

EVANGELISM

TEXT: Various

THESIS: We must see the importance of evangelism by using not only our physical senses, but our spiritual senses to reach out to the souls of mankind.

INTRODUCTION:

1. God has equipped us with the senses we need to function in life.
 - a. The ancient philosopher, Aristotle, distinguished the five senses as sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch.
 - b. And all of these senses are important which work together.
2. But more important than our physical senses, is our need to possess spiritual senses.
 - a. We need spiritual senses to fulfil the challenge and command of the great commission.
 - b. In Matt. 28:18-20, “Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 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 always, even unto the end of the world.”
 - i. When we examine these few verses, the word go, implies an aggressive warfare.
 - (1) The Gospel army must move upon the nations because the Lord seeks a universal empire, and sends forth his army to conquer the world.
 - (2) Thus, every member of the body of Christ must understand that we have marching orders.
 - (3) But, not only is every saint commanded to go, or to take steps to make the gospel go, the object is to make disciples, or pupils of Christ.
 - (a) Not to make great philosophers, but babes in Christ Jesus.
 - (4) And, those who are made disciples are to be of all nations because Christ came to be the Savior of the world.
 - (a) And so back then, Jesus looked beyond Jerusalem and beyond Judea unto all mankind.
 - c. Now, to observe what must be taught by the faithful Christian teacher:
 - i. We do not teach untaught questions (that which cannot be known).
 - ii. We do not teach oppositions of sciences, dogmatic speculations, isms or human creeds because Christ has never commanded these.
 - d. We are to simply teach all things he has commanded which are recorded for us in the Gospel accounts, Acts and in the Epistles which embrace the various duties of Christian life.
 3. So, in this lesson we will identify the six senses of evangelism.

DISCUSSION:

I. SENSE OF AWARENESS.

- A. We must have knowledge that what the world values most are economics and self which are the objects of most people's faith.
1. Unfortunately, they are walking by sight.
 2. And, if you ask a worldly parent what they want their children to be when they grow up, they will say, financially secure, doctors, or bosses.
 3. But Paul tells us to, "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." (Col 3:2).
 - a. This means that our thoughts should be occupied on Christ and our interest and hearts must be focused on heaven.
 4. Sadly though, the world continues with self who struggles with loneliness.
- B. But, what the world needs is love and we need to be aware that all men should know that we are disciples of the Lord by the love we have for one another. (John 13:35).
1. That is, our love for each other should be so evident that it brings the world to think about Christ.
 2. And when we love one another with pure hearts fervently, even unto death, we further show the world that we are disciples of that person who laid down his life for his sheep, and who became, by dying, a ransom for all mankind: Jesus the Christ.
- C. Therefore, there needs to be a real revival of interest in religion among mankind as well as ourselves because most of it out there is pure deception.
1. Sure, there's a lot of talk about God, but there is very little commitment.
 2. Notice if you will the commitment in Matt. 10:34-39, "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.
- D. You know, it is hard to imagine, but did you know that people are trying to mold God into what they want Him to be?
1. Did you know that some Christians do that too?
 2. Trying to make a God without moral principles.
 3. Trying to make a God without religious convictions.
 4. Trying to make a God without judicial power.
 - a. Forget the fact that Lord says that his mighty angels, in flaming fire will take, ". . . vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ . . ." (2 Thess 1:7-9).
 - (1) They deny the fact that the Lord will come in his glory.

- (2) They do not realize that their day of grace will end with the day of the Lord and will be rewarded with eternal destruction and banishment from the Lord.
 - b. The simple fact is: people do not know who Jesus is.
 - (1) They do not know what is involved with being a child of God and they understand not the symbol of the cross.
 - (2) They cannot take Christ as their Master, as their teacher.
 - (3) They are on the path that loses a soul forever and have forgotten that it is Jesus who gives eternal life.
 - 5. We must be aware of this fact that people are lost.
 - a. The alien sinner as well as the erring child of God has no chance of entering heaven.
- E. And therefore, we must be aware of the value of a soul.
- 1. “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matt. 16:26)
 - a. You know that all the wealth, glory, pleasure and power of earth are worthless to the dying man.
 - b. If he should gain them all and lose his own soul, he has lost all.
 - c. We therefore, need to show mankind that there is more to life than the world.
 - d. For, what would a man not give to keep himself from harm?
 - 2. Solomon penned, “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.” (Prov. 11:30).
 - a. Our fruit is charity, our instructions to others, reproof, being the examples, going to God in prayer, having great interest in heaven and having the wisdom to support and nourish spiritual lives because each life is precious.
 - b. We therefore, cannot neglect the value of just one soul.
- F. In addition to this, we must be aware of the value of the gospel.
- 1. Paul said, “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.” (Rom 1:16-17)
 - a. God’s plan of salvation in Christ is the Gospel.
 - 2. And we are to, “lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.” (James 1:21).
 - a. And we must be aware and take this word to the lost so it will also save their soul.

