

Being Common Evangelists

01-09-22

What is “evangelism”? The word in Greek is actually two words, “*ev*” (Good) and “*angelos*” (Message). The term is “good news”, and we often place the word “Gospel” into that term. In 1 Timothy 1:9-11 Paul says that the Gospel, the Law (of Christ), and the Doctrine (of Christ) are all the same thing. It would be fair then to say that the Gospel is the New Testament.

The work of preaching the Gospel is not just to the lost. Paul sought to preach the Gospel to the Christians in Rome in Romans 1:15. Paul directed Timothy to do the work of the evangelist in 2 Timothy 4, and that work was then described in terms of working with the brethren. The Gospel has a value to be spoke of to all men, and that value is multi-faceted.

First, The Gospel is a solution to emotional struggles, as Paul describes in Philippians 4:6-9. Many people seek to create social injustice; the Gospel is the solution to this as well (Galatians 3:28, James 2:1). The Gospel even has solutions for our physical needs, as seen in Acts 2:44-45 and elsewhere. The Gospel offers us ways to achieve familial stability and success (Ephesians 5:22-6:4). But the greatest work of the Gospel is that it teaches us how to obtain eternal life, salvation in Jesus Christ (Romans 1:16).

The world needs the Gospel, and it even desires the results of the Gospel, but for the most part it refuses to accept the Gospel as the solution. We must find ways to convince the world to accept it, and to encourage one another to hold on to it. How can we do this in our day to day conduct?

1. Be different – 2 Corinthians 6:17 - We need to be something different from the World. If we are just like the world, we are not a light to the world.
2. Be ready with an answer – 1 Peter 3:15 – We need to prepare ourselves with a way to respond when the world sees we are different. We need to know what the Word says and be prepared to respond in it.
3. Be patient – 2 Timothy 2:23-26 – We need to accept that often it takes a great deal of patience and time to let the Gospel do its work.
4. Be loving – Luke 6:27 – We need to love the lost as well as our own with a Christ-like love. We need to want to see them saved.
5. Pray – Colossians 4:3 – We need to pray for opportunity, for wisdom and for success in our effort.

Anyone can share the Gospel with either the saved or the lost. Indeed, we are not living in it if we cannot.