

Seek Ye First...

"...the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

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THE NEED FOR EVANGELISM

Tom Moore

J. W. McGarvey once said, "I would esteem above every other gift that could be bestowed upon me as a preacher the power to adequately conceive what sin is and to adequately set it before the people." Why was this so vital to brother McGarvey? He knew of the horrible nature of sin. Sin, a transgression of God law (1 John. 3:4), has terrible consequences. Because of the end result of sin there is a great need for evangelism. To help us understand and appreciate the need for evangelism let us consider a few of the things that sin will do to us.

We need evangelism because sin separates. The Almighty, through Isaiah declared, "Behold, Jehovah's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, so that he will not hear" (Isaiah 59:1-2). Paul said that in sin we are afar off from God (Ephesians 2:13). Thus, sin separates man from God.

Sin also separates man from a better self. Paul exclaimed, "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are contrary the one to the other; that ye may not do the things that ye would" (Galatians 5:17). Paul experienced this very plight, for he explains, "For the good which I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I practice. But if what I would not, that I do, it is no more I that do it, but sin which dwelleth in me" (Romans 7:19-20). Sin will also divide a man from his family (Luke 12:49-54), and from his brethren (Romans 16:17-18).

Paul said, "Now I beseech you, brethren, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10). These divisions that can occur show us the need for evangelism.

We need evangelism because sin is seductive. Satan is very deceptive as is seen in the very beginning of time as he tempts Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis

3:1ff). The devil will try to snare us as a hidden trap tries to ensnare its prey (2 Timothy 2:24-26). Satan also has deceptive messengers who will try to lead us astray (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).

Sin itself is also deceptive. Paul said sin "beguiled" him (Romans 7:11), and is a deceiver (Titus 3:3). The Hebrew writer encouraged us to "exhort one another day by day, so long as it is called To-day; lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:13). We are constantly warned throughout the New Testament not to be deceived (Ephesians 5:6; 2 Thessalonians 2:3; 1 John 3:7; et al.). We are deceived by sin when we say we have no sin (1 John 1:8-10). We are fooled by sin when we say that evil companionship do not corrupt good moral (1 Corinthians 15:33). We are deceived by sin when we think we can be hearers only and doers of the word (James 1:22-25). Sin appears to be right when it is wrong (Proverbs 14:12). Sin appears to be beautiful when in reality it is ugly (Isaiah 1:5-6). The deceptive nature of sin emphasizes the need for evangelism.

We need evangelism because sin is shattering. Sin will demolish your good name (Proverbs 22:1). Sin will destroy our bodies through such things as immorality (1 Corinthians 6:18-21) and alcohol (Proverbs 20:1). Sin will destroy us emotionally with inner conflicts (Romans 7:14-25) and guilt (Psalm 32:1-4). Sin will obliterate the church. Sin was destroying the church in Corinth and was ruining the church in Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22). We need evangelism because of the powerfully destructive nature of sin.

Evangelism is greatly needed in our day because of the horrible evils that sin can do. The separating, seductive, and shattering influence of sin must be stopped. It is the gospel message that has the power (Romans 1:16) to put an end to the destruction that sin will bring to our lives. "There is a message true and glad, for the sinner and the sad - Ring it out, ring it out!"

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Seek Ye First...

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Our Purpose

The editors of *Seek Ye First* produce this biblical journal to provide scriptural material dealing with the issues that are currently effecting our families, our nation and the world. Our intent is to challenge souls to return to the "old paths" (Jeremiah 6:16) for their sole source of authority in religious matters. Our policy is to speak as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11), encouraging people to study to show themselves approved unto God, enabling them to rightly divide the word (2 Timothy 2:15). We make every effort to deal boldly with the issues that confront Christianity, with no apology, and strive to do so "speaking the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15).

COURAGEOUS EVANGELISM

J. D. Sweeten

The stones hit with deadening thuds. The blood flowed. A howling mob had dragged Stephen from the great city, Jerusalem, rejecting the Redeemer and repentance in a rebellious rage. In a dying gasp, the first Christian martyr "cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep" (Acts 7:60). Thus ends one of the saddest chapters in the Acts of the Apostles and in the church's infant history. A man "full of faith and power, (who) did great wonders and miracles among the people" (Acts 6:8) fell to a persecution that would ultimately scatter saints throughout the whole world, ... preaching the gospel (Acts 8:4).

