

Evangelism: What, Why, Who, Where, How and When

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Introduction: This lesson is a brief touching on the subject of Evangelism in its various ramifications. It is a study material for individuals and churches to help us become good “fishers of men.”

WHAT

Evangelism is the “The preaching of the good news” or proclamation/herald of the gospel of Christ. The gospel is the message of

- the life, death, burial and resurrection of Christ -1 Cor 15:1-4
- His present reign over the kingdom of God [church and the universe] Act 8:5,12, Heb 1:1-3, Eph 1:1-23

The object of evangelism is converting people to Jesus. Whether people are converted or not, we evangelize via preaching. One plants the seed (word), another waters while God gives the increase -1 Cor 3:5-8, Lk 8:4-15

WHY

The reason for evangelism is to save sinners which is essentially adult mankind (Rm 3:23). Recall

- **Jesus came to seek and save the lost** (Luke 19:10) and has not abandoned that goal.
- Mankind need to be saved from their sins Mt 1:21), the fear of death, the power of the grave (Heb 2:9,14-15) and the wrath of God (Jn 3:16-17,36).
- Humans need to be reconciled with God after the fall in Eden, the restored fellowship is what Christians enjoy (Col 1:20-22), being the ones having all spiritual blessings (Eph 1:3-7) who worship God in spirit and in truth (Jn 4:23-24, Phil 3:3).
- Christ will return to judge the living and the dead Acts 10:42; 17:31, 2 Tim 4:1

WHO

Disciples of Christ are to evangelize, individually and as a church. Scripture authorizes both to preach since:

- Those who encountered Jesus invited others unto Jesus –Jn 1:40-46; 4:25-30,39-42.
- During His ministry, Christ selected followers for limited commission -Mt 10:5-14, Lk 10:1-17
- After resurrection, Jesus gave the Great Commission to the apostles –Mt 28:16-20, Acts 1:2-8; 26:9-18
- Later, individual Christians upon dispersion caused by persecution, preached on their own –Acts 8:3-4
- The church is charged to evangelize and does (Eph 6:10,15 & 1 Thess 1:6-8) through its ministers known as Evangelists (and Teachers) –Rm 10:11-15, Acts 13:1-3.

[Note: In the church, every saint is not a teacher or a preacher (Jms 3:1, 1 Cor 9:14, Eph 4:7-12).

The church sending out everyone to preach is unscriptural. Babies or new converts have to be groomed in-house first and only selected mature ones dispatched as the church’s representatives to preach. Christians are the Lord’s troops and we seek to win subjects to Christ’s territory from the kingdom of darkness. Special forces are sent for missions; not every soldier goes to the warfront at any instant, some stay back at the base to manage or support the effort. For more information on Preachers, see [On The Acquirement And Recognition Of Evangelists](#).

Also, writing other churches to come out or join a “mega-evangelism” project is unscriptural. Each church should labour according to its capacity but can invite or support many preachers concurrently. How should congregations relate on preaching? See [Church Cooperation in Evangelism](#)]

WHERE

In the whole world, unto every creature (Mk 16:15-16) wherever humanity is found. The gospel is for all irrespective of social status. In Paul’s era they accomplished that (Col 1:23) and we should in our own period.

HOW

For this all-important work, the church must plan and strategize as well as count the cost. We should use our individual talents and contribute time, resources etc. Since the message is to the lost – *atheists* (who do not acknowledge God's existence), *unbelievers* (e.g. Satanists, Traditional Religionists, Muslims, etc. who misconstrue Jesus) and *denominations* (believers who are in religious error), **use a suitable method for each:**

- *Atheists*: use apologetics. Start from nature that design evident in universe implies creation, natural laws implies a lawgiver the source of morality, evidence that universe is winding down, etc. + Scripture.
- *Unbelievers*: Use normal-evangelism (start with what they know and are comfortable e.g. Acts 17:18-34, show areas of agreement from their books/scripture and throw more light from the Bible)
- *Denominations*: Use proselytism as with the Ethiopian Eunuch or Apollos. Let such try to explain a passage s/he believes then step in privately to correct. E.g. when someone says he is saved, commend that and ask such to kindly share how he became a Christian, otherwise you may ask if he is satisfied with everything about how his group worships and is organized or if there are areas improvements are needed. While he relates this, you could request for Bible authorization of his claims and then clarify issues as he tries to explain say, "the sinner's prayer, the name of the church he attends, etc."

Preach in word (verbal & writing - 2 Cor 10:11) and in conduct (Mt 5:16, 1 Pet 3:1, 1 Timothy 4:12). We can use various means to go into the whole world to preach as well as invite the sinners to come. Use:

- A simple invitation to the home, to meet a teacher or to regular church services and special programs.
- Correspondence, Tracts, TV, Radio, CD. Internet & Social media (Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, etc.)

Face to face contact is important to clarify things & to administer baptism, to encourage the new born in faith and to begin to teach them to observe all things whatsoever that Christ commanded.

WHEN

At all times or seasons irrespective of mood, personal condition or social circumstances - 2 Timothy 4:2. We must convert opportunities, do all things to proclaim the message, chip it in and make known the manifold wisdom of God.

Conclusion: Let us spread the good news near, far and abroad. Otherwise, someone might say on judgment day: *'You never mentioned Him to me!'* Soul-winning is wise and has a reward –Prov 11:30, 1 Cor 3:14.

The obligation is upon the church to train, commission and support Evangelists to preach to the world.

It is Preachers who could truly proclaim with Paul thus:

For 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. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness. -Rm 1:16 -18

... for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! ...For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. -1 Cor 9:16b,19 -22

Each individual Christian kit in *the whole armor of God* has a responsibility to help communicate the good news unto others, in one way or another. So count your blessings, if lackadaisical repent of it and say:

"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee." –Ps 51:12-13