

2018 - Evangelism Part 2 - 2018-02-04

Call to Worship: Psalm 47:6-8

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 12:1-19

Sermon: "Evangelism Part 2" Titus 2:1-15

Benediction: 1 Timothy 1:17

INTRODUCTION

Evangelism - making known the evangel, the gospel, the good news; as part of that, overcoming people's natural animosity toward the gospel, their native bad attitude toward the gospel, their thoughts that the gospel is foolishness.

We who believe were told the gospel when we didn't know it. We genuinely want those who have not heard to hear the good news, too. And what good news it is! Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died on the cross, not for Himself, being innocent, but for the guilty. He was buried, but on the third day He rose from the dead, for death had no hold on Him. Now He sits on the throne of heaven, dispensing the grace of God to sinners who deserve only God's wrath. He sends forth this gospel, this good news, this evangel:

- Jesus Christ, who was nailed to a cross between two criminals, was not Himself a criminal, but was completely innocent; so He died not for Himself, but to take the punishment that others deserve
- Jesus Christ, who died on that cross, was buried, but on the third day rose from the dead, for death had no hold on Him
- Now He has ascended to the throne of heaven, and reigns over all
- He shall come again one day in the future to judge the world; until that day:
 - the filthy who come to Jesus Christ are washed clean in His blood
 - the guilty who trust in Jesus Christ are justified in God's sight by Christ's righteousness
 - the rebellious who believe in Jesus Christ receive adoption as sons in the household of God
 - the sinful who repent, turning from their sins to follow Jesus Christ, are forgiven by God through Him
- the chief of all sinners, who once tried to destroy the church of Jesus Christ, has found mercy in Christ, as a pattern for all who will believe in Christ as he does

We who have heard the gospel, the evangel, want to see others told who have not heard; we desire evangelism; we want to do our part in that; we want to be evangelistic.

At the same time, we hear either sincere questions, or angry accusations, from our friends and relatives, who say that they and their churches are evangelistic, but we and our church are not. They do many things, which they say are evangelistic, and wonder why we do not do most of those same things.

We want to know what our part is in evangelism, both so we can do it, and so we can know what to say to those who ask us or accuse us.

What does our Master tell us in His Word is indeed evangelistic?

What does the Lord tell you to do, that will have the effect of convincing unbelievers to believe the gospel and so be saved?

What does the Word of God tell you that you must do to overcome people's bad attitudes toward the church, the bible, and the gospel?

Undeniably, unbelievers have a bad attitude toward the gospel; and so a major component of evangelism must be the overcoming unbelievers' hangups, misconceptions, hostility regarding Christians and the gospel. Ultimately it will be the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit inside sinners, working in them faith, granting them repentance. But for our part, what are we to do, so that sinners who hear the gospel will not only hear, but also believe, and so be saved?

All around us people are saying we must do extraordinary, radical things to accomplish that. But what does the Word of God tell you actually works? What does the bible say actually is effective in this area for the cause of evangelism?

Last week:

1. Abstain from fleshly lusts which war against your soul
 - a. 1 Peter 2:11-12 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, (12) having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.
2. Submit to your husband
 - a. 1 Peter 3:1 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives
3. Work faithfully for whoever you are working for, considering him worthy of honor
 - a. Titus 2:9-10 Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, (10) not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

- b. 1 Timothy 6:1 Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, **so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed.**
- 4. I started into talking about the role of men and boys in the church, but really only skimmed the surface of that, so that's where I'll take back up today