Evangelizing demands courage; and courage is not fashionable these days. To approach any soul with the gospel is to imply their lost condition, and this is a negative that too many today cannot get over. As a result, many have sacrificed the truth of the gospel on the altar of political correctness. We do not indict the sinful; we excuse unrighteousness by dressing it up in various dependencies and "diseases." Others have perfected tact, which has become so extravagant that entire sermons are being preached without the slightest citation regarding sin or salvation. Even when the topic of personal response and responsibility to a loving God slips into a sermon, narrative, or conversation, it is so diluted that the faithful can barely swallow it; yet, the unrepentant swill it down. The courage to speak the truth to one's neighbor seems a lost art, and that is a far cry from the New Testament church.

In the above-mentioned context, Stephen had boldly declared the gospel and it cost him his life. Many Christians in Jerusalem fled that persecution and went on to experience great success in the Lord's Kingdom. In both cases, great courage was exhibited in the teaching and preaching of the truth. One cannot emulate these New Testament Christians without deep conviction and courage. Our struggles in this day and age pale by comparison, yet "soft-soaping" and accommodation mar the old Jerusalem gospel. Where is the courage?

In part, the lack of courage is a reflection of our materialistic society. God often takes second place, and is only consulted when the bottom drops out. Much emphasis placed on the perishable things of the here and now, to the neglect of eternal matters. A reflection of this mentality is clearly seen in the recent proliferation of "Family Life Centers;" in vogue where the socially elite meet. In lieu of preaching the gospel (Romans 1:16), we woo and court the lost with promises of more toys and trinkets than the church down the street. In some congregations, expensive "campaigns" ("working" vacations?) and conscience salving donations to missionaries have totally replaced local, individual evangelism; it is less personal that way, with no fear of confrontation. In order to keep feeding the coffers with that almighty dollar, many are more than willing to make concessions in the gospel to accommodate spiritual toddlers. To speak the truth may offend, alienate, or further fuel the disenchantment of an already cynical "seeker." To attract the rich and famous, the message of Christ must be wrapped in pretty bows and

flowery paper, vague enough to avoid offense but close enough to the truth to convey a sense of security. Such cowardice caves in to one of Satan's oldest ploys: the deceitfulness of riches (Matthew 13:22). "A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked" (Psalm 37:16). "Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death" (Proverbs 11:4). Compromising the truth to keep up with the Jones kills evangelism.

Some of the greatest examples of courage come from the Old Testament prophets. They were soldiers called to engage in hazardous duty. Their enlistment took them into hostile territory, peopled by enemies of God. Surprisingly, the "enemy" to whom these prophets were sent was not the indigenous infidels of the Promised Land, but a people who had embraced idols, polluted their tribal purity and, to make matters worse, had grown rebellious. They were Israelites, God's own people. It is also an unfortunate reality that the worst treatment faithful prophets of God received often came, not from godless heathens, but from those who were supposed to be God's people, people who should have known better. Ezekiel was given stern warning about these very matters.

"And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day. For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD. And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them" (Ezekiel 2:3-5).

Stalwart preachers of the gospel, Bible class teachers who actually challenge their students, or Christians who have a passion for teaching the lost, are most often the unwary targets of milquetoast religionists who despise "boat-rockers." How dare a preacher stand boldly for the truth and condemn error (2 Timothy 4:2). How dare a teacher challenge students to study God's word for themselves and actually change their lives (Romans 12:2). How dare any Christian imply that a neighbor is lost and invite him to study the Bible concerning their salvation (Mark 16:15-16). That kind of Christianity makes it difficult for those apathetic and inactive members of the church who would prefer the "live and let live" policy of evangelizing a lost world. Don't challenge them to defend their false faith (1 John 4:1), make them feel like we are all God's children. Too much Bible may turn them off (2 Timothy 4:3-4), so point out that our differences are based entirely in our traditions. Above all, be tactful; God forbid we offend anyone (like Christ did, Matthew 15:12; like Stephen did, Acts 7:51ff; like Paul did, Acts 17:32).

