

Reaching the Lost: Evangelism

Week 3: How should we evangelize? (Part 1)

Getting Started

In the next few studies we're going to consider more practically how we should evangelize.

1. **As a way to begin thinking about how to evangelize, what's some of the best advice you've received about evangelism?**

Main Idea

We should evangelize _____ and _____. (We'll fill in the blanks later.)

Digging In

In 2 Corinthians, Paul describes his own evangelistic commitments as an apostle. Read the following from 2 Corinthians 4:1-6.

4 Therefore, having **this ministry** by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ²But we have **renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word**, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. ¹

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (2 Co 4:1-6). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

1. **What kind of ministry does Paul have? (Read 2 Cor 3:4-11)**
2. **How does 2 Cor 1:8-11 bring more weight to the ministry that Paul had been called to?**
3. **Back to 2 Cor 4:1-6, what has Paul renounced? What does he refuse to do?**
4. **What are some examples of how the church has been disgraceful, underhanded, or cunning (deceitful) in its presentation of the Gospel?**

5. **Why is it tempting to tamper with God's Word when we evangelize?**
6. **How does Paul positively describe how he speaks the gospel? What is his goal? (V2)**

In following Paul's example, we should evangelize honestly. We should proclaim the truth of the gospel openly. We should do this, as Paul says, in order to commend ourselves to others' consciences before God. **However our unbelieving friends might respond to the gospel, we are accountable to God to share the message faithfully. We should evangelize honestly.** (Fill in the first blank under "Main Idea")

In 2 Corinthians 5 and 6 Paul further elaborates on his commitments as an evangelist:

²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We **implore** you on behalf of Christ, **be reconciled to God.** ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6 Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.¹

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (2 Co 5:20–6:2). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

1. **In verse 20 Paul says that as an ambassador of Christ, God makes his appeal through him. What is that appeal?**
2. **What does it mean to implore someone? What does this reveal about how Paul evangelized?**
3. **According to 6:2, why is it urgent that the Corinthians be reconciled to God and not accept God's grace in vain?**

Based on Paul's example in these verses, we should evangelize urgently. Now is the time of salvation. Now is the time when God extends mercy to all who turn from their sin and trust in Christ. That's why Paul implores the Corinthians to be reconciled to God and appeals to them not to receive the grace of God in vain. (Fill in the second blank under "Main Idea")

1. **Would you say that you typically evangelize urgently? Why or why not?**

2. **What are some examples of:**

- A wrong urgency in evangelism?
- A right urgency in evangelism?