



Who would you like to teach?

As I sit here this morning, I am mindful of those hungering for the Word of God. We have so many in the community who have the desire to look into the scriptures and find their way. What an encouraging time and opportunity to share what blessings we have been given from God. Without doubt, the best part of the work involved in studying the scriptures is the avenue to teach others. As we grow, we can help others do the same. If you have truly been converted, you will be convicted of the power in/of the Gospel to save lives, thereby changing them forever, and desire with fervency to show others the Words of Life!

As we continue to develop in our spiritual lives, we need to be active in finding our place in the plan of salvation, being given the great commission which has the power to remit sins or retain them (John 20:23). Being volunteers in the greatest army the world has ever known, the Lord's army, we must be diligent in our preparations to teach the unsearchable riches of Christ (Romans 11:33; Eph. 3:8). Until we see this for what it is, we will never prepare properly nor practice patiently the principles given for us to follow (Luke 21:12-19; 1 Tim. 4:6-16). So here is the question, "Who would you like to teach?" We do not have the right to determine who receives the gospel. We are to teach every person equally, no matter who or where they are. Please understand the work to which we are called. So many folks have trouble with this and it shows. Bear in mind, you do not have a clue how extremely biased people can be, until you are on the receiving end of it.... That to which we should devote ourselves, is the ability of all men and women, of all ways of life, to have the invitation of the Lord to become a part of His kingdom.

The inspired writers capture for us the motives and methods of many who were both biased and non-biased in their attempts to "welcome others in" to the fold of believers. In this issue of our bulletin, you will find several accounts of such attempts and the results of these behaviors. And I bet you thought I was going to write an article asking you to teach a Bible class didn't you....well I may have to work on that for next week's edition.

Chris

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!



He Knows Their Worth, Do you?

Chris Bolton

Matthew Henry would have never produced his Bible commentary if his parents would have adhered to the social norms of their day. His mother was from a well to do family, his father began to court his mother although he was from a differing, lower rung on the social ladder. Her parents unhappy about the humble beginnings of her suitor, complained, "This Phillip Henry, we really do not know where he comes from." But their daughter, who was a strong and courageous young lady said, "It doesn't matter where he is from, all that matters is where he is going."

These social structures are the hierarchy of man. Who sets your value, other than your Creator? Who knows your life, more than your Master? Who can determine your eternal home, other than the one who will judge the quick and the dead at the resurrection?

Who in our land has not heard of the rise of someone of insignificance into someone of prominence. The difference between the two is the degree of renown. In other words, the people who now know them, know them for what they have accomplished, for what they have contributed to society, or for what impact they have made upon the lives of those in the knowledge of that person now. The pointed difference is that you have now educated yourself on who they are, a fact of which they are already aware. My friend, the Lord knows your worth for he gave His very life for yours! Our Lord knows your needs better than you do yourself, for many of our needs are ever to be learned throughout life itself.

The church of our Lord is an amazing living body. It is governed by Christ's own teachings and those inspired writers who penned the words of the Spirit (2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:20-21). We are born into a kingdom, of which we do not deserve to be partakers, and taught to be unified by the same blood that purchased us individually (Acts 20:28; Eph. 1:4; Eph. 4:3,13). Now that I have been bought, what is my responsibility to my family, the church (Eph. 3:14-19; Rom. 8:16,17; I John 3:1,2; Matt. 7:11; Gal. 4:5-7; Eph. 1:5) and what is my duty to those outside of Christ (Matt. 28:18-20)?

We find much affirmation of the equal importance of all those who belong to Christ. Romans 15:7 commands, "receive one another as Christ received you." I Corinthians 12:25 instructs, "let there be no divisions", and "have the same care (regardless of ability or status) one for another". For us to understand this we need to look into the context of the statements and allow Paul to set the scene. Paul said much about the "strong" in contrast to the "weak" in terms relating to the struggles faced in each situation. (Please consult the chapters for more.) In any event, the summary of Galatians 6:1-10 is this: we are to be so minded as to look for restoration with our brothers, bearing one another's burdens (as any stronger brother should do for the weaker), keeping our own attitudes and behaviors in check, for in this process we have a responsibility for ourselves to continue to obey the Gospel bearing our own burden, knowing that what we sow we shall also reap, and not grow tired of doing right, for opportunities will come for us to do good for all men, especially those of the household or family of God, of which we are!

Now, how can we have those attitudes and opportunities, if we are not planting the seed, within whomever we can, wherever we can, for as long as we can? How can we have any growth in the body if we are neglecting the pattern God has given us? How can we have any right to what blessings Christ has provided, if we ourselves think or act as though this is ours to give to the world? He has given all for us, what a shame, for us not to care enough, not to love enough, not to want enough for others to have a place at His table to remember Him and offer themselves to Him, in whatever form or fashion that is? "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all **one** in **Christ** Jesus" Galatians 3:28

Please, Daddy, Won't You Go?

