



Shall We Evangelize Only the “Unchurched”?

David Tarbet

It is popular to describe the evangelistic mission of the church as “reaching the unchurched.” There are some things about this idea which bother me.

For one thing, **it is too narrow in focus.** There are lost people among both churchgoers and non-churchgoers. Simply because a person is a sincere and devout church member does not make him right with God. It makes a difference what a person believes, how he worships, whether his piety is in harmony with the revealed will of God (the Scriptures). Like Cornelius, one can be a devout man of prayer and yet need to hear the message by which he can be saved (Acts 10 and 11). The book of Acts tells how Paul went to the synagogues to preach. If there was no synagogue, he went to the place where religious people met in the presence of their idols. Deeply religious people need to hear the pure Gospel!

For another thing, **it's too naïve.** Non-churchgoers are not necessarily more receptive to the Gospel than churchgoers. Many are “unchurched” because they prefer it that way. They have no spiritual appetite, they are not seeking God. They are satisfied as they are.

The important characteristic we need to look for is *receptivity*, openness to the Gospel, a sense of spiritual neediness. If one is dissatisfied with his present condition, whether “churched” or “unchurched,” he is the person we can talk with about spiritual matters. Look around and set up a Bible study with someone who wants to know more about the Bible!

We are a congregation of the Lord's people looking for you. We desire to love our community and neighbors as our Lord has taught us to do. Please allow us to be an encouragement to you as you are an encouragement to us by visiting with us today.

If you have any questions about anything you see or hear today, please stop someone and ask questions. We are seeking to be New Testament Christians, and as such we desire to share what we have been given. We want to be ready to give you an answer for what we do and say (1 Peter 3:15)

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Thank you for being our Guest today!

Food For Thought

Why is it?

When people go to a football game, they want a seat on the fifty-yard line.

When they go to a basketball game, they want a seat at mid-court.

When they attend a play, they want a seat about midway the auditorium.

When they go to a boxing or a wrestling match, they want a ringside seat.

When they go to a circus parade, they want to stand in the front line.

But when they go to church, they have to go early, because everyone else wants a back seat.

--selected

If You Claim You Were Saved Before Baptism...

Alvin Jennings

1. **You would have been saved before your sins were forgiven.** *“Peter replied, Repent and be baptized everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven” (Acts 2:38).*
2. **You would have been saved before your sins were washed away.** *“Be baptized and wash your sins away...” (Acts 22:16).*
3. **You would have been saved before you were born again.** *“Jesus answered, ‘I tell you the truth, unless a man is born of water and Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God” (John 3:5).*
4. **You have been saved before you were joined with Christ.** *“All of you who were united with Christ in baptism have been clothed with Christ” (Galatians 3:27).*
5. **You would have been saved before you were saved.** *“...baptism that now saves you” (I Peter 3:21).*
6. **You would have been saved before the time the Lord promised He would save.** *“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved...” (Mark 16:16).*
7. **You would have been saved before you were freed from sin.** *“You used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching...you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of righteousness.” (Romans 6:17-18; “that form,” vs. 3-4).*
8. **You would have been saved before you entered into Christ and without His blood.** *“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace” (Ephesians 1:7).*
9. **You would have been saved before your soul was purified.** *“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth” (I Peter 1:22a).*
10. **You would have been saved before you received the Holy Spirit and without belonging to Christ.** *“...the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him” (Acts 5:32; also 2:38). “If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ” (Romans 8:9b).*
11. **You would have been saved before your faith had any value, before it expressed itself in love.** *“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love” (Galatians 5:6).*
12. **You would have been saved before obedience, which Jesus required for all who receive salvation.** *“He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him” (Hebrews 5:8-9).*

Christianity

To some people, Christianity is little more than *ritualism, pageantry, pomp, and ceremony*. Such was the attitude of the Pharisees concerning the religion established by the law of Moses. For them, ritualism, ceremony, pageantry and show were everything; character and conduct were nothing.

Christianity is not pageantry, pomp, ritualism and ceremony. You may be sure that the people who parade their Christianity (?) by pageantry and pomp, and by the wearing of gorgeous robes and sparkling jewelry have failed completely to understand what Christianity is.

Christianity is right living in the various relationships of life.

In the home, Christianity is love, kindness, and the training of children in the way they should go.

In business, Christianity is diligence, honesty and fairness.

In society, Christianity is courtesy and helpfulness.

In the church, Christianity is faithfulness, humility, love, soberness, righteousness and godliness.

Toward God, Christianity is reverence and obedience.

Toward the poor, Christianity is helpfulness.

Concerning self, Christianity is glorifying God with the body and spirit.
—B.D.S.



FUNNY

Which book of the major prophets is the easiest to understand?

EZekiel.

Which Bible character was the best musician?

Samson—he brought the house down.

This Week's Q&A

Q: Where in the Bible do we read of the warp and the woof, and what are they?

A: Leviticus 13:47-58. What is it? The warp is the series of yarn extended lengthwise in a loom that forms the foundation or base of the fabric being woven. The woof, which is referred to today as weft, is the yarn that crosses the warp and goes side to side.

Context: God gives the Israelites instruction for dealing with and eradicating leprosy. If the leprosy is found on fabric, it must be eliminated on both the warp and the woof, or else the fabric must be destroyed. If not destroyed it contaminates the one who wears the garment; it also becomes very contagious and would spread the leprosy to others. This is symbolic of sin and how important getting rid of all of it is, both for the benefit of the individual and to prevent the spread of the sin to others.

The wages of sin have never been reduced.

It is Easy, So Easy

*So easy to say what another should do,
So easy to settle his cares;
So easy to tell what road to pursue,
And dispose of the burdens he bears.
It is easy to bid him to be brave and be strong,
And to make all his shortcomings known;
But, oh, it's so hard when the care and the wrong
And the dangers we face are our own.*

*The need of another, it's easy to see
When our wants are all satisfied,
And bold and courageous it's easy to be
When it isn't our souls that are tried.
But, oh, it's so hard when we're stumbling along
To keep ourselves steadfast and true;
It is easy to tell someone to be strong;
It is easier to talk than to do.*

--selected

A good example is a powerful sermon.

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Mail me to
someone
who might
read me!