

WHY GO SOUL-WINNING?

JULY 29, 2018

- I. Because this was the main purpose why Jesus came to earth.
 - A. Luke 19:10 – “For the Son of Man is come to **seek** and to **save** that which was lost.”
 - i. “Seeking” requires going out and looking; it requires effort.
 - ii. “Saving” is only possible if you have the capabilities to do what you sought out to do.
 - iii. Jesus can definitely do the “saving”, but He uses us to do the “seeking” through the avenue of soul-winning.
 - B. Soul-winning is the heartbeat of Jesus
 - i. Illustration – Though all of us have many things that we can say are important to us...for most, we can narrow it down to a few things that we would decisively agree is at the top of the list. For our Lord, it is saving the lost! May we learn to have the same passions as our Lord.
- II. Because the Bible emphasizes it in both the Old and New Testament
 - A. Many mistake soul-winning as a “newer” concept only found in the New Testament.
 - B. Proverbs 11:30 – “The fruit of the righteous [is] a tree of life; and he that winneth souls [is] wise.”
 - i. God calls a soul-winner “wise”.
 - ii. It is a “wise” thing to share the Gospel with unsaved people that are on their way to Hell.
 - C. Mark 16:15 – “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”
 - i. Jesus’ final instructions before He ascended to Heaven had to do with soul-winning.
 1. We see this with our mortal lives on earth...it can be usually said that a person’s final words are their most important.
 2. Out of all the things Christ could have left us with, He chose to give the command to share the Gospel.
 - a. This passage as well as the one in Matthew 28, is considered the **“The Great Commission”**, however, many treat these passages as if they are “The Great Suggestion”.

- b. "Some are waiting for a call, when we already have a command." - Anonymous
 - c. Some make the mistake of assuming soul-winning is a call for some, but we must understand that it is a command for all.
 - d. As with any of God's commands, we cannot negotiate with God by substituting this matter of soul-winning with something else...
 - e. We are reminded in I Samuel 15:22b, "Behold, to **obey** is better than sacrifice, and to **hearken** than the fat of rams."
- ii. The Gospel is for everyone, everywhere.
- 1. We should not limit sharing the Gospel with just those around us, but also those around the world.
 - 2. Acts 1:8 – "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."
 - 3. We can accomplish this by:
 - a. Soul-winning regularly with our local church.
 - i. Tuesday Night Soul-winning.
 - ii. Saturday Morning Faithfulness Rally.
 - b. Supporting PBC's Mission's Work.
 - i. By Giving.
 - ii. By Going.
 - iii. By Praying.
 - c. Training others through hands-on discipleship:
 - i. A student once asked his Bible professor, "Just how do we intend on reaching the whole world for Christ?" The teacher paused...looked around the classroom and said (as pointed at each student)," By training you, and you and you and you..."
 - ii. Each person we disciple, is another soul-winner that can help share the gospel.

- iii. "The Pyramid" system that many companies use to grow their business may incur mixed feelings for many, but this "Pyramid" system is exactly what we are striving for as a Christian when it comes to soul-winning.
- iv. Individually, we are very limited with how many souls we can personally win to Christ. However, if we take time to train each person we win, and in turn they train each person they win (and so forth and so on...) we can only imagine the wonderful impact that will have!

III. Because there is an afterlife.

A. The Bible teaches very clearly that there is life after death.

i. We see the word "life" often used to describe an eternity with Christ (Heaven).

1. John 3:16 – "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting **life**."
2. Romans 6:23b – "...but the gift of God is eternal **life** through Jesus Christ our Lord".

ii. We see the word "death" often used to describe an eternity without Christ (Hell).

1. Revelation 20:14-15 – "And **death** and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second **death**. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."
2. Romans 6:23a – "For the wages of sin is **death**..."

B. The difference between an eternity in Heaven and an eternity in Hell, is nothing more than where a person chooses to place their faith.

i. Placing our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (through the finished work of the cross), we can be saved!

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast".
2. Romans 10:13 – "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."
3. John 3:16 – "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

- ii. Placing our faith in anyone or anything else will cause us to spend an eternity in Hell!
- C. Because of the afterlife, acknowledge that we are a vital tool that God uses to share the Gospel.
- i. Romans 10:14 – “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believe? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”
 - 1. We see that God chooses to use us as the tool for the sinner’s “hearing” and “believing” problem.
 - 2. A “preacher” is a title that is given to anyone that shares the gospel.
 - ii. If you follow sports, you’ve often heard the phrase “**strength in numbers**”.
 - 1. The more soul-winners that go out, the more of the Gospel is shared.
 - 2. The more of the Gospel that is shared, the more people will get saved.
 - 3. It’s all about numbers and percentages.
 - a. If you want to see more people saved, get more people to come to the door.
 - b. If you want more people to respond to the door, knock on more doors.
 - c. If you want to knock on more doors, you must go out soul-winning more.

Upcoming Soul-Winning Opportunities:

- Weekly Saturday Faithfulness Rally @ 9:30am
 - Many come on this day for ministry visitation as well as soul-winning
- Summer Saturation Every Tuesday @ 7:00pm
 - Begins June 26th
 - Ends August 14th