

EVANGELISM, THE NEED OF THE HOUR

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. EVANGELISM is not only the need of the hour, it is the one SUPREME need of the world until time shall be no more -- Matt. 28: 19 - 20; I John 4: 14; Luke 19:10
2. EVANGELISM means "the teaching or preaching the gospel".
3. An EVANGELIST is one who announces good news of the gospel; he heralds the good news.
 - (1) Timothy did the work of an Evangelist -- II Tim. 4:5 *"do the work of an evangelist"*
 - (2) Philip was an Evangelist -- Acts 21: 8
 - (3) The work of the Evangelist is a gift to the church -- Eph. 4:8, 11 - 12
4. In one sense, every Christian is an EVANGELIST.
 - (1) Acts 8:4 *"Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the gospel."*
 - (2) All Christians are to go to the lost of the world and teach the gospel -- Mark 16:15 - 16
 - (3) We need to be *"snatching them out of the fire"* who are lost -- Jude 23

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS REVEALED BUT ONE GOSPEL TO MAN

1. He guided the Apostles into all truth -- John 16:13
2. Jesus said the truth would make men free from sin -- John 8:32; I Pet. 1:22
3. Jesus said all who obey the truth, the gospel, will be saved -- Mark 16:15 - 16
4. Paul said the gospel is the power of God unto salvation -- Rom. 1:16; Eph. 1:13
5. Paul said the gospel is not something that man made up -- Gal. 1: 11
6. The MESSAGES of RELIGIOUS sects, denominations, and cults are not the gospel of Christ; their messages are from the minds of men -- I John 4:5; Jer. 23:16
7. Their message is another gospel -- Gal. 1: 6 - 9
8. They go beyond the doctrine of Christ -- II John 9 - 11
9. They teach for doctrines the commandments of men -- Matt. 15:9
10. Those who follow them will be lost -- Matt. 15:14; II Pet. 2: 3

II. EVANGELISM DEMANDS THAT WE CONFRONT A LOST WORLD WITH THE "TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL" -- Gal. 2:5

1. This will bring us into conflict with the religious leaders, with their disciples, and their errors -- Eph. 6:12; 2 Cor. 10:4 - 5
2. It will cause us to be opposed, lied about, and persecuted -- Matt. 5: 10 -12
3. Jesus waged a WARFARE against the RELIGIOUS POWERS and worked to SET THE CAPTIVES FREE -- Luke 4: 16 - 19; Matt. 23: 1 - 12
4. Jesus waged a constant war for truth -- Matt. 22: 15 - 22
5. Confronting error with truth is the way Christ did the great work of EVANGELISM.
 - (1) Christ said He came to *"send a sword"* -- Matt. 10: 34 - 37; Luke 12: 51 - 53
 - (2) Christ warned of False Prophets -- Matt. 7:15
 - (3) He confronted and exposed the traditions of the Scribes and Pharisees -- Matt. 15:1 - 9; Matt. 16: 6, 12
6. Some do not seem to understand the WARLIKE SPIRIT of the Lamb of God.

- (1) He is "*the Lion of the tribe of Judah*" -- Rev. 5:5
- (2) "*In righteousness he doth judge and make war*"-- Rev. 19:11
- 7. In this WARFARE between Christ and Religious Error, the gospel does its God-appointed work of finding the "*honest and good heart*" -- Luke 8: 15; I Tim. 1:18

