

2018 - Evangelism Part 7 - 2018-03-11

Call to Worship: Psalm 96:1-2

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 52

Sermon: "Evangelism Part 7" Ephesians 2:17

Benediction: Psalm 96:10-13

INTRODUCTION

We who are the disciples of Jesus Christ are gathered here as the result of someone evangelizing, someone engaging in evangelism, for which are appreciative toward them and grateful to our Lord Jesus Christ.

We, for our part, want to continue the evangelizing. We hope that other sinners will hear the evangel, the good news, the gospel, and believe, repenting of sin, and being baptized, and we want to do our part in it, whatever that is supposed to be.

We also receive questions, or sometimes accusations, from friends and family, about why we don't do some of the things they do, which they refer to as evangelism.

For both of these reasons, our desire to participate in evangelism, and our desire to answer those who ask us about evangelism, we need to know what the bible says evangelism is, and what the bible says our duty is regarding evangelism.

We inquired in the bible first about the aspect of evangelism that is helping those who have heard the evangel, the gospel, to believe what they have heard. That is a secondary aspect of evangelism.

Now we are working on the primary aspect of evangelism, the actual telling of the good news, the actual "good newsing" or "gospelizing" or evangelizing.

Remember that the word in the Greek original of the New Testament is *euaggelizo*, which, when brought over into English without translating is our word "evangelize." But in the English bible, the word is translated into something actually English, the word is not rendered "evangelize," but "preach the gospel" or "tell glad tidings" or something similar. So I'm showing you the places in the New Testament where the word "evangelize" appears, so we can see together, and you can see for yourself, what the word of God actually says about evangelizing our evangelism.

Last week was "evangelize" from Luke and Acts

This week "evangelize" from the apostles' letters to the churches

TEXT and BODY

I. Paul's Letters to the Churches

A. Romans

1. Romans 1:13-17 Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles. (14) I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. (15) So, as much as is in me, I am ready to ~~preach the gospel to~~ **[evangelize]** you who are in Rome also. (16) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. (17) For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."
2. Romans 10:12-15 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. (13) For "WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED." (14) How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? (15) And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO ~~PREACH THE GOSPEL~~ **[evangelize]** OF PEACE, WHO ~~BRING GLAD TIDINGS~~ **[evangelize]** OF GOOD THINGS!"
 - a) ESV: Romans 10:15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"
3. Romans 15:17-24 Therefore I have reason to glory in Christ Jesus in the things which pertain to God. (18) For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient-- (19) in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. (20) And so I have made it my aim to ~~preach the gospel~~ **[evangelize]**, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation, (21) but as it is written: "TO WHOM HE WAS NOT ANNOUNCED, THEY SHALL SEE; AND THOSE WHO HAVE NOT HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND." (22) For this reason I also have been much hindered from coming to you. (23) But now no longer having a place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come to you, (24) whenever I journey to Spain, I shall come to you. For I hope to see you on my journey, and to be helped on my way there by you, if first I may enjoy your company for a while.
4. Observations
 - a) Paul is ready to evangelize at Rome as at other places

- b) for both Jews and Greeks to hear and believe and be saved, they need a preacher sent to evangelize them
- c) Paul aims to evangelize where Christ is not yet named; so he plans to journey to Spain

B. 1 and 2 Corinthians

1. 1 Corinthians 1:17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to ~~preach the gospel~~ **[evangelize]**, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.
2. 1 Corinthians 9:16-18 For if I ~~preach the gospel~~ **[evangelize]**, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not ~~preach the gospel~~ **[evangelize]**! (17) For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship. (18) What is my reward then? That when I ~~preach the gospel~~ **[evangelize]**, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel.
3. 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I ~~preached~~ **[evangelized]** to you, which also you received and in which you stand, (2) by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I ~~preached~~ **[evangelized]** to you--unless you believed in vain.
4. 2 Corinthians 10:14-16 For we are not overextending ourselves (as though our authority did not extend to you), for it was to you that we came with the gospel of Christ; (15) not boasting of things beyond measure, that is, in other men's labors, but having hope, that as your faith is increased, we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our sphere, (16) to ~~preach the gospel~~ **[evangelize]** in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's sphere of accomplishment.
5. 2 Corinthians 11:7 Did I commit sin in humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I ~~preached~~ **[evangelized]** the gospel of God to you free of charge?
6. Observations
 - a) Christ sent Paul to evangelize; that was a stewardship with which he was entrusted; Paul considered it a privilege, a reward, to be able to evangelize without being paid for it
 - b) the gospel Paul evangelized has as its central truths the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus; those who received, and stand fast in it, holding fast to that word, are saved
 - c) again, Paul intends to evangelize farther west than he had so far

