

Agape Chapel Ministries Discipleship Study

From the Sermon Notes of Pastor Nick Bibile.

Edited and modified for inter-active Bible-study.

True Evangelism Comes From Spiritual Growth.



Read Romans 15:13-21

Our Spiritual growth is in Christ. In Christ we grow and in Christ we live, in Christ we die and in Christ, we have eternal life. The true evangelism is in Christ. The scripture says "through the power of the Holy Ghost"; not by might or power of man, but by that same divine power which first began the good work, and must fulfill it; which at first implanted the grace of hope, and must perform the work of that, as of faith. It is by the Spirit of God that a man is born again, from above not from below. It is the Spirit of God that ploughs the sinners hard heart, so the word of God can be penetrated. There is power in the Spirit of God as it can bring the sinner from the darkness to the light of Christ. Now this same spirit lives in us and makes us grow in our sanctification.

The believer will grow in spiritual knowledge. The believer will seek God. Then we see from verse 15-21 evangelism. The heart of evangelism is seeking God. The Puritans taught much on seeking God. Men like Thomas Hooker, Richard Sibbes, Thomas Watson, Jonathan Edwards and the others taught that seeking God was the center in reformed evangelism.



Read Romans 3:10-11



How many people are righteous? How many people understand? How many people actually seek after God?



Read Romans 15:15

We see Paul is reminding the Christian, of the grace that is given by God that the gospel needs to go to the Gentiles, to the ends of the earth. Also first we need to understand that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to awaken dead sinner. Only the word of God can awaken the sinner, once you are awakened you will realize immediately the danger of your condition, that if you die, you will end up in hell.

John Gerstner said, "The first stage of evangelism, genuine evangelism, of spiritual corpses is to make them intellectually and emotionally aware that they are in great danger and have that built into their deepest conviction."

There is a great fear of death, because the sinner has greatly sinned against God. Jonathan Edwards said, persons are first awakened with a sense of their miserable

condition by nature, the danger they are in of perishing eternally, and that it is of great importance to them that they speedily escape and get into a better state.



What happens to the sinner at conversion?

In true evangelism, when you preach the gospel, God will give a new heart and a new spirit and the sinner is converted to a saint. He is a new creature in God and he will live a reformed life. If you read the Puritan literature you will see, the true Christian will seek God, like a deer panting after water. There will be a reformation in his lifestyle, the person who had a habit of lying will stop lying, the person who had a bad temper will have patience, the person who was lazy will serve the Lord fervently, the person who was into sexual immorality will see the dangers of it and repent. The person who loved gossiping will control the tongue. Conversion will bring much conviction, and tears, much agony and pain over our sins!

The great theologian and puritan writer Jonathan Edwards said, “Persons who are under awakenings, and would seek a true hope of salvation, should in the first place see, that they thoroughly renounce every wicked practice. They should search their ways, and consider what is wrong in them; what duties they have omitted, which ought to have been done; and what practices they have allowed, which ought to be forsaken; and should immediately reform, retaining no one way of sin, denying all ungodliness, omitting nothing which is required; and should see that they persevere in it, that it be not merely a temporary, short-lived restraint, but an everlasting renunciation.”



What should every Christian Do?

Every Christian is called to evangelize. Before we evangelize to others, we need to see to it that we ourselves do not practice sin but hate sin. We need to meditate on our own sins in the light of Gods presence. We need to go back and think how grossly we have sinned against God, meditate on our secret sins, in the beauty of Gods holiness.

David is a good example (See discussion below); he sinned against the Lord by committing adultery with Bathsheba, then killing her husband, and then marrying her. He thought everything was ok, but Nathan the prophet rebuked him straight to the face. Then David was awakened concerning his sin. Did Nathan tell David, “repeat this prayer after me and all your sins will be forgiven?” No!



Read Psalm 38:3-10. See the agony and the pain in David’s soul when he realized his sins.



What do we need to beware of in the modern church today? (This is something every new believer must be aware of, so as not to fall into traps.)

One of the problems of the church today is that they are caught up so much into worldliness that they do not even realize they are sinning against God. There is no true pain of your sins (grief over sins), there is no agony and tears of conviction. This is what happened to Judah. They knew God but never realized they sinned against him.

Today, we see in the church, the pastors and the congregations are corrupted! Sin is not preached. Instead, it is entertainment, jokes, and humor that is mixed with the word of God. The preaching is man-centered, the glory goes to man, and there is no humility! The word 'holy' is foreign to the church today. When the Israelites sinned against God, by conforming their ways to neighboring nations, they did not even realize they backslid. They were not even ashamed of their sin. (Jer 3:3)



Read Jeremiah 3:3 for an example.

