

PERSONAL EVANGELISM: Video 1

INTRODUCTION

*"...I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ:
for it is the power of God unto salvation..."* Romans 1:14-16

One of the most important responsibilities for every Christian and one that is most often neglected, is personal evangelism, otherwise known as soul winning. These lessons aren't guaranteed to make an expert soulwinner out of you, but they will provide you with some powerful tools to help you to share your faith.

We're going to look in this introduction at just three areas:

1. **Definition: *Evangelism*** comes from a Greek word that simply means to preach the Good News about Jesus Christ.
2. **Personal:** This refers to you, and me. It's up to us to do it. It's not a job just for the pastor or a few veterans in the church, it is the responsibility of every single Christian.

God doesn't have any problems with getting sinners saved; His problem is finding enough Christians who will do what they must to get sinners saved.

For most Christians the whole issue of personal evangelism is rather like a football match – 70,000 people on the stands desperately in need of exercise watching a few people on the field desperately in need of rest. It shouldn't be that way, but it is. Part of the problem is the attitude of most Christians that their coming to church is the way they serve Christ. Their church attendance makes them feel they have fulfilled their obligations to the Lord. But the reason we go to church is to be equipped and prepared to serve Jesus Christ. We do that out in the world, where the need is. That's where God wants our light to shine, and that is where we share our faith.

It's not optional for a Christian, it's demanded in Scripture. The best example we have is Jesus Himself. The very first words He spoke when He began His ministry were to say that God had anointed Him to preach the Gospel, the Good News of salvation (Luke 4:16-21). Then when Jesus called His disciples, He said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). And then the last words He spoke as He ascended up into heaven were, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

3. **Personal Evangelism Demonstrated:** You get the idea that God thinks this matter of personal evangelism is very important. But that raises the question, "How do I demonstrate my faith?"
 - a. You need to know the information is true. That means, you need to know your Bible fairly well.

- b. At the very least you need to have memorized some soul winning Scriptures -- verses in the Bible that indicate God's attitude to salvation, and how to be saved.
- c. You need to know how to effectively share what you have learned
- d. You need to learn how to pray. It's surprising how few Christians know how to pray effectively.

We will touch on all of these issues in following lessons.