

Proper Motivation for EVANGELISM, pt. 2

I am concluding part 2 of a series entitled “Proper Motivation for Evangelism” this month. I want to continue to say that I have truly been blessed by the Lord to be able to go around to different parts of the country and worship with the brethren. Yet it breaks my heart to see so many churches falling short when it comes to reaching the lost in their communities. Again, I am not sure where or when I received this information about evangelism and it has no name on it, but it is informative to this topic.

What should be our motivation, that thing that pushes us forward in EVANGELISM? For us to answer to this question I believe we should look at what motivated Jesus. As a reminder, we saw that He was motivated by His compassion for lost souls and by His sense of purpose. Jesus is the greatest example we can model ourselves after, especially when it comes to evangelism. Let us move forward to see what should motivate us to evangelize.

Third, Jesus had experienced "the love of the Father", which prompted Him to love others (John 15:9). But it went beyond that. This "love" was such that He wanted to share it with others (John 17:26), even if it was necessary for Him to go the cross to make it possible! Have we experienced "the love of the Father" in our lives? If so, how can we not be motivated to want to share it with others? Is it not worth sharing? You know it is!! But if we sense our love for the Father is not as strong as we would like, how can we develop a greater sense of God's love for us? We can experience the Father's love by keeping the commandments of Jesus (John 14:21-23). Jesus said his commandment is to “love one another” (John 15:12). John also writes in (1 John 4:12), “...if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.” The best way we can increase our love for the Father is to spend more time learning about Him from the word of God. Have we experienced the Father's love by loving Jesus and keeping His commandments? If not, we will not have much worth sharing, nor will we be motivated to share it!

Fourth, we can add to the things that motivated Jesus is the fear of the Lord. Jesus was very much aware of God's “righteous indignation.” He taught that we should “fear” God (Matthew 10:28). He warned of the judgment to come (Mark 9:43-48). Are we willing to make the effort to save others, like Jesus? Are we even willing to speak to them? Or could it be that we don't take the "fear of the Lord" as serious as Jesus' early disciples did? “Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord we persuade men...” (2 Corinthians 5:11). How can we develop a healthy appreciation for “the fear of the Lord?” Let me suggest by

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1. To help our subscribers grow in their Bible knowledge through articles from various writers.
2. To offer our subscribers Biblical weekend seminars to encourage the faithful.
3. To assist our subscribers in evangelizing their own communities.

*For more information, please call Danny @ 719-980-0587 or Tom @ 719-964-8493.
You can also send an email to info@theunveiledgospel.org.*

To subscribe, send email to danny@theunveiledgospel.org or tom@theunveiledgospel.org. Please include how many copies are needed for congregational or personal subscriptions. Also, include address, contact name, phone number and email address. All subscriptions are free for now. Still, any donations made to this [new domestic mission work](#) would be greatly appreciated. To donate, please send checks or money orders made out to Limon church of Christ, P.O. Box 391, Limon, CO 80828. Please earmark them for *The Unveiled Gospel*.

Thanks to all.

studying and re-studying God's word, especially those portions which describe God's judgments in the past (cf. 2 Peter 2:4-9), and that provide warnings of the Judgment Day to come (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 20:12-15; 21:8). Have we become complacent to the fact that there will be a day of judgment and condemnation? Could it be we have not let the word of God have its true effect on our lives?

Finally, we see that the Lord was motivated by, "the joy set before Him." As expressed by the writer of Hebrews (12:2), Jesus was motivated by the joyful prospect of being with His Father, at His Right Hand. Notice that this enabled Him to "endure the cross" and "despise the shame." Does not the prospect of spending eternity with God motivate us to do what we can to save souls? It must, if we also are to be willing to "endure the cross" or "despise the shame" that might be involved in evangelism! To increase our level of appreciating what lies ahead for the faithful, I suggest that you regularly think/meditate upon what God has prepared for us, as described in the God's word (Revelation 7:13-17; 21:1-7). It also helps to think of what God will do for those we reach. Paul did, as he describes in 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20; and it gave him great joy that I am sure helped him to continue teaching others.

We all have to search our hearts so that our motivation for evangelism is like that of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let's do everything we can to be properly motivated to evangelize our communities. The Lord's work should be on our hearts every day we live in this world. Over the next few months I will further exhort us to the love and good deed of evangelism.