Read Jeremiah 2:23

Jonathan Edwards said, "Earnestly to seek humiliation. To that end they should labour to be convinced of sin. They should be much engaged in searching their own hearts, and keeping a watchful eye upon them. They should not rest in their own efforts, but earnestly seek to God to give them a right sight of themselves, and a right conviction of sin, and show them that they have deserved God's everlasting wrath...Seek that you may be brought to lie at God's feet in a sense of your own exceeding sinfulness. Seek earnestly that you may have such a sight of yourself; what an exceedingly sinful creature you are, what a wicked heart you have, and how dreadfully you have provoked God to anger; that you may see that God would be most just if he should never have mercy upon you. Labour, that all quarreling about God's dispensations towards sinners may be wholly subdued; that your heart may be abased and brought down to the dust before God; that you may see yourself in the hands of God; and that you can challenge nothing of God, but that God and his throne are blameless in the eternal damnation of sinners, and would be in your damnation. Seek that you may be brought off from all high opinion of your own worth, all trust in your own righteousness, and to see that all you do in religion is so polluted and defiled, that it is utterly unworthy of God's acceptance; and that you commit sin enough in your best duties to condemn you for ever."



Read Romans 10:17

The true Christian live not by sight, in our feelings or emotions, but by faith. The Word of God becomes truly alive in our heart.

The true Christian is like a tree planted, and it is rooted in Christ. That tree will bear much fruit for the kingdom of God.



Read Colossians 2:6,7.

Read Proverbs 11:30

As you grow in Christ, the devil will come and attack you. In Christian growth you will experience that you are in a spiritual warfare. You will feel your flesh and your spirit at war with each other. You will feel the power of the devil, when you think you can handle temptations by yourself. The next thing you know is you are defeated by the enemy. You will realize you have sinned against God in your pride. The true Christian, as he grows, will also mourn over his sins and grow into greater maturity in Christ. Then he has a desire to preach the gospel, and to serve God, not in pride but in humility. He understood sin very well, and now he understands the grace of God, the good news from the bad news.



What are Christians commanded to do with the Gospel?

The command of the gospel is to preach it to all creatures, to all nations. The heart of the gospel is you must repent from sin and believe.

The church has a crucial role in evangelism. The church is not just a congregation of individual believers. It is also the body of Christ through whom the good news of salvation reaches the world. We need to realize there are millions of people in the church today who have heard a false gospel. They think they are saved, but in reality they are not, as there is no true repentance. There is a great harvest field.



Read John Chapter 3

Nicodemus thought that he was saved, but he was not. Many religious people like Nicodemus believe that they are saved, but they are not.

People do not realize they are sinful, unworthy people. They do not adore the glorious majesty, power, and grace of God (worship God). They see the 'glory' of God only in the great musical instruments of the mega churches, and are not humbly begging of God. They do not renounce their evil ways, putting away their abominations before Gods eyes. We have a harvest field in our back yard.

Do you have a burden (desire) for the lost? The growing Christian will get a burden as he will imitate his Master and Lord, Jesus Christ, and follow Him. This question comes in: "I am so busy and I have no time for the lost people." Six days you have to work, what about the Lords Day? That is the day that you can serve the Lord. Can you at least sacrifice time to pass out tracts on the Lords Day? What is your first priority? The first priority is to love the Lord with all your heart, soul and strength. But, how many believe this? It is not real to them. See the following scripture.



Do Christians have any excuses to avoid evangelizing?

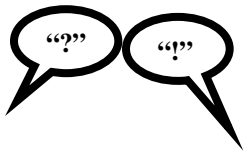


Read Luke 9:59-62

These seemed to be very good excuses, but yet the Lord said, ‘Let the dead bury their own dead, but *you* preach the gospel.’

We have a lot of work to do. If your neighbor’s house is on fire in the night and you know they are asleep, will you not do anything about it? In the same way, there are many people around you, do you carry a tract to give? You talk to many unsaved people; have you at least given them a tract, or witnessed to them? If you are learning in church every Sunday, what are you doing with what you have learned?

Charles Spurgeon said, **“Surely it is an intolerable disgrace to anyone to profess to be a Christian, and have no concern about the souls of others, while they are perishing by millions.”**



Discussion

What is the meaning of “evangelism”?

Why must we examine ourselves before we can truly evangelize?

How should we see ourselves?

Why is it important to realize what horrible sinners we are? (This may seem like a very negative topic to you, but it is very important)

Why should we be grieved and feel pain for our sinfulness?

When we evangelize, should we talk about the evil and horribleness of sin and the Holiness of God? Or, should we just say “Jesus loves you, He died for you, and repeat this prayer after me to be saved”?

Discuss the problem we see in the modern church today.

What kind of evangelism does the majority of the church use today?

Is this kind of evangelism right?

Why do you think many churches today won't preach about our horrible sinful state before God?

If you have not been evangelizing, consider your excuses and discuss them.

Read 2 Samuel chapters 11 and 12, and also Psalm 51 on your own, regarding David's sin and repentance.