

The Essentials of Sharing the Gospel
Part 2 - "A Committed Messenger"
Romans 10:14-15

All of us struggle with our efforts in the area of evangelism. We wonder, "have I done enough to share the gospel?"

A recent - letter from a missionary couple in Italy reminds me that we all share this concern. Scott and Sharon have committed their lives to sharing the gospel. Scott preaches in the public square. He operates an evangelistic book table in the open markets. He visits door to door. He distributes tracts. He even volunteers on on the local ambulance squad to build relationships with his Italian community.

Recently, Scott responded to a call near his own home. It was Scott and Sharon's **LAND LORD**. It was too late. The team could not revive the man.

Scott wrote this about his experience:

"As we finished our shift a few busy hours later, I was talking with one of my colleagues about the call. "Part of my job" I explained, "is to help people be ready for death." A good conversation followed as we talked about what it means to be ready. But I also found myself wondering if we had done all we could to share the Good News with [our land lord].

Here's a full time missionary, in a difficult field, wondering if he had done enough. How much I feel like Scott at times! And I don't come close to measuring up to the level of commitment and sacrifice that he has given for Christ!

TODAY it will not be hard to bring **CONVICTION** or **GUILT** on each one of us.

Where that is needed, we welcome the convicting power of the Holy Spirit.

More than manipulation by guilt to share the gospel, it is my goal to accomplish the following:

- **To communicate to us that it is GOD's DESIRE** for the gospel to be preached to everyone
- It is **our responsibility** as God's messengers to share this message
- **GOD PLANS to use each and every believer in this plan**
- finally, I hope to give **practical suggestions** for every believer in the area of evangelism

I. **GOD's DESIRE** is that the gospel be preached to everyone

A. The Will of the **FATHER**

1. (2 Peter 3:9) *"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."*
2. (1 Timothy 2:4) *"who wants all men to be saved and to come to a*

knowledge of the truth."

- B. The COMMAND of the SON
 - 1. (Acts 1:8) *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and **to the ends of the earth.**"*
 - 2. (Matthew 28:19) *"Therefore go and make disciples **of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"*
- C. This will finally occur before the RETURN of JESUS
 - 1. Two witnesses will be seen by the entire earth. **Revelation 11:3-10**
 - 2. During the tribulation, 144,000 witnesses will be supernaturally empowered by God to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth. **Revelation 14:1-6**
- D. **But prior to these tribulation events, we will have limited success in getting the gospel to the ends of the earth.**
- E. This passage in Romans 10:11-14 demands **two responses**:
 - 1. Personal Evangelism
 - 2. Missions

II. God's Plan to USE HIS CHILDREN

- A. **PERSPECTIVE: The PARALLEL of Romans 9 and 10**
 - 1. **ROMANS 9** give us the DIVINE PERSPECTIVE on what's involved in salvation.
 - 2. **ROMANS 10** gives us the HUMAN PERSPECTIVE on what's involved in salvation!
 - 3. Romans 9 - HEAVEN
 - 4. Romans 10 - EARTH
- B. Compare Romans 8:28-30
 - 1. 5 Part Chain of GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY in Salvation (Romans 8:28-30) *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God **1) foreknew** he also **2) predestined** to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also **3) called**; those he called, he also **4) justified**; those he justified, he also **5) glorified.**"*
 - 2. 5 Part Chain of BELIEVER'S RESPONSIBILITY in Evangelism (Romans 10:14-15) *"How, then, can they **1) call** on the one they have not believed in? And how can they **2) believe** in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they **3) hear** without someone preaching to them? And how can they **4) preach** unless they are*

5) sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!""

- C. Where does World Evangelism begin?
1. 5 steps
 2. All **subjunctives**.
 3. These are "How" questions
 4. "How will people be saved without us?" GOD HAS SOVEREIGNLY CHOSEN to use us! We may not agree. We may not feel adequate. But this is the plan God has chosen.
 5. We get a picture of how the gospel progresses by looking at the **END of the LIST and working our way forward.**
 - a. **SENDING.** God sometimes SCATTERS us through PERSECUTION
 - b. **PREACHING.** *"How can they preach unless they are sent?"*
 - (1) Last Sunday we spoke about the CLEAR MESSAGE
 - (2) Romans 10:17 "faith comes from hearing the message.
 - c. **HEARING.** *"How can hear without someone preaching to them?"*
 - d. **BELIEVING.** *"How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?"*
 - e. **CALLING.** *"How will they call on the one they have not believed?"*
 - f. Which results in **SALVATION** (Romans 10:13 *"everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be SAVED.*
- D. Those who carry this message are BEAUTIFUL
1. *"How beautiful are the feet..."*
 2. Normally don't think of feet as being "beautiful"
 3. Quotation from (Isaiah 52:7) *"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"*"
 4. The **RELEASE** from captivity!
 5. This was **GOOD NEWS!**
 6. Prophetically, the good news of the **GOSPEL**
 7. *"How delightful the approach of the messenger"* (Hodge)

III. What About ME?

- A. Not all of us are gifted Evangelists.
- B. Difference: **SPIRITUAL GIFT** and the **RESPONSIBILITY** to be witnesses
 1. **SPIRITUAL GIFT.** 1 Peter 4:10-11

2. RESPONSIBILITY as a WITNESS. Acts 1:8

C. Don't worry about using someone's METHODS

1. There are MANY EVANGELISTIC METHODS

- a. Tracts
- b. Street witnessing - *illus - Jim Harvey*
- c. Door to door
- d. Radio and TV

2. Make the message CLEAR. (last Sunday, "A CLEAR MESSAGE")

- a. Man's sinful condition
- b. God's unique way
- c. Point of decision about the person of Christ
- d. Your response

3. The Romans Road

- a. **All have sinned. (Romans 3:23)** *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"*
- b. **The wages of sin. (Romans 6:23)** *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
- c. **God's gift for sinners. (Rom 5:8)** *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*
- d. **What must I do? (Romans 10:9-10)** *"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."*

IV. Practical Suggestions in the area of evangelism

A. INVITATION

1. Church activities
2. Invitation cards

B. GOSPEL LITERATURE

1. Tracts
2. "Salvation Clear and Plain"

C. TURN the CONVERSATION

1. Jay Linn "Jesus told a story about a pearl of great price"
2. Scott McClain "I help people to be ready when they die."

D. ASK PERMISSION

1. *“Could I take a few minutes to share with you something that’s very important to me?”*
2. If you can’t do this, then watch the end of our **FBC DVD** with them!

V. Practical **Suggestions** in the area of **MISSIONS**

- A. LORD, do you want me to **go**?
- B. LORD, do you want me to **give**?
- C. **PRAY** for our missionaries
- D. **ENCOURAGE** our missionaries.

E. **BOLDNESS** comes through Christ’s **POWER**

1. (Ephesians 6:19-20) *“Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.”*
2. (2 Timothy 1:6-12) *“For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.”*