~Danny Aragon, church of Christ, Kim CO

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1. Gospel Meetings – designed to encourage the brethren
2. Weekend Seminars – designed to teach participants how to evangelize
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To set-up one of these offers, please call Danny Aragon @ 719-980-0587 or Tom Wright @ 719-964-8493.

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A PLEA TO ALL OUR READERS FROM "The Unveiled Gospel" STAFF

From the time of our inception almost a year ago, our goal was and remains not only to talk the talk of evangelism, but also to walk the walk of evangelism. As the result of this goal, two awesome godly events are taking place. First, the circulation of our publication is continuing to grow. Second, the number of congregations from among the churches of Christ seeking our help to teach them on how to evangelize and/or help them evangelize their locales is growing. Consequently, we are in need of increased financial support to maintain the growth of our circulation and bring on more experienced staff evangelists to help us help the churches. We are praying to God to use all of you to open these doors to us to continue our evangelizing a lost and dying United States (Col. 4.2-4). Thank you!

THIRTY SUGGESTIONS FOR BIBLE STUDY – SUGGESTION NINE

Suggestion nine for Bible study is that one should always be on time for scheduled Bible studies (Acts 8.26-40). In the referenced Scripture, we have an inspired example of how the Holy Spirit providentially scheduled a Bible study between the evangelist Phillip and the Ethiopian eunuch. However, even though the study was preplanned and unknown to them before hand, the Holy Spirit made it entirely possible for them to meet each other at His scheduled time. From then on, Phillip took charge of the Bible study and taught the Ethiopian the gospel of Christ that resulted in his being baptized and receiving salvation. While this passage of Scripture teaches us many lessons, the lesson under consideration is that it is essential for Christians to be on time for Bible studies they schedule with others.

Christians need be on time for the scheduled Bible studies they set up with non-Christians and/or unfaithful Christians because souls are at stake salvation and condemnation wise. For example, if Phillip entirely ignored the instructions of the angel of the Lord and Holy Spirit, then he would never have met up with the Ethiopian eunuch in time for their study. Such behavior by Phillip would have constituted disobedience to God's commands. God would have held him accountable for that as well as leaving the Ethiopian eunuch's soul in a continued state of condemnation (Ezek. 33.7-9; Matt. 28.18-20; Mark 16.15-16; John 14.15; 15.14; Acts 1-28; Rom. 14.12; 2 Cor. 5.10; 2 Thess. 1.6-10; 1 Pet. 3.15; 4.17-18; Rev. 22.17). Still, because Phillip obeyed God, the Ethiopian eunuch obeyed the gospel.

Consequently, just as Philip was on time for his scheduled Bible study with the Ethiopian eunuch, so should Christians be on time for their scheduled Bible studies with others. It is extremely important to God that they do this for the obvious reasons already stated plus precious others (John 3.16; Acts 2.38; 1 Thess. 4.13-18; 2 Pet. 3.9; Rev. 21.1-8; 22.1-5). Yet, Christians have unparalleled freedom to schedule their own Bible studies with others as long as they get to them on time and conduct them in conformity to the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3.16-17). When Christians schedule Bible studies with lost souls, and fail to get to them on time without acceptable justification, they may lose their studies for any number of reasons. But worst of all, all the lost souls they were going to study with remain lost.

Tom Wright, church of Christ, Limon CO

PS – Speaking from my own experience, setting up Bible studies with non-Christians and unfaithful Christians to bring or return them to Christ is a hard-enough task to begin with. Hence, it becomes a real exciting experience when one is set up. Conversely, it becomes a real disappointing experience to lose one from failing to show up at the scheduled time.

AS OF FIRST IMPORTANCE – THE GOSPEL (borrowed)

What do you tell a person that is not a Christian? What if a person does not know whether he is born again? Your friend thinks he is a Christian, but you know better. What do you tell them? There are some “life and death” statements in the Bible that should get your attention. “unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in our sins” (John 8:24). Another is “...Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power” (2 Thessalonians 1:7b-9).

