follow through (**Matthew 21:28-32**). We do not want to be cut off as a dead branch and thrown into the fire to be burned (**John 15:1-8**). We do not want to say that we love the Lord and yet not keep His commandments and be found a liar (**1 John**

2:4; Revelation 21:8).

As Christians, we are to be able to give an answer for the hope that lies within us with meekness and fear (**1 Peter 3:15**). We understand that there is salvation in none other than Jesus Christ (**Acts 4:12**). We are to always be abounding in the work of the Lord (**1 Corinthians 15:58**). We are to be diligent to make our calling and election sure (**2 Peter 1:10**).

What will you do with the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Something to think about!

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