III. WHAT IS TRUE EVANGELISM?

- 1. It is the Preaching of the Gospel to a world LOST in sin.
 - (1) John said, "*The whole world lieth in wickedness*"-- I John 5:19
 - (2) Paul said, "*For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*"-- Rom. 3:23
 - (3) The gospel is to be preached to every creature -- Mark 16: 15 - 16; Matt. 28:19 - 20
 - (4) Only the gospel will save men -- Rom. 1: 16 - 17; I Cor. 15: 1 - 4; II Thess. 1:7 - 9
- 2. It is confronting the world steeped in RELIGIOUS ERROR with the TRUTH of God's Word -- John 8:32
- 3. It is fighting the good fight, "*the good fight of faith*" -- I Tim. 6:12; I Tim. 1:18; II Tim. 4:7
- 4. It is being "*set for the defense of the gospel*"-- Phil. 1:17
- 5. It is "*earnestly contending for the faith*"-- Jude 3; I Thess. 2:2
- 6. It is the urgent preaching of the gospel "*in season and out*" that leaves a lost world without EXCUSE -- II Tim. 4:2; 2 Cor. 2:16; I Cor. 9:16
- 7. The duty to preach is OURS; the RESULTS are GOD'S -- I Cor. 3:6; Isa. 55:11
- 8. Evangelism is a mission that reaches beyond this world into the world to come.
- 9. Jesus emphasized the GREATNESS OF EVANGELISM in John 14:12
 - (1) The gospel would go forth from Jerusalem to ALL the world to save a world lost in sin -- Isa. 2:2 - 4; Acts 2; Matt. 28: 19 - 20
- 10. We need to "*lift up our eyes and look on the fields: for they are white already to harvest*"-- John 4:35
- 11. We need to pray, "*The Lord of harvest, that He will send forth laborer into His harvest*" -- Matt. 9:38
 - (1) "*The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few;*" -- Matt. 9:37
- 12. The God of heaven keeps the world in existence so this great work may be done for the salvation of souls; this is what world history is all about.
- 13. This sinful world is daily drifting further away from any sense of responsibility to God.
- 14. One day His mercy will give place to His wrath, and the end will come -- when this will be, nobody knows, but it will be a terrible day for the disobedient --2 Pet. 3:7; 3:10; 2 Thess. 1: 7-9

IV. WHAT WE ALL MUST GRASP IS THE AWFUL STATE OF THE LOST.

- 1. Very few Christians and sinners really grasp the AWFUL state of the LOST.
- 2. The HORRIBLE FATE is greatly ignored; the god of this world has blinded the minds of the Lost - - 2 Cor. 4:4
- 3. The most horrible experience that can come to man is YET before millions who now live in sin, apart from Christ -- John 8: 21, 24
 - (1) This applies to all people alike, for there is no respect of persons with God -- Rom. 2:11
 - (2) The great entertainers, the heroes of sports, the battlefield, the kings, the powerful politicians, are all making their way to the lake of fire -- Rev. 20:15

4. To help us really see the situation, let us call before us in the eyes of our minds, SCENES WE OFTEN SEE:

(1) We are in a crowded cafeteria-- we see a family at a table.

1. The aged grandparents look with pride and joy at their children and grandchildren.
2. This family gathering is a time of joy.
3. But, the grandparents are only a few days out of the burning fires of **TORMENT**, and their children are not many years behind them if they have not obeyed the gospel -- Luke 16: 23 - 26
4. Their temporal joy will soon turn to eternal anguish, for they will leave this world and draw the **WAGES** of Sin, which is **DEATH** -- Rom. 3:23

(2) To further grasp the situation in the world, imagine walking in a crowded shopping mall.

1. Every responsible person you see that has not obeyed the gospel is on his or her way to Hell -- 2 Thess. 1: 8 - 9

(3) But, to further see the lost situation in the world, picture a typical American Religious scene:

1. You see a beautiful costly church building on Sunday morning with the worshippers coming out.
2. They have heard the Bible read, the choir sing while the organ was played, and the preacher's sermon filled with error.
3. The people have given of their money; they have been moved to religious works and they claim to believe in Christ.
4. **AS THEY PASS THROUGH THE DOORS OF THAT HOUSE OF FALSE RELIGION, WHERE THEY HAVE HEARD THE DEVIL'S LIES, RATHER THAN THE TRUTH, YOU REALIZE THEY ARE ALL DECIEVED AND DOOMED TO HELL.**
5. Matt. 7: 21 - 23

CONCLUSION

1. Three great fundamental facts we must keep in mind:

(1) Every responsible creature who has not obeyed the gospel is **LOST** -- II Thess. 1: 8 - 9

(2) The gospel is the power to saved the lost -- Rom. 1:16

(3) Christians are the only messengers of the Lord to carry the Gospel to the Lost -- Mark 16:15 - 16