C. Galatians

1. Galatians 1:8-11 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, ~~preach any other gospel to~~ **[evangelized]** you [other] than what we have ~~preached to~~ **[evangelized]** you, let him be accursed. (9) As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone **[evangelizes]** ~~preaches any other gospel to~~

you [other] than what you have received, let him be accursed. (10) For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ. (11) But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was ~~preached~~ **[evangelized]** by me is not according to man. (12) For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

2. Galatians 1:15-16 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, (16) to reveal His Son in me, that I might ~~preach~~ **[evangelize]** Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,
3. Galatians 1:23 But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us now ~~preaches~~ **[evangelizes]** the faith which he once tried to destroy."
4. Galatians 4:13 You know that because of physical infirmity I ~~preached the gospel to~~ **[evangelized]** you at the first.
5. Observations
 - a) it is of the utmost importance not to evangelize or listen to someone evangelizing other than how Paul evangelized; that is, with some other message than the gospel Paul evangelized, which message is not from mere man, but from Jesus Christ
 - b) God revealed His Son to Paul that Paul would evangelize Him among the Gentiles

D. Ephesians

1. Ephesians 2:17 And He came and ~~preached~~ **[evangelized]** peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.
2. Ephesians 3:6-8 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, (7) of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. (8) To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should ~~preach~~ **[evangelize]** among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,
3. Observations
 - a) all evangelizing is Jesus Christ our Savior evangelizing (we'll see how that can be in a moment in 1 Peter)
 - b) again, Paul was aware that He was made a minister of the gospel to evangelize among the Gentiles

II. General Letters

- A. Hebrews 4:2-6 For indeed ~~the gospel was preached to us as well as to them~~ **[we were evangelized as well as they]**; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. (3) For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "SO I SWORE IN MY WRATH, 'THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST,' " although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. (4) For He has spoken in a certain place of the

seventh day in this way: "AND GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORKS"; (5) and again in this place: "THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST." (6) Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached **[who were first evangelized]** did not enter because of disobedience,

1. we were evangelized, as the Israelites who came out of Egypt also were evangelized
2. they who were evangelized did not enter God's rest because of disobedience, because they did not believe
3. so, the author of Hebrews mentions evangelizing to urge us to make sure we believe and obey according to how we have been evangelized

B. 1 Peter 1:10-16 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, (11) searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. (12) To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to **[evangelized]** to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things which angels desire to look into. (13) Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; (15) but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, (16) because it is written, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

1. here is how Jesus Christ evangelizes:
 - a) the Holy Spirit is sent from heaven by our Lord Jesus
 - b) the Holy Spirit works in those who evangelize
 - c) they evangelize you
2. evangelizing partly consists in reporting how Jesus Christ fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies
3. that you have been evangelized is reason for you to live obedient, holy lives before God

C. 1 Peter 1:24-2:2 because "ALL FLESH IS AS GRASS, AND ALL THE GLORY OF MAN AS THE FLOWER OF THE GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND ITS FLOWER FALLS AWAY, (25) BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached **[evangelized]** to you. (1) Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, (2) as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby

1. again see that Peter mentions you having been evangelized as reason for you to live in a Godly way

III. Summary

- A. Almost all of Paul's talk of evangelism is about himself evangelizing, or about other preachers sent to evangelize
- B. Paul stated very briefly the message that he evangelizes
 - 1. Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures
 - 2. He was buried
 - 3. He rose again the third day, according to the scriptures, of which there are many witnesses
- C. When once Paul mentions evangelizing without referring to himself, he gives this model:
 - 1. how shall sinners believe unless they hear?
 - 2. how shall they hear without a preacher?
 - 3. how shall preachers preach unless they are sent?
- D. In the general letters
 - 1. both Hebrews and 1 Peter mention evangelizing by referencing the fact that we have been evangelized