II. SENSE OF RIGHTEOUS OUTRAGE

- A. A zeal for God's cause must consume us.
1. Jesus', "disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up." (John 2:17).
 - a. We need eagerness, we need readiness to promote the glory of God and to keep ourselves pure.
- B. And, our love for Christ should be our motivation (2 Cor 5:14-15).
1. For, if Christ died for all, then all those who are baptized into his death have become dead to sin.
 - a. And, those who Jesus died for and have life through him should not live for themselves, but for him who died for them.
 2. Thus, the importance of God's cause must be realized.
 - a. In Phil. 3:7-11, Paul said, "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead."
 3. Courage must also accompany our efforts.
 - a. Jesus said, ". . . In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33).
 - b. We must have the courage to know that the world can only afflict us for a season.
 - (1) They cannot stop us from reaching the lost forever because it is a conquered world. Christ has overcome it.
 4. Yet, while we are to have this outrage, this hatred for evil, it must be accompanied with the love we have for God.
 - a. Some say to hate the sin, but love the sinner.
 - b. But, how can we do that when we are to, "Let love be without dissimulation, Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good." (Rom. 12:9)?
 - c. We cannot have a hypocritical love.
 - d. We must hate evil as God hates it and be cemented to God which is why, if we are not evangelizing to the lost, we cannot say we love sinners.
 - e. We love God and our neighbors by our obedience to the Lord and our acts of evangelism to the lost, this shows our love.

5. Evil must be exposed instead of being babied as is so common the case.
 - a. We are commanded to, “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” (Eph 5:11).
 - b. You know, “if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not,” (2 Cor. 4:3-4).
 - c. We should be letting the glorious gospel of Christ be shining out of us as a city set on a hill, having righteous outrage over sin while bringing the lost to Christ so his light, through the Gospel would convict their hearts.

III. SENSE OF COMPASSION.

- A. Compassion must accompany righteous outrage.
 1. “For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: (Rom 9:3).
 2. This is an interesting statement by Paul in that he would go so far as to give up Christ and be lost eternally if it would save his Jewish brethren.
- B. You know, we must never take delight in the fact that people are lost.
 1. Open your Bibles to Luke 19:41-44, “And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.”
 - a. Today, many no longer weep over sin.
 - b. Sure they see it, but they have become used to seeing it to such a point that it no longer shocks them.
 - c. I know Christians who were very upset over Gone with the Wind and the one curse word they used in it.
 - d. Today, I know Christians who have in their collections, movies with numerous curse words, nudity and other fowl suggestions and they don’t really seem to care if what they have, is wrong.
 2. Jesus’ expression of grief over the wicked city is seen as the multitude is shouting his praises, yet his heart, is breaking over the woes of the city that he knew would slay him.
 - a. This was to be the day of opportunity and mercy for them.
 - b. The acceptance of Christ would have brought them eternal glory.
 3. When Christ came to save them from their awful fate, they did not want it.
- C. Our primary goal must also be of compassion.
 1. For, “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should

- perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Pet 3:9)
- a. The day of the Lord is delayed so that we will seek out and find those who the Gospel calls to repentance.
 2. “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” (John 3:17).
 - a. His Son came to keep men from perishing.
- D. It is the compassion that Jesus had for lost souls that we need to have toward lost souls.
1. It is compassion that refuses to ignore needs or label people.
 2. It is compassion who sees no "undesirable."
 3. It is compassion that reaches out to everyone.

