

Commitment to Evangelism
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Introduction: “You cannot achieve what you neither conceive nor believe.”

A. What does it mean to be committed to a cause? (**Mt 6:22-24**)

1. It means that you will pursue it.
2. It means that you will build associates based on that commitment.
3. It means that your greatest joy will come from successes in this cause.

(Luke 15:4-7)

4. The church is filled with committed people. But *what* are they committed to?

B. Most churches and Christians have no vision of evangelism therefore they do not have a commitment to evangelism.

1. We cannot see because we are not “seeing” by our faith. (**Heb 11:24-27**)
2. If we judge by our sight then the world around us is doing just fine.
3. I challenge you to open your eyes and see what Jesus sees. (**Jn 4:34-35**)

I. We need to change how we see this world.

A. **We will respond when we clearly see the need.**

1. What if we lived in Samaria at the time of the Syrian siege? (**2 Kgs 6:24-25**)

- a. Have you ever really been hungry?
- b. If you could feed the starving, would you?

2. In despair four leprous men find an empty camp! (**2 Kgs 7:4-5**)

- a. Can you imagine a camp filled with provisions for over 200,000 men?
(2 Kgs 7:8)

b. After risking your life for food, what would you now do?

3. Even the lepers knew what any decent person would do. (**2 Kgs 7:9**)

- a. Do we have this same decency?
- b. We do not have to guess, we face a greater famine and we have the provisions. What is the greatest need of all men today? (**Rom 1:16-18**)

4. How many here live as if this is a reality?

B. **We must believe that there is a hell.**

1. When was the last time you seriously considered the Bible teaching on Hell? (**Rom 1:16-18; Mark 9:42-48; 2 Cor 5:10-11**)

2. If we really believe this, what will be in our hearts when we see those whom we love? (**James 2:14-17**)

3. We need a sense of urgency! Listen to the concerns of our Lord. (**Jn 4:34-38**)

C. **We need to see clearly where our opportunities are.**

1. In the last 30 years the growth of the church in this country has slowed. Why is this so?

2. Because of a time in the past where public meetings were successful in bringing conversions, we have failed to teach, train and lead individuals in personal evangelism.

- a. Many are satisfied today with building a new building in a growing area of town! How many are we converting from the community?

- b. Are we really seriously working to reach the lost?
- 3. Because of an increasing acceleration of Bible ignorance in our society, we must start our teaching with most on an individual level .
- 4. We also will need to start our teaching on an even more fundamental basis than we have in the past.

II. We must be committed to teaching in homes

A. Jesus expected houses to be opened in His personal ministry. (Mt 10:11-15)

- 1. Here the homes were used to give the preacher a place to stay and be fed.
- 2. What about those who refused?
- 3. Here is a teamwork between talented teachers and others filled with faith!

B. Jesus taught many in personal settings. (Lk 10:38-42)

- 1. It was good that Martha was not too busy to let Him in!
- 2. Can you imagine the blessing of being here on this occasion? In this setting you could ask questions and follow up with other matters of individual concern.
- 3. Why did Jesus not invite them to a large assembly!

C. The growth of the church came from personal teaching and encouragement.

1. Those on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41-42,47)

- a. We should have social meals together and enjoy each other's company. Sadly some think the collective work of the church is this!
- b. How do I really get to know someone? This does not take place in the assembly alone!

2. Later growth at Jerusalem (Acts 5:42, 8:3-4)

- a. In the homes they could powerfully teach individuals.
- b. When persecution came they scattered Christians, but their work in teaching in the homes continued!
- c. How would these Christians have time for home studies after losing all they possessed?

3. The conversion of Cornelius. (Acts 10:24, 48)

- a. You will find men excited about hearing the gospel in their home.
- b. Do you have any relatives and close friends? Would they come to your home where they might not come to the services of the church?

4. The church and the imprisonment of Peter. (Acts 12:5, 12)

- a. Have you gathered with other Christians just to pray?
- b. Would you come if asked? One of the biggest problems we face is that many would rather be distant from other Christians.

III. We must be committed to building a strong foundation for our own faith.

A. The issue is not just how much knowledge and experience I possess.

- 1. Where does successful teaching come? It comes from a heart of faith.
- 2. Many have great knowledge, but that does not assure one that he will have a strong faith! (1 Cor 8:1-2)

B. Consider two examples during the ministry of Christ.

- 1. Would you have sent a previously maddened, demon possessed man back to the people to teach having almost no knowledge? (Mk 5:17-20; Lk 8:40)

2. What made this man successful? How many of you **have greater knowledge** than this man?
3. **(John 4:25-30)** – Again, would you use this woman in evangelism?
4. In both of these cases these people served to open doors for further teaching by someone more capable. There is not a Christian among us who cannot be as effective as these if we would have the same measure of faith!

C. The resurrection of Christ was the foundation of evangelism for the 1st century church.

1. They heard the evidence and were changed! **(Acts 2:32; 3:14-15; 13:27-31)**
2. This was not just a social event where people followed what they had always seen! Genuine faith is never a blind faith. **(Heb 11:1)**
3. The resurrection of and thus the judgment of all men is assured. **(Acts 17:30-31; 2 Cor 4:13-14)**
4. We too are “raised” because of our faith in the resurrection. **(Col 2:12-13)**
5. Could you teach someone who is not sure the Bible is from God the evidence that Jesus is the son of God? **(1 Pt 3:15)**

D. We must have a clear understanding of the grace of God.

1. What ultimately are we teaching? We want others **to trust in God.**
2. It is the love of God that brings men to God. **(Psa 36:7; 1 Pt 2:1-3; 1 Jn 4:19)**
3. More specifically we must center on the cross of Christ. **(Gal 6:14; Phil 3:7-9)**
4. Again, we must have a clear view of where we stand before God or we will present a false view of the Christian life! **(Psa 51:7-11; 1 John 4:17-19)**

Conclusion: Will there be those committed to evangelism at Charlottesville?

**“I am only one, but still I am one.
I cannot do everything, but I can still do something.
And because I cannot do everything,
I will not fail to do something that I can do.”**

THE TOUCH OF THE MASTER'S HAND

"Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer Thought it scarcely worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin, But he held it up with a smile. "What am I
bid, good folks?" he cried, "Who'll start the bidding for me? A dollar, a dollar,
now two, only two-Two dollars, and who'll make it three?

"Three dollars once, three dollars twice, Going for three" --but no! From the room
far back a gray-haired man came forward and picked up the bow. Then wiping the
dust from all the strings, He played a melody pure and sweet, As sweet as an angel
sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer, With a voice that was quiet and low, Said:
"What am I bid for the old violin?? And he held it up with the bow. "A thousand
dollars - and who'll make it two? Two thousand, and who'll make it three? Three
thousand once and three thousand twice-And going and gone!" said he.

And the people cheered, but some of them cried, "We do not quite understand-What changed its' worth?" The man replied; "The touch of the master's hand." And many a man with life out of tune, And battered and worn with sin, Is auctioned cheap to a thoughtless crowd, Much like the old violin.

A "mess of pottage", a glass of wine, A game, and he travels on; He's going once, and going twice, He's going -- and almost gone; But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd Never can quite understand The worth of a soul and the change that's wrought By the touch of the Master's hand.