It is discouraging, frustrating and infuriating when lukewarm Christians refuse to realize the urgency and importance of reaching out to a lost and dying world. To "live and let live" is to "live and let die!" We must understand that eternity is at stake and the souls of the lost hang in the balance. We must be courageous.

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Theme This Issue:

"Evangelism"

Table Of Contents

THE NEED FOR EVAGNELSIM Tom Moore	1
COURAGEOUS EVANGELISM J. D. Sweeten	2
MOTIVATIONS FOR EVANGELISM Michael Light	4
<i>Guest Article...</i> PERSONAL EVANGELISM Bobby Bates	5
EXAMPLES OF EVANGELISM Michael Light	6
THIS IS A DAY OF GOOD TIDINGS Tom Moore	7
FRIENDS OF SYF	8

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MOTIVATIONS FOR EVANGELISM

Michael Light

Most of us would readily admit that effective evangelism is a constant struggle for the church. Whether considering our personal efforts or various programs found in our congregations, evangelism is perhaps the most important area of our lives. This being true, we must stay motivated to remain consistent in our labors to seek and save those who are lost. It is obvious that many (if not most) in the church have lost their zeal for evangelism. It has become a mere word, with little practical application in our individual, everyday lives. Perhaps a study of "motives for evangelism" will help rejuvenate our love for souls, and help us remember our duty (and privilege) to be involved in outreach to lost souls.

There are dozens of reasons given in the Bible that should motivate us to love the souls of men sufficiently to get actively involved in evangelism. Paul uses the debt he feels toward God as a motivation in his life. If the notion of being a debtor could motivate the apostle Paul to span the globe in search of lost souls, perhaps it can help set us "on fire" for the cause of Christ.

In Romans 1:14 we read, "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise." Paul understood what many of us seem to never grasp, that we are saved to serve. When we truly comprehend the tremendous gift God has given us (forgiveness of all our iniquities) our hearts should over-flow with appreciation. **This recognition of God's mercy and grace will motivate us to reach out to others in spiritual need.**

Paul recognized that he did not have a choice. His love of God and his fellowman moved him to sacrifice himself, his money, his time, his health, and finally his life to try and save some from the eternal pit of hell. Should we be any less appreciative? Certainly not. We have received the same gift (salvation), from the same Savior. We have the same hope. We look forward to the same heaven. Why then do many of us not have the same burning desire to save others, and bring them into the fold of God where the Good Shepherd provides all our needs (Matthew 6:33-34) ?

This sense of debt is not only toward God, but also toward our fellowman. Even though most of those in the world do not know they are lost, we in the church do. Think of a parent with young children. We often do things for our children because we know they need it, whether they do or not. Such is true with evangelism. We teach and preach to the lost because they need it. We do so even when they do not want to hear it. 2 Timothy 4:2 says, "Preach the word;

be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

In Romans 1:15-17 Paul goes on to say, "So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." Based on **Paul's tremendous sense of debt and obligation to preach** the gospel to the lost, he did everything humanly possible to get the gospel into as many hearts as he could. Paul was ready to preach. Are we? Many of us do little more than show up for services. To be effective in the area of evangelism we must be prepared. This requires study (2 Timothy 2:15) as well as a willingness to give and answer for the hope that is within us (1 Peter 3:15).

In Romans 12:1-2 the Spirit through Paul states, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." We are here implored to realize the mercy God has granted to us all and to be motivated to present our very bodies as "living sacrifices."

It's not enough to just find the truth and be converted; we must also see ourselves in the soul saving business. When Jesus was preparing to depart the earth he left the apostles (and us) this charge, "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).

The apostles took this charge seriously and so should we. We cannot consider ourselves faithful Christians if we will not give ourselves to evangelism. Being properly motivated will help us remain active in evangelism. Let us look to the concept of indebtedness to help motivate us to be more faithful in this area of our lives.

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Guest Article...