IV. SENSE OF URGENCY.

- A. The dictionary defines "urgency" as "requiring immediate attention or action."
1. We just don't know when Jesus will return or when people will die.
 2. The world's death rate is: 56 million a year; 4.6 million a month; 153,424 a day; 6,392 an hour; 106 a minute; 1.8 every second.
- B. The Bible tells us that we are responsible for teaching the lost.
1. Looking at Ezek 3:18-21, “When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.”
 2. Ezekiel warned us that it is in the individual’s own best personal interest to help others see the truth.
 - a. Unless we tell others the truth, we are partly responsible for their continuing in their lost condition.
 - b. To tell them the truth to the saving of their souls is to remove responsibility from our shoulders.
 3. Those preachers, elders, teachers, and others who know God’s word, but who will not teach it in its purity, are causing souls to die lost that might otherwise be saved; and in their unfaithfulness they are condemning their own souls.
 4. I believe there will be so many Christians that will fall on the day of judgment.

V. SENSE OF DEDICATION

- A. We must be dedicated to winning souls to Christ.
 1. This requires sincerity.
 - a. “Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.” (Rom 10:1).
 - b. Paul had a deep concern for the salvation of others because he knew that they were in a state of rejection and through their own stubbornness, God was still waiting in his graciousness, that they might still repent and turn to him.
 - c. So we must have a seriousness for saving a soul.
 2. But, this requires studying.
 - a. “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Tim 2:15)
 - b. Our life and work ought to be that which honors Christ by which we handle aright the word of God, cutting straight so we are able to present the truth clearly to others, being truthfully, without blunders, and with an exactness which cannot be challenged or disputed.
 3. And, we need this studying not only to care for lost souls, but to, “. . . be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:” (1 Pet 3:15)
 - a. Alas, we cannot be scared to talk to people about the Bible.
 - b. We must go out there and defend ourselves for all the reason we are Christians and why we remain faithful to God.
 4. But, this requires sacrifice and it requires asking for God’s help through prayer.
 - a. Paul said to let our request be made known to God (Phil 4:6).
 - b. So, if you are having anxiety and stress about evangelism, lay the case before God, and trust him to strengthen you.
- B. Thus, we must be dedicated, not only to God, but in finding ways to awaken people's interest in the gospel.
 1. We must get to know where the lost are coming from.
 - a. In 1 Cor 9:19-23, Paul was willing to become the servant of all and to deny himself in all things.
 - b. He knew that if he adapted himself, it would cause others to see Christ and by doing this, he was promoting the Gospel.
 - c. May we as Christians adapt ourselves to all classes in order to reach them.
- C. We must overcome the problem of procrastination
 1. We must go to the turf of the lost, because they will not come to us.
 2. The Bible says that the Son of man came seeking the lost (Lk. 19:10).

- a. We must not let our Christian light be covered.

VI. SENSE OF VISION

- A. We must never lose our vision of leading the world to Christ.
 - 1. The world, Belle, MO. is ready to be evangelized.
 - 2. Sometimes Christians excuse themselves though from evangelism by saying that their family or friends are not ready to believe.
 - a. Jesus, however, makes it clear that around us, is a continual harvest waiting to be reaped (Jn. 4:35)
 - b. Don't let Jesus find you making excuses. Look around and you will find people ready to hear God's Word.
- B. We ought to know by now, that faith is the daring of the soul to go farther than it can see.
 - 1. And we can reach the masses if we don't lose our vision (Phil. 4:13)
 - 2. It is only when we lose our vision, that we begin accepting the status quo.
 - 3. In 1899 the director of the U.S. Patent Office urged President Wm. McKinley to close down the office because "everything that can be invented has been invented."
 - a. They were so wrong and we would be wrong to think that all who need or want to be converted have been converted.
- C. We must have a sense of direction for our vision.
 - 1. We must know where we are going and how to get there.
 - 2. We must practice evangelism and remember that soul winning is a process of planting, cultivating and reaping.
 - 3. "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase." (1 Cor 3:6).
 - a. It was Paul's work given him to plant the seed of the kingdom; it was the work of Apollos to afterwards water or cultivate the plants which had come forth, but God gave the growth; gave the seed its vitality and the plant its life.
 - 4. So we need to realize what phase of the process we are dealing with.
- D. And, we must be persistent.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. When we use our Six Senses of Evangelism, we will be able to fulfil the challenge and command of the Great Commission.
- 2. That doesn't mean we will save everyone we talk to, but it does mean we will be talking to those who are not saved.
- 3. Jesus wants to save everyone . . . Don't you?