



Pastor's Reflections- Missions: Rediscovering Biblical Evangelism

Virtually everyone knows the word Gospel means good news and every true believer/Christian knows that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the best of all good news. It is the Good News of all time and eternity. And since Christians understand this to be true, it is our responsibility to make this Good News known. Making the Good News known is really quite simple. D.T. Niles (a Sri Lankan church leader) once described evangelism as “one beggar telling another beggar where to get bread.”

If spreading the Good News really is as simple as “one beggar telling another beggar where to get bread” then why does it seem so difficult at times? It is because we believers in the 21st century NEED to rediscover Biblical Evangelism. Beginning Wednesday, October 5th, 2022 our Wednesday night Bible Study will focus on How to Biblically Share the Good News of Jesus Christ. This will be a 6-week series that will be truly beneficial for all who attend. I hope to see each of you in church so we can “Rediscover Biblical Evangelism” together.

Blessings, Pastor Ed

Article- The State of Discipleship in the 21st Century – Part 1-Ancient Backdrop

In Matthew 28 Jesus charged His Church with “making disciples.” Matthew 28 is the common passage looked to for missions and for the apparent command for evangelism. Yet Jesus says nothing about “evangelizing” the world. His call is to make disciples.

Today’s Church has taken Jesus’ directive to take His gospel to the world to heart, but it has left His decree to make disciples lying alongside the discarded grave clothes in Jesus’ tomb. Many of the resultant “converts”— are not! They are still lost; left behind, as were those abandoned grave clothes.

The gospel message alone was never meant to be the final objective for the Christian. It is only the starting line, not only for the new believer, but for the disciple presenting the message. God is a relational God. God came to earth as a man to free us from certain destruction of the world system. The gospel was, and is, meant to be paired with **making disciples**.

Robert Coleman writes, “The Great Commission [making disciples] is not a special calling or a gift of the Spirit; it is a command—an obligation incumbent upon the whole community of faith.”¹

Imagine Jesus calling his Twelve disciples and saying, “Do you believe I am Yeshua, the Messiah? Yes? Great! You are now saved.” Silly, isn’t it? But that is what the Church has been doing for centuries; that’s *cheap grace*. If we take the time to disciple a person, we might learn that that person isn’t actually saved and thereby build a relationship to bring them home.

The twenty-first century Church thinks it is *our decision* to “choose” Jesus. We want to come on our terms. Nevertheless, if Jesus is not our LORD, as well as our Savior, then we are not following Him. It is Jesus, through the Holy Spirit who does the choosing, not us (Col. 3:12; 1 Pet. 2:9).

So the real cost of discipleship is totally misconstrued among so-called Christians. People will “follow” if it makes them *feel good, feel worthy, feel important, and feel loved*. Also if it doesn’t require *too much time, too much of their money, too much grief from friends and family*. In other words, if it isn’t too much of a nuisance!

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor and martyr, wrote “Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.” Bonhoeffer was and is right. *D. D. Edwards*

¹ Robert Coleman, *The Master Plan of Discipleship* (Salt Spring Island, BC, Canada: Spire, 2005), 10.

Bible- *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it (Mt. 16:24-24).*

Welcome Aboard-

**Mary
Wallace**



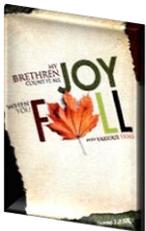
Coming Events- Sept. 4th at 6pm

~ Thailand Mission Trip Benefit Dinner & Southern Gospel Concert held at the church.

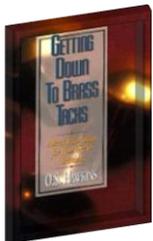
Bible Studies-

Both the Men's and Women's studies will be on James' Epistle. Coming to Jesus is not an insurance policy, assurance of wealth, or free ride to heaven. Salvation means **now life gets real**.

James is designed this letter to exhort, encourage, challenge, convict, to rebuke and revive. To define practical holiness and drive believers toward the goal of a faith that works.



Women's 6-week study on the book of James begins Mon. Oct. 3rd at 6pm & Weds. at 4pm. James is a book too often ignored. In this inductive study you will learn to stay focused on Christ regardless of life's twists, turns, and detours. We *are* justified by faith and grace, but need to follow hard after God's plan.



First Friday Men's Breakfast resumes Fri. Oct. 7th at 8am using O.S. Hawkins study *Getting Down to Brass Tacks*. It is a 13-part study on the book of James dealing with faithfulness to God in times of trial and living our lives as a witness regardless of the sufferings of life.

September Member's Prayer Requests-

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|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Carol Davis | 6. Jimmie Tucker |
| 2. Andy Gould | 7. Christine Holtz (hospice) |
| 3. Michael Berry | 8. Pat Taylor |
| 4. David & Anita Shuff | 9. Nick & Bonnie Terrell |
| 5. Brian Carroll | 10. Kitty Renn |

Also pray for Pastor Ed & Debi and the Williams family as they are on a short-term mission trip in India from September 19th to October 2nd.

Missions- Thailand / Jesse and MacKenzie Mitchum

If you recall Jesse and MacKenzie visited Shoreline Baptist Church just last year. The Women's Bible Study group from Shoreline is sponsoring Lily, their daughter, to go to school in Thailand. They are looking forward to the short-term team going to them in February and to a long partnership with Shoreline Baptist Church.



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