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

Bobby Bates

Personal evangelism is just that: evangelism that is personal. There are many methods of evangelism that are good: radio, television, correspondence courses, direct mail, etc., but ultimately personal contact must be made before the individual can be baptized into Christ.

The personal part is what is frightening to many Christians. Many are so afraid of saying or doing the wrong thing that they do not say or do anything. The tragedy is that most of us can be effective in personal evangelism if we will just make the effort.

We need to remember that no one is a natural-born personal evangelist any more than one is a natural born physician or chef or engineer or any other profession. We choose whatever profession we decide to follow and devote ourselves to learning the trade. When we first embarked on our chosen profession, we were effective from the beginning. But as we continue to increase in knowledge and understanding of our trade, we become even more proficient. The same holds true in learning the art of personal evangelism. If we know the gospel, we can teach it. The more we teach it, the more proficient we become.

MOTIVATION

The major problem in getting people involved in personal evangelism is the lack of motivation. We can do almost anything we set our minds to once we are properly motivated. We get a job because we have to eat, pay bills, buy clothing, provide housing for our family, and a host of other things. Some go to college, trade school, or technical school to be able to do a better job of providing. We do these things because we feel they are necessary to our life.

Sadly, most Christians are not sold on the necessity of evangelism. Hell is something we cannot see and will not experience in this life. One old evangelist said that if he could take people on a five minute tour of hell, they would all return as personal evangelists. We need to come face to face with the fact that the lost are going to hell.

An acquaintance of mine was once a teacher in the public schools. One day his best friend, who was not a Christian, dropped dead of a heart-attack and he had never tried to teach him the gospel. From that day forward, he became an evangelist and has helped to lead many honest hearts to obey the gospel. Isn't it tragic that it took the death of a friend to wake him up to his responsibility.

We need to remember that we have a command from Jesus, our Lord, to go with the gospel (Mark 16:15-16) because

people cannot be saved without it (Romans 1:16).

HOW TO BEGIN

Pray continually and fervently that God will help you. Learn a method of personal evangelism in which you are confident. I first began with Jule Miller's filmstrips because they did most of the teaching for me. There is the Back to the Bible three lesson series I wrote that has been highly effective and that practically teaches itself. If at all possible, go with someone who has been successful in reaching souls. Set aside at least one night a week either to go out to set up a study or to conduct a study.

CONDUCTING THE STUDY

Always take someone with you. The Lord sent his disciples out two by two. There are many reasons why it is best to have someone with you. If at all possible, conduct the study around the kitchen table. It allows the teacher and the students to sit in closer proximity to each other (which is essential in one on one evangelism). It provides a good place for people to open up their Bibles and take notes. Take a tablet of paper with you on which you can write down major conclusions and draw illustrations. Place the sinner on your right. When you write down major conclusions or draw illustrations, you want him to be able see them. It also makes it easier to help him find passages. Get the sinner to use his own Bible in the study. He will accept the message more readily if he can read it out of his own Bible. Get on a first name basis at the very beginning of the study. This helps to put the study on a personal, friendly basis. Find areas of agreement and emphasize them. Keep the study within a reasonable time limit. The study should not last more than one and a half to two hours. People who are not used to studying cannot absorb a lot of new information and we do not want them to feel overwhelmed. Do not criticize denominations. It will only make them angry and defensive. Just teach the gospel. Do not allow the prospect to get you side-tracked. Our primary purpose is to make a clear presentation of the gospel. Side issues detract from that and make the gospel more complicated than it really is. Keep it simple. The more information you give the prospect, the more he has to work through before he can make a decision. Get everyone in the room involved in the study to avoid distractions and interferences.

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EXAMPLES OF EVANGELISM

Michael Light

There are dozens of passages in both the Old and New Testaments which call upon us to learn from the lives of others. Notice Roman 15:4, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." In this verse the Holy Spirit through the apostle Paul instructs us to learn from those who have gone before. By looking at the commendable character traits and imitating them, we can find favor with God. Likewise the mistakes of the wicked can also be noted and avoided.

