

## RECYCLE YOURSELF

### Int.

1. Aim: To show that we must teach the gospel to others.
2. 2 Tim. 2:2 *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*
3. Bumper Sticker "Recycle Yourself" – Be an Organ Donor
  - a. Good thing to do
  - b. Others can use portions of our body after our death - profitable
4. Spiritual implications
  - a. We have been saved by the gospel
  - b. We can use our salvation to save others while we are still alive
  - c. To be an organ donor you normally have to be dead.
  - d. Spiritually we do it while we are alive
5. Great Commission
  - a. Matt. 28:18
  - b. Mark 16:15
  - c. Luke 24:47 *And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

### Discussion

#### I. MOTIVATION TO TEACH

- A. What does motivation mean?
  1. "Motivation is an inner drive, an idea captured in the imagination."
  2. Motivation is like "steam." Properly channeled it can move large objects, like a steam powered train. But without it, the train remains motionless.

3. So it is with us. If motivated and properly channeled, great things can be done in the area of evangelism. - Notice these things that motivate us...

## B. Compassion for Souls

1. Jesus was moved with compassion when He saw the mass of lost souls
  - a. Mt. 9:35-36 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. 36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. {fainted...: or, were tired and lay down}
  - b. Mt. 14:14 And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.
  - c. Then he did something about it:
    - (1) Mt. 9:37-38 he asked his disciples to pray that God would send labourers into His harvest
    - (2) Then He did something else - Mt. 10:1-7 - he selected and sent out disciples
2. Do we have compassion for souls?
  - a. People all around us are lost and dying in sin
  - b. Does it disturb us? Will we do anything about it?
  - c. Compassion for lost souls will motivate us to do something to help

### C. Another motivation is to save my own soul

1. Here we need to realize that the GREATEST motivation for doing personal work is a sort of selfish reason --- the salvation of ONE'S OWN SOUL.
2. If we are not concerned with others souls we in fact are displaying a disconcern for our own souls safety.
  - a. I Tim. 4:16 .... "Save both yourself and those who hear you"
  - b. Ezek. 33:8 & 9 .... "IF you warn ... you deliver your own soul."

## II. THE NECESSITY OF PERSONAL WORK

A. The greatest need of ALL is that of SOUL WINNING.

1. When a congregation stops winning souls to Christ, it loses its primary purpose for existence. We must recycle our self by teaching the gospel to the lost world.
2. Christ's mission was not to come into this world and condemn this world but rather to seek and save that which is Lost
  - a. John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. Condemn = punish, sentence
  - b. Matt. 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. {JESUS: that is, Saviour, Heb}
  - c. Luke 19:10. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.
3. For this standpoint it is evident that the mission of the MASTER is also the mission of the church His body.
4. The "church" is the spiritual body of Christ...Eph. 1:22-23 and is given the task of carrying forward the great work which Christ Himself began while here on earth in the flesh.

B. We have the good news of Christ

1. Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
2. As with any other good news that we receive in life we want to tell others.
3. Yet when it comes to the greatest news anyone could ever have we want to keep it secret...."WHY?"
4. I can not tell you why this is so except for possibly one main reason: We are ashamed of Christ and disbelieve that the Gospel is the power unto salvation!

C. Many use the excuse..."But there is just nobody who will listen to the word of God anymore!"

1. I Want you to consider this as a direct contradiction to what Christ said.
2. Matt 9:37 (KJS) Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly [is] plenteous, but the labourers [are] few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.
3. Here we see that the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. We have work to do - so we must be about the business of winning souls!!
  - a. Many lost souls
  - b. They need to be taught !

### III. **HOW TO KEEP A POSITIVE ATTITUDE ABOUT DOING PERSONAL**

#### **WORK**

#### A. THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD IS AT WORK!

1. In nearly every example of conversion found in the Book of Acts, God worked in some way to create the opportunity for the person to hear the gospel.
  - a. For example, Philip was sent toward Gaza where he would meet the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8).
  - b. The Lord saw to it that Saul and Ananias would get together (Acts 9);
  - c. Likewise, that the household of Cornelius would have a chance to hear the gospel from Peter (Acts 10).
  - d. The evangelization of Europe that started with the conversion of Lydia and the Philippian Jailor occurred after the "Macedonian Call" led Paul and his companions in that direction (Acts 16).
2. These circumstances are in keeping with the miraculous events in establishing the Lord's church, but I believe they illustrate a principle that is just as valid for us today.
  - a. That principle is this: The Lord, who knows the hearts of all men and seeks those who are seeking Him (cf. 2 Chr 16:9), will make sure that those who "hunger and thirst for righteousness" will somehow be "filled" (Mt 5:6).
  - b. This is where the "providence of God" comes in.
    - (1) When the Lord knows there are people who would be receptive to the gospel He will "open doors" to give those who are seeking the truth the opportunity to be reached by those who are prepared to do the teaching.
    - (2) Those in Corinth, Acts 18:9-11

(3) "I Have much people in this city"

(4) It may not happen immediately, but I am persuaded that if there is someone who is "asking, seeking, and knocking" for the truth, the Lord will see to it that at some point in that person's life they will have an opportunity to hear the gospel.

#### **B. GOD "OPENS DOORS" FOR PREPARED WORKERS!**

1. The Scriptures often speak of the Lord "opening doors" for His servants who are ready to serve Him.
  - a. Paul wrote about an "open door" of opportunity that prompted him to remain longer at Ephesus (1 Co 16:9).
  - b. He even wrote of one occasion where there was an "open door," but circumstances were such that he did not take advantage of it (2 Co 2: 12-13).
2. From the Lord's remarks to the church in Philadelphia, we learn that the Lord opens doors for those people He can use (Re 3:8).
3. The implication regarding evangelism is this: If we desire to be used by the Lord in His providence to reach those who are seeking the truth, then we must prepare ourselves to be useful (cf. 2 Ti 2:19-21)

#### **C. THE POWER IS IN THE SEED (WORD)!**

1. The "Word of God" has always been capable of influencing people, accomplishing its intended purpose (I sa 55:10-11).
2. As the author of Hebrews wrote, it is both "alive and powerful" (Heb 4:12).
3. This is especially true of the GOSPEL OF CHRIST, the "power of God unto salvation" (Ro 1:16).

4. If people are going to be truly converted, it will not be through smooth speech or fancy presentations involving "hi-tech" equipment, but through the life-changing truth of the gospel.
5. We can certainly use modern aids to present the gospel, but we must make sure that they are faithfully communicating the Word.
6. True conversion (which involves a spiritual regeneration) will occur only if we plant the proper "seed."

#### D. HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS

1. Make a list of souls you would like to see taught the gospel
  - a. Helps us keep them in mind
  - b. Start with those who are close to you then work outwardly  
Family - Friends - Co-workers - Neighbors - Relatives of church members  
Visitors to the services of the church - Casual acquaintances
  - c. Limit this list to about 5 to 8 souls - if you get too many you cannot focus on the individuals
2. Keep this list where you will see it daily - helps keep you reminded of these people
3. Pray for these souls on your list daily

## **CONCLUSION**

1. The early church found the motivation to grow and recycle themselves.
2. They did this by following Jesus and his example and did not become discouraged.
3. Teaching others the gospel is the greatest work in the world. Think about the people who will meet you in the judgment to thank you for learning the Gospel.
4. "A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle".

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