It is imperative to believe in and obey the gospel. However, there is sometimes a confusion concerning the gospel that leaves it untold. What is the gospel? Paul tells what the gospel is: “Now I make known to you brethren, the gospel...by which also you are saved...For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

Notice that the gospel is what saves. Notice also what the gospel is: Jesus dies for our sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day. That is the heart of the gospel message. Paul even stated that he delivered “as of first importance” these facts.

The gospel is not the “one true church,” it is not “a cappella music,” it is not even “baptism.” Too often we have a tendency to jump into those discussions without ever getting to the point. Jumping into baptism without sharing the gospel is getting the cart in front of the horse. Those are not the things that Paul said were “as of first importance.” Don't misunderstand, the Bible is clear about the necessity of baptism. However, the object of our faith is not baptism, but in the resurrected Lord Jesus. When Peter preached the first gospel sermon in Acts 2, he preached Jesus as the promised Messiah. It wasn't until the people were “pierced to the heart” and were ready to do something about it that Peter preached baptism. To preach baptism to wash away sins without first preaching the blood of Jesus which washes away your sins is to reduce the gospel to a system of works where you merit your own salvation, which is useless. Power is not in the water, but in the blood (1 Peter 1:18-19).

So, don't get the cart before the horse. Stick to the point: the gospel. When speaking to someone that is not yet a Christian, determine to know nothing except “Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2). Decide to open your mouth and preach “Jesus to him” (Acts 8:35). Lead them not to a religious issue, but the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

John Telgren, Leavenworth church of Christ, Qohelet Web Ministry

EVANGELISM - MINISTRY ACTIVITIES OF *The Unveiled Gospel*:

Last month, *The Unveiled Gospel* spent 4 days in Memphis, TN at the "Spiritual Sword Lectureship." The time spent there was refreshing as we had opportunity to promote *The Unveiled Gospel* and the work that we are doing. Many good contacts were made.

December:

The Unveiled Gospel door knocking campaign with the Sioux City church of Christ went very well as we knocked about 50-75 doors, set up 4 Bible studies and conducted 3 of them. A special thanks to the Nick Bos family for housing and to the Orvis Trobaugh family for the delicious meal. We will be going to Sioux City, IA every month for the next few months to continue our efforts to help the church grow.

The Unveiled Gospel will be going to Tennessee to conduct a class on evangelism, contact Tom Wright (719-964-8493) for more information on class schedule.

Help Needed!!

The church of Christ in Sioux City, Iowa is looking for an evangelist to come and help them grow spiritually and numerically. This is a mission field in need of help! The congregation has some support, but more is needed to fully support an evangelist and his family. Sioux City is a metropolitan area of 100,000+ in population, with all the amenities that come with a large city. If you are interested in helping financially support the work or coming to Sioux City to evangelize please call Orvis @ 712-258-2206 or Nick @ 712-202-3806.

The church of Christ in Walsh, CO is looking for an evangelist to come and help them grow spiritually and numerically. This is a mission field in southeastern CO and the congregation can provide some support, but more is needed to fully support an evangelist and his family. Walsh is a community that hasn't been evangelized in a long time, so the field is white. We are a lovely community that has many souls in need to help. If you are interested in learning more about the work please contact Kenton Dykes @ 719-688-1148.

"And He Closed the Book"

Luke 4:16-21

CHRIST HAS CLOSED THE BOOK ON:

THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES CONCERNING HIM

- Luke 4:21
- John 5:39-40
- Acts 17:23

HIS WILL REGARDING SALVATION

- Hebrews 9:15-17
- Mark 16:16
- 2 John 9-11

ANOTHER AGE AFTER

THIS ONE

- Acts 2:17
- Hebrews 1:1
- 1 John 2:18

THE LAW OF MOSES

- Matthew 5:17-18
- Colossians 2:14-17
- Galatians 5:4



ANY APPEAL THAT IGNORANCE EXCUSES

- John 15:22
- Acts 17:30
- Galatians 3:22

DIVINE REVELATION

- Hebrews 1:1-2
- Galatians 1:11-12
- 1 Corinthians 2:1-2

ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JEW AND GENTILE

- Romans 10:12-13
- Ephesians 2:16

THIS BOOK WILL CLOSE OUR LIVES.

WHAT THEN?

WILL YOU BE READY?

Barnes' Bible Charts

"I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, but the righteous man shall live by faith."

Romans 1:14-17