

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements
Mike Davis

Song Leader