TEXT

Titus 2:1-15

BODY

I. Men and Boys, Women and Girls in the Church

A. Men and boys

1. older men: Titus 2:2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;
 - a) sober: attentive to duty rather than drunk or asleep
 - b) reverent: venerable, honorable because grave, honest
 - c) temperate: lit. safe in the guts; ie. safe from acting according to fleshly urges
 - d) sound in (though the physical body might become unsound as the man becomes old, yet he must remain sound in these things):
 - (1) faith: believing in the truth of Christ
 - (2) love: agape
 - (3) patience
 - (a) steadfastness, endurance
 - (b) lit. staying under the load, not setting it down until the end
2. pastors: Titus 2:6-8 Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, (7) in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, (8) sound **speech that cannot be condemned**, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.
 - a) the pastors are to set the example for all
 - b) what they do should be "good works"
 - c) what they say should be sound speech; their doctrine should show
 - (1) integrity
 - (2) reverence
 - (3) incorruptibility
 - d) note in verse 8 what happens when the pastors live like this

- (1) your speech cannot be condemned
 - (2) an opponent of the gospel will be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you
 - 3. young men:
 - a) look to the pastors and the other men ahead of you as examples or patterns to be followed
 - b) accept exhortation from the pastors; the main point of that exhortation is to be sober-minded
 - 4. APPLICATION
 - a) older men: your age is grounds for the young treating you with reverence; but live, also, in such a way that by your character you deserve that reverence
 - b) young men: Justin, Noah, Nevin, etc.
 - (1) we want to reach our generation for Christ
 - (2) instead of doing what the world of young men around you is doing, look to those men just ahead of you; see what they are doing? instead of doing what comes naturally to your flesh, or what the young men of the world around you are doing, do what they are doing
 - (3) do you know what the men just ahead of you are saying? instead of saying what occurs to you to say, or what the world of young men around you are saying, listen to what these men just ahead of you are saying, and say that
 - 5. Summary: those who are mature in age and in the faith are to set an example of holy living and sound speech, so that those who have a bad attitude about the gospel can find nothing bad to say about us that is true; as all follow that pattern, the whole church gets to be that way;
- B. Women and girls
- 1. people don't seem to care about the gospel; the culture seems to be rejecting Christianity instead of embracing it; people more and more don't even believe in God; what can I do about it?
 - 2. Titus 2:3-5 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-- (4) that they admonish [instruct, teach, train] the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, (5) to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, **that the word of God may not be blasphemed.**
 - 3. older women:
 - a) be reverent in behavior yourselves; that is, live as is appropriate for those who are devoted to God

- (1) not slandering
- (2) not enslaved to much wine
- b) teach what is good, to train the young women;
- 4. here older women and young women should listen together: if the command is for the older women to train the younger women, then the command also is for the younger women to be trained by the older women
 - a) to love their husbands
 - b) to love their children

Do not presume to think of yourself, "I already love my husband and children, so I don't need to be taught and trained in that." In truth, probably much of your love for your husband and children is mere natural affection, not real love. Whatever real love you have for your husband and children, you probably do not know how to act upon.

- c) to be discreet or self-controlled
 - (1) sound in mind; moderate as to opinion or passion; temperate
- d) to be chaste
 - (1) innocent, modest, perfect, pure
 - (2) regarding men other than her husband
 - (a) she does not say too much
 - (b) she does not look too much
 - (c) she does not wear too little
 - (d) she does not place herself in a compromising position
 - (e) she keeps all men outside her own family at arm's length
- e) to be homemakers
 - (1) Proverbs 31:27 She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.
 - (2) she makes the house a good home for her family, not leaving it undone, as if that were someone else's responsibility
- f) to be good
 - (1) *agathos* is used for "good" in so many senses it is somewhat difficult to pin down exactly what would be meant here
 - (2) as far as I can tell, the sense is that she is good to the needy; kind to those in need
- g) to be submissive to their own husbands

- (1) if you are a married woman, this is a primary responsibility
5. dear sisters, look at that last phrase of verse 5: that the word of God may not be blasphemed, reviled, maligned
 - a) serious warning: if you women, older and younger, do not obey this instruction, do not follow this pattern as the women of Christ's church, the result will be that the word of God, the evangel, the gospel, will be reviled; people will think and say that it is not to be believed, and you will not change their minds
 - b) substantial hope: if you women, older and younger, DO obey this instruction, DO follow this pattern as the women of Christ's church, the result will be that the word of God, the evangel, the gospel, will not be reviled; people who think and say that it is not to be believed will have their minds changed by the way you live