Via La Junta, Colorado

*A little girl with shining eyes,
Her little face aglow,
Said, "Daddy, it is almost time
For Sunday school, let's go."
"Oh, no," said Daddy, "Not today.
I've worked hard all the week,
And I must have one day of rest.
I'm going to the creek,
For there I can relax and rest,
And fishing's fine, they say,
So run along, don't bother me;
We'll go to church some day."*

*Months and years have passed away
But Daddy hears that plea no more...
"Leg's go to Sunday school..."
Those childish days are o'er.
Now that Daddy's growing old,
When life is almost through,
He finds the time to go to church...
But what does his daughter do?*

*She says, "Oh, Daddy, not today...
I stayed up almost all night
And I've got to get some sleep.
Besides, I look a fright."
Then Daddy lifts a trembling hand
To brush away the tears.
He seems to hear the pleading voice
Distinctly through the years.
He sees his small girl's little face
Upturned, with eyes aglow,
Saying, "It's time for Sunday school,
Please, Daddy, won't you go?"*



It's More Than a Fish Story

David Shannon

Jonah's prejudice caused him to run from Nineveh instead of toward it when God commanded him to preach to the Ninevites. He finally did preach to them, but remember that the message was to tell them of their destruction unless they repented. They repented! When God's mercy was extended to Nineveh, Jonah was all of the sudden so sorrowful he would have rather died! In anger and disgust he explained, "I knew that thou art a gracious God."

Jonah's Prejudice Produced Problems (Chapters 1-3):

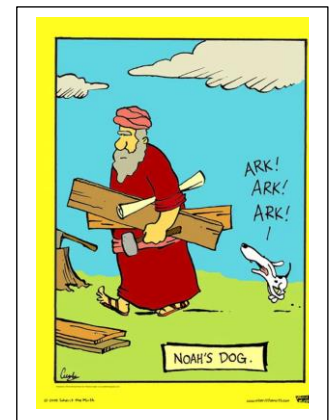
1. Prejudice is pride based, but effective evangelism is based on humility.
2. Prejudice causes folks to avoid others, but a heart for evangelism causes folks to go to others.
3. Prejudice will lead to terrible dilemmas (even the stinky belly of a fish), but a heart of evangelism will lead others to peace.

Jonah's Prejudice Produced Pessimism (Chapter 4):

4. A pessimistic person will even be disgruntled about God.
5. A pessimistic person will even be disgruntled about God's grace.
6. A pessimistic person will even be disgruntled when a sinner repents.
7. A pessimistic person will even think that to die is better than living.

Prejudice and pessimism are still enemies of evangelism. Let's be a church that invites and welcomes all to the Lord. Let's be a church that hopes what is best for others. Can you rejoice when an enemy repents? Do you fail to invite some people because you "know" they would never serve God?

Don't be a pessimist, but an evangelist!



This Week's Q&A

Q: When and Where did Paul write his epistles?

A: The epistles fall into four groups, separated by intervals of about five years each.

The Second Missionary Journey: First Thessalonians written from Corinth 52 A.D.; Second Thessalonians also written from Corinth 53 A.D.

The Third Missionary Journey: Galatians written from Ephesus 57 A.D.; First Corinthians from Ephesus 57 A.D.; Second Corinthians from Macedonia 57 A.D.; Romans from Corinth 58 A.D.;

The epistles from the first, or early Roman imprisonment: Colossians from Rome 62 A.D.; Philemon from Rome 62 A.D.; Ephesians from Rome 62 A.D.; Philippians from Rome 63 A.D.

The pastoral epistles: First Timothy from Macedonia 67 A.D.; Titus from Ephesus 67 A.D.; Second Timothy from Rome 67 A.D.

Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.



When Opportunity Knocks, Open the Door!

Dale Grissom

Christians sometimes try to excuse our lack of involvement in personal evangelism by claiming we are unable to find prospects for Bible study. Perhaps we are looking in the wrong places, if indeed we are looking at all!

We are surrounded by folks who are willing to study if they are approached the right way and at the right time. Friends, fellow workers and those who are hurting physically and emotionally make good prospects, as do family members of fellow Christians. Those who visit worship services may very well be searching for the Lord and would welcome an invitation to study. Some have visited the services of the church for years, yet they have never obeyed the Gospel. Has no one ever taken the time to encourage him?

Winning lost souls may be the hardest work you can ever do, but it will certainly be the most rewarding. Just think of it: You can help someone prepare to live with Christ forever in Heaven! There is no more important work than this!

Winning lost souls will also be the most loved work you'll ever do. What a wonderful feeling it is when the one you've taught comes to an understand of the Gospel plan of salvation, obeys his Lord in baptism and arises a new life in Christ! So, **when opportunity knocks, be sure to open the door!**

A Bible that's falling apart belongs to someone who isn't.

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Mail me to
someone
who might
read me!