IV. APPLICATION

- A. Out of all you know about anything that has been said and done under the banner of Christ, the church, the gospel, evangelism, understand that the essence of it is Jesus Christ evangelizing peace to sinners, both those who could be said to be near, and those who could be said to be far away.
- B. The essence of evangelism is making known the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ
- C. When the NT letters mention evangelizing, they never press it as an individual responsibility of every Christian
 - 1. the concept of every Christian having a duty to evangelize does not occur to the reader from the text of the bible
 - 2. the concept of certain men being sent to evangelize comes across very clearly
 - 3. many places in the gospels and the letters we are commanded how we are to speak, how we are to regulate our speech; but we are never commanded to evangelize
 - 4. illus: you go to work or to school; should you be thinking, "I need to evangelize; I need to tell this person about Jesus"? should you be trying to arrange things so that you can get some time alone with this person and tell him about Jesus?
 - 5. please understand, I am not trying to downplay, minimize, our Lord's will for evangelism; I'm trying to learn and teach and obey our Lord's will for evangelism

CONCLUSION

Romans 10:1-4 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. (2) For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. (3) For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. (4) For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Paul testified to what the other scriptures also show: that the Jews of his generation had a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge, in which zeal they sought to establish their own righteousness. Sadly, we can testify that much of what is called "church" or "Christianity" around us today tends that way, also. People go about telling each other to evangelize, urging each other to be evangelistic, to be involved in evangelism, or saying they are evangelists. Yet in many cases they have not been sent by the Lord to evangelize. When they speak, it is not the death, burial, and resurrection of our Savior that is the essence of their message. And they neglect what our Lord has commanded in pursuit of what He has not. Let this not be true of us. Let us be involved in evangelism according to what our Lord has commanded in His word. Let us be zealous for God, not in ignorance, but according to knowledge of what evangelism really is, and how it is to be done.

- I. All Evangelizing Ultimately Is Done By Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior
 - A. That stated: Ephesians 2:17 And He came and ~~preached~~ **[evangelized]** peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

- B. That explained: 1 Peter 1:12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have ~~preached the gospel to~~ **[evangelized]** you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things which angels desire to look into.
 - 1. the Holy Spirit is sent from heaven by our Lord Jesus
 - 2. the Holy Spirit works in those who evangelize
 - 3. they evangelize you
- II. Paul Wrote of Himself As Evangelizing
 - A. Paul testified that He evangelized
 - B. Paul testified that Jesus Christ had chosen him to evangelize the Gentiles
 - 1. Galatians 1:15-16 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, (16) to reveal His Son in me, that I might ~~preach~~ **[evangelize]** Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,
 - 2. Ephesians 3:6-8 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, (7) of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. (8) To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should ~~preach~~ **[evangelize]** among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,
 - C. He was intent on evangelizing farther and farther west, where Christ was not yet named
 - 1. Romans 15:20 And so I have made it my aim to ~~preach the gospel~~ **[evangelize]**, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation,
 - 2. 2 Corinthians 10:14-16 For we are not overextending ourselves (as though our authority did not extend to you), for it was to you that we came with the gospel of Christ; (15) not boasting of things beyond measure, that is, in other men's labors, but having hope, that as your faith is increased, we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our sphere, (16) to ~~preach the gospel~~ **[evangelize]** in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's sphere of accomplishment.
 - 3.

Whenever anyone evangelizes, it is Jesus Christ Himself evangelizing

Ephesians 2:17 And He came and preached [**evangelized**] peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

No one in particular named

Romans 10:15 And how shall they preach [G2784 *kerusso*] unless they are sent? As it is written: "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO PREACH THE GOSPEL [**evangelize**] OF PEACE, WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS [**evangelize**] OF GOOD THINGS!"

ESV: Romans 10:15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

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Paul evangelized

Romans 1:15 So, as much as is in me, I am ready to ~~preach the gospel to~~ [**evangelize**] you who are in Rome also.

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2 Corinthians 10:14-16 For we are not overextending ourselves (as though our authority did not extend to you), for it was to you that we came with the gospel of Christ; (15) not boasting of things beyond measure, that is, in other men's labors, but having hope, that as your faith is increased, we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our sphere, (16) to ~~preach the gospel~~ **[evangelize]** in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's sphere of accomplishment.

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Prelude: Grace 1 "Across the Lands"

Camille: flute

Noah: trumpet - see attached in E

Anna: piano
Trinity 2 “God, My King, Thy Might Confessing”
Camille: piano - see attached in F
Noah: trumpet - hymnal in G
Anna: clarinet - hymnal in G
Trinity 87 “Holy, Holy, Holy”
Camille: piano - see attached in D
Noah: trumpet - hymnal in E
Anna: clarinet - hymnal in E
Grace 17 “Because of One”
Camille: sing
Noah: sing
Anna: piano
Trinity 206 “Up from the Grave He Arose”
Camille: piano - see attached in Bb
Noah: trumpet - hymnal in C
Anna: sing

next week? 262 “God, In the Gospel of His Son”