

2018 - Evangelism Part 3 - 2014-02-11 - 2 Timothy 3:15

Call to Worship: Colossians 3:16

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 23:12-26

Sermon: "Evangelism Part 3" 2 Timothy 3:15

Benediction: Daniel 12:2-3

INTRODUCTION/REVIEW

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we rejoice today that we are saved! We are saved from the wrath of God to come, not by our own good works or even good choices, but by His grace poured out on us in Jesus Christ our Savior! He took our guilt upon Himself; He absorbed the blows; He heard the mocking; He received the scourging; He bore the weight; He felt the nails; He shed the blood; He felt the agony; He died the death we deserved for our sin.

"Vicarious expiation"! We came across that term this past Wednesday evening. For us, in our place, on our behalf, Christ Jesus did what had to be done for our guilt to be cancelled and our punishment remitted. Not only did he die, but He also rose again from the dead on the third day, ascended into heaven, and now rules over all. Having heard that good news, that evangel, repenting of sin, believing in Him, we have been saved, are being saved, and will be saved.

Our Lord Jesus has commanded that the good news of such a salvation, the gospel, the evangel, be made known to the whole world. We hardly even need to be commanded, so eager are we to have other sinners find the salvation we have. We are eager to engage in the promulgation of that evangel, the making know that gospel to those who haven't heard.

But to our grief, we see that even among those who have heard the gospel, many, many do not believe. We long to see them come to faith in Christ as we have; we want to do our part in that; we want to convince them. We are willing to do whatever it takes to convince them to believe, to the saving of their souls.

Ah, but what does it take?

I have alluded to all the things that we have been told, in previous church experiences, must be done to overcome sinners' bad attitudes toward the gospel. Many of those

things we used to do, but don't do anymore. People then ask us why, if we are evangelistic, why we don't do those things. Other people accuse of not being evangelistic, because we don't do those things. We want to know what we really should be doing for evangelism, and how we should answer those who ask us about it.

Here's what we have seen so far:

Abstain from worldly lusts . . .

Work faithfully for whoever you work for, considering him worthy of honor . . .

Submit to your own husband . . .

Pastors . . .

Older men, older women . . .

Younger men, younger women . . .

Today we go on in the same vein: What does our Lord Jesus tell us we are to do in order to convince unbelievers of the truth of the gospel, so they will believe and be saved?

In today's study I have grouped together two items that both have to do with children. And here is one of the most emotional aspects of evangelism: children in general, and especially our own children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and other children whom we know and love.

On our left are church practices like sprinkling babies or putting children through confirmation. These things we utterly reject.

On our right are church practices like luring children in with fun and games, then turning the emotional screws on them, getting them to repeat a prayer, and calling that salvation. This we also reject.

In those things we know there is no true encouragement for the Christian regarding evangelism for children. Those things do not truly evangelize. Those things are not truly evangelistic. Those things do not truly constitute evangelism.

Do not use infant sprinkling; do not use confirmation; do not use fun and games; do not use emotional pressure. Instead, by the instruction in the Word of God, use the means God is pleased to use:

Use the scriptures and the rod, by which children can become wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

TEXT

2 Timothy 3:14-15 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, (15) and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

BODY

Use the scriptures and the rod, by which children can become wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

I. Read the scriptures to children

A. 2 Timothy 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, **which are able to make you wise for salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

1. children do not naturally have a good attitude toward the gospel;
2. think of this: if the scriptures are able to make them wise for salvation, what are they naturally, without the scriptures? they are not wise unto salvation, but foolish unto damnation

a) it teaches them to fear the Lord (thief on the cross); Luke 23:39-43

b) it teaches them to listen to the wisdom of the righteous (Gabriel to Zechariah); Luke 1:13-17

(1) Luke 1:76-78 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, (77) To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins, (78) Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;

(2) Luke 1:13-17 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. (14) And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. (15) For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be

filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. (16) And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. (17) He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

II. Discipline your children by striking them with the rod

A. Proverbs 23:13-14 Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. (14) You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell.

1. verse 13

- a) you are tempted to withhold correction because you think it will harm him
- b) but truly he is not harmed by it

2. verse 14

- a) you beat him with a rod and deliver his soul from death

B. From Charles Bridges

- 1. Do not neglect the rod
- 2. Do not overuse it, making it constant
- 3. Do not threaten it, then fail to follow through, which is a kind of lying

CONCLUSION

There is no hope in false religious practices masquerading as evangelism.

There is hope in use of the scriptures and the rod, to make children wise unto salvation which is through faith in Christ Jesus!

Use the scriptures and the rod, by which children can become wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Prelude: Trinity 185 "By the Cross of Jesus Standing"

Camille: piano

Noah: trumpet - see attached in G

Anna: clarinet - see attached in G

Trinity 198 "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

Camille: piano

Noah: trumpet - see attached in D

Anna: clarinet - see attached in D

Grace 162 "The Perfect Wisdom of Our God"

Camille: flute

Noah: trumpet - see attached in C

Anna: piano

Trinity 192 "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

Camille: piano

Noah: trumpet - see attached in a

Anna: sing

Trinity 699 "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

Camille: sing

Noah: sing

Anna: piano