

Loyal Heart MINISTRIES

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Why Proclaim the Gospel? - Psalm 96:2-3

A Devotion for Men by *Rush Witt*

Psalm 96:2-3 ~ Sing to the Lord, bless His name; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day. Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.

Romans 10:14-15 ~ How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? 15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!"

Have you ever thought about *why* you do what you do? Why do you work? Why do you study for tests? Why do you pay taxes? For every thing you do in life, there is a motivation driving you to it. You work in order to pay bills and support your family. You study in order to learn. You pay taxes to empower the economy and avoid prison. These answers are obvious, but what motivation do you have to evangelize the lost? Recent studies have shown that less than 2% of all Christians attempt to share the gospel on a daily basis. Why is this number so ridiculously low? Perhaps it is because many Christians lack the correct motivation for bold and urgent evangelism. Therefore, let us consider the two primary reasons why we should be witnesses for Christ.

First, the Bible explains that our zeal for evangelism is grounded in a vibrant relationship with Christ. In 1 Corinthians 10:31, the Apostle Paul urges us to do everything to the glory of God. Therefore, our primary motivation for evangelism is a desire to please the Lord. Truly, proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to the millions of people who do not yet know Him is an amazing act of worship. When we begin to worship things and people other than God, we almost always begin telling others about those things and people. Some people worship sports and talk non-stop about teams, players, and stats. This is reflected in Jesus' explanation that "out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45). When the mercy and grace of God is held as the central focus of our lives, we cannot help but talk about the great work Jesus Christ has accomplished through His life, death, and resurrection! This brings great pleasure and glory to the God who has showered us with mercy and grace. In short, the primary reason for evangelism is the pleasure of the Triune God!

The great pastor and preacher Charles Haddon Spurgeon once said, "Do you want arguments for soul winning? Look up to heaven, and ask yourself how sinners can ever reach those harps of gold, and learn that everlasting song, unless they have someone to tell them of Jesus, who is mighty to save. But the best argument of all is to be found in the wounds of Jesus. You want to honor Him, you desire to put many crowns upon his head, and this you can best do by winning souls for Him. These are the spoils that he covets, these are the trophies for which he fights, these are the jewels that shall be his best adornment." Therefore, we must begin by committing our lives to Christ and working hard to grow in our knowledge of and faith in Jesus. Devouring your Bible, worshiping God, praying diligently, and enjoying fellowship with other Christians are all essential to having a zeal for evangelism. As you neglect your relationship with Christ, your excitement about witnessing will wane. As you pursue Christ, your love for the lost and desire to share the gospel will grow. All of evangelism begins with God! Second, the Bible urges us to be evangelistic for the sake of men's souls. There is nothing more clearly taught in Scripture than the fact that all people have sinned and need to place their faith in Jesus Christ in order to be forgiven of their sins and declared innocent on the Day of Judgment. Likewise, it is also clear that hell is the eternal destiny of those who die without a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9-15 explains that the key to salvation is confessing Jesus as Lord and believing in His redemptive work. The passage goes on further to explain that the lost need to hear the gospel in order to believe in Jesus and to hear the gospel someone must reach out to them. It is not enough to merely "live out our faith" before the lost, waiting for them to ask you about Jesus.

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Since it is a verbal message, the gospel must be proclaimed with your voice. If you quietly *live out* your faith, you have done nothing an atheist cannot do. As far as the world is concerned, you would appear to be nothing more than a good person. Now, don't misunderstand. A righteous life is essential in evangelism. The purity of our lives will validate the gospel and achieve for us opportunities to proclaim Christ. The world may refute what we say, but they cannot refute how we live. Therefore, we should have a great burden to reach out to the lost with the soul saving love and message of the gospel. Paul constantly felt the weight of such a burden for the non-believers around him. He said, "I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh..." (Romans 9:1-3). This is the kind of intense love we must have for unbelievers! We must ask the Lord to increase our zeal to see Him glorified and the lost saved. Consider the evangelistic life of the great preacher and evangelist, D.L. Moody's good friend R.A. Torrey writes:

"The sixth reason why God used D. L. Moody was because of his consuming passion for the salvation of the lost. Mr. Moody made the resolution, shortly after he himself was saved, that he would never let twenty-four hours pass over his head without speaking to at least one person about his soul. His was a very busy life, and sometimes he would forget his resolution until the last hour, and sometimes he would get out of bed, dress, go out and talk to someone about his soul in order that he might not let one day pass without having definitely told at least one of his fellow-mortals about his need and the Savior who could meet it."¹

Do you have a burden like this? Without a burden for God's glory and the salvation of men, we will become crippled in our evangelistic efforts. Our sinful hearts will overwhelm us with apathy and indifference. However, as we begin to grow in our love for God and people, we will experience a fire for evangelism that will burn hot to the praise of His glory.

¹ Why God Used D.L. Moody by R.A. Torrey