NOAH AN EXAMPLE OF CONSISTENCY

In the area of evangelism, we should look to the Bible and the great evangelists recorded therein. Let's notice the Patriarchal evangelist Noah. This faithful man of God preached to a wicked generation. His audience could not be moved to repent. Over one hundred years he labored in word and work, yet no one responded. He preached while he built the ark, and was persistent with the words of God. The fact that the crowd refused to accept the message of God, did not move Noah to change his preaching.

Many evangelists today need to learn from Noah. We are to preach the truth because it is the truth; and only the truth can set us free (John 8:32). Perhaps the most heartbreaking aspect of the mealy-mouthed, no-substance-whatsoever-preaching is that it cuts the lost off from the only divinely revealed word which can save their souls (Acts 20:28). If Noah's message had been heard, believed and obeyed, more than eight souls would have survived the flood. If men would believe and obey the gospel today, they too would be saved by the billions, but unfortunately most will not.

MOSES AND EXAMPLE OF PATIENCE

Another tremendous evangelist was Moses. He came preaching first to Pharaoh, then to his own people. Pharaoh was a belligerent hearer, who listened only after ten horrible plagues. Moses went back time after time to Pharaoh. Far too often many of us attempt to teach the gospel to a friend or neighbor, and when it doesn't work out, we quit. We need to increase our patience. The souls of men are precious and worth every effort to present the gospel to them. Christ displayed this type of patience in His personal ministry; let's follow His divine example.

The patience of Moses is further illustrated in forty years of preaching to the rebellious children of Israel. On more than one occasion they blamed Moses for their discontent. While he was on Mount Sinai the people built and worshipped a golden calf. When Moses came off the mount he threw the stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments to the ground causing them to break. Yet,

he didn't give up on the people. Though they often let God and Moses down by their lack of faith, he never quit trying to get them to the promise land. We too need to be that patient with people. Everyone is not at the same place spiritually speaking. Let's imitate the patience of Moses in our evangelistic efforts.

PAUL AN EXAMPLE OF COURAGE

Perhaps the most courageous of all the evangelists was the apostle Paul. Notice the problems and persecutions he endured, "Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches" (2 Corinthians 11:23-28). Nothing could deter Paul from preaching the word of God to the entire world. Courage is lacking in many pulpits today. Far too many preachers are more worried about offending the audience than preaching the truth. Regardless of the consequences, the truth has to be preached. Paul affirmed to the Ephesian elders that he had preached the "whole council" of God to them (Acts 20:27).

Later He would charge the young evangelist Timothy, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Timothy 2:2-4). We are to preach the word, whether people want to hear it or not. It is tempting when facing a person or audience we know are hostile toward the truth to compromise or soften the truth. Paul left us a sterling example of how Christian courage can overcome the trials of evangelism.

Let's be emboldened by these three examples of great men of God who excelled in evangelism. We can do the same if we are totally dedicated to evangelism.

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THIS IS A DAY OF GOOD TIDINGS

Tom Moore

In the period of Israel's history known as "The Divided Kingdom" we find Israel in a very weakened condition, and as a result, left themselves open to attacks by other nations. We read of one such siege in 2 Kings 6:24-29. This siege was orchestrated by Ben-Hadad, king of Syria. This assault brought a very terrible famine upon the city of Samaria.

Among those suffering in the famine were four lepers. They discussed their plight (2 Kings 7:3-4), and in desperation decided to surrender to the Syrians. To their surprise they found the Syrian camp abandoned (2 Kings 7:5-7)! At first these lepers splurged in their newfound riches - eating, drinking, and hiding treasures. Upon reflecting on their situation, they realized that they needed to tell others of what they had found. "Then they said one to another, We do not well; this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, punishment will overtake us; now therefore come, let us go and tell the king's household" (2 Kings 7:9). This they began to do (2 Kings 7:10-11). There is a valuable lesson we learn from these four lepers, especially when they said, "This is a day of good tidings (or good news)..."

PARALLELS THEN AND NOW

There are a few interesting parallels between the account of the lepers and our day. In each case there is a famine. Theirs was a famine of food - ours is a famine for the Word of God. Amos warned concerning the famine of God word. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it" (Amos 8:11-12). We need to heed that warning today! This spiritual famine is self-induced when man fails to study the word of God. Notice too, that there was plenty of food in the Syrian camp. Now, there are an abundance of spiritual blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). In each case there were those who found what they needed. The lepers found food, and today Christians have experienced the joys of salvation.