NOTE: three things

1. Titus 2:5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, **that the word of God may not be blasphemed.**
2. Titus 2:8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, **that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.**
3. Titus 2:15 Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.
 - a. this is what your church pastors are supposed to tell you
 - b. we say these things with the authority of Jesus Christ, because this is His Word

II. See Another Connection with the Gospel

- A. I have been showing you that these things have a connection with the gospel, with evangelism on one end: we live this way so that sinners will believe the gospel and so be saved
- B. See the other connection on the front end: we are sinners who believe the gospel, and so are saved; because of that, we live this way

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, (12) teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, (13) looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (14) who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

- C. See, we live this way both as a means for evangelism and as a result of evangelism; we live this way both to convince sinners of the truth of the gospel and because we are convinced of the truth of the gospel

CONCLUSION

We have concern for sinners around us, because we know that those who do not believe the evangel, the gospel of Jesus Christ, are not saved from the wrath of God to come. We want to do our part to convince them of the truth of the evangel, the gospel, the good news. We want to do our part in evangelism. We also want to know what to say to people who ask us about evangelism, or accuse us of not being evangelistic. But we don't want answers from men's imaginations, from the latest church growth book, or from the newest mega-church. We don't want new answers to this question from the minds of men, we want old answers to this question from the mind of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Abstain from fleshly lusts which war against your soul

Submit to your husband

Work faithfully for whoever you are working for, considering him worthy of honor

Set a good example in the church with your own godly behavior and speech

Follow the good example of those more mature than you are

You will then be relieved of the unnecessary burden of thinking you need to do something radical; and you will have true rather than false hope that by His grace God will save the souls of the lost.

Prelude: Grace 162 "The Perfect Wisdom of Our God"

Camille: flute

Noah: trumpet - see attached in C

Anna: piano

Grace 49 "Gathered Now We Come to Worship"

Camille: flute - see attached in Eb

Noah: trumpet - play from hymnal in F

Anna: piano - see attached in Eb

Trinity 547 "My Jesus, I Love Thee"

Camille: piano

Noah: sing

Anna: sing

Trinity 190 "Glory Be to Jesus"

Camille: piano

Noah: trumpet - see attached in G

Anna: clarinet - see attached in G

Trinity 719 "A Shelter in the Time of Storm"

Camille: sing

Noah: trumpet

Anna: piano - transpose down 2 half steps

III. All in Dealing with Children

A. Read the scriptures to children

1. 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.
 - a) children do not naturally have a good attitude toward the gospel;
 - b) 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
 - (1) it teaches them to fear the Lord (thief on the cross)
 - (2) it teaches them to listen to the wisdom of the righteous (Gabriel to Zechariah)

B. Discipline your children by striking them with the rod

1. 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.
2. From Charles Bridges
 - a) Do not neglect the rod
 - b) Do not overuse it, making it constant
 - c) Do not threaten it, then fail to follow through, which is a kind of lying

IV. All in Dealing with the Government

1 Peter 2:13-15 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, (14) or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. (15) For this is the will of God, that **by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men**

- A. government officials deal constantly with people who are trying to get out of complying with the regulations that they are supposed to be enforcing; or who gripe and grumble about having to comply with them; think of what it is for that government official to hear that such a person is a Christian; what if he accepts an invitation to church, and there he sees two such people among the members; then the preachers stands to preach, and it is none other than the grumbliest, complainingest one of all!
- B. think of the government official who keeps encountering people, just a few, just one here and there, who speak to him respectfully, cheerfully fill out all his paperwork the way he wants it, and don't ever try to get away with something; does he notice that? does that mean anything to him?
- C. e.g. septic; e.g. driver's license

CONCLUSION