But here is often where the similarity ends. The lepers knew what was right and did it - they did not keep the good news to themselves. Today, though, despite it being "a day of good tidings" - many are keeping silent about it. While many die of spiritual starvation - others feast on the gospel. The lepers said, "We do not well; this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace" (2 Kings 7:9). While reasoning with themselves, the lepers considered the conse-

quences of keeping silent in a day of good news. I wonder if we have considered the consequences of keeping silent with the good news of the gospel?

THE CONSEQUENCES OF KEEPING SILENT

If we keep silent we are failing to keep the great commission (Matthew 28:18-20). This great commission is a commandment! Keeping silent is transgressing the command of God and is therefore a sin, "for sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). If we keep silent we are failing in our mission as God's people. We as the privileged people of God are to proclaim the excellencies of God (1 Peter 2:9-10), and show people how to obtain mercy. We will also have to answer to God for keeping silent with the good news. God told Ezekiel that if the watchman did not warn the people, the blood of the people would be on the watchman's head (Ezekiel 3:17-21). Today, the church is God's "watchman" to the world, and as such we must take the gospel to everyone (Mark 16:15). Those who have not heard and obeyed the gospel will die in their sins, and we will be held accountable if we have not done our part in warning them. Despite the consequences of keeping silent, many Christians choose not to tell others of the saving gospel.

WHY MANY KEEP SILENT

One reason many keep silent is that they are starving themselves. They may have experienced the joy of salvation in the past, but through negligence have failed to grow and have forgotten about the blessings of salvation (2 Peter 1:8-9). Sadly, they have returned to a state of famine. Those who are enjoying the blessings of salvation will want to share it with others, as did Philip (John 1:43-46). Don't you have any good news worth sharing?

Some may keep silent out of fear or discouragement. If fear keeps us silent remember that the "fearful" or cowardly will have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone (Revelation 21:8). God does not want us to be fearful (2 Timothy 1:7-8), but tells us that we can have boldness through prayer (cf. Acts 4:29-31; Ephesians 6:19-20). If discouragement keeps us silent we need remember the principle of sowing and reaping; "and let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9). Also, remember the example of our Lord (Hebrews 12:1-3). Fear and discouragement, as difficult as they may be, can be overcome through faith and perseverance.

"This a day of good news!" Are you telling others?

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Michael & Carrie Light—Bangs, TX
Morey & Judy Mast—Waxahachie, TX
Tom & Carole Moore—Port Lavaca, TX
James Pafford—Zephyr, TX
Terry Pafford—Midland, TX

Eddie & Oleta Pafford—Bangs, TX
Ray & Ruth Phillips—Bangs, TX
Ina Lee Reese—Bangs TX
Kenneth & Anna Reed—Bangs, TX
Millie Robbins—Bangs TX
Don & Mary Jo Stewart—Austin, TX
Jeff & Kelly Sweeten—Comanche, TX

In Memory Of

Pauline Blair—Bangs, TX
Jewel Martin—Bangs, TX

Memorials Given By:

Bangs Church of Christ
Joy Early—Bangs, TX
Troy & Darlene Hanley—Bangs, TX
Pauline Hopkins—Bangs, TX
Michael & Carrie Light—Bangs, TX
Tom & Carole Moore—Port Lavaca, TX

Seek Ye First Web Site

In order to stay abreast of technology, the editors of Seek Ye First have developed and posted a web site. Tom Moore will be overseeing the production and posting of this site, and he welcomes your comments. The address is:

<http://seekyefirst.f2s.com>

On this site, you will find biographical information and a picture of each editor. Also, we have included various articles written by each editor of the paper suitable for bulletins, flyers, etc. The articles are downloadable in text form. You may also send e-mail to any of the editors from the web site.

We are endeavoring to make biblical materials available for use in bringing souls closer to Christ. We pray that this site will be a benefit to the growth of the Lord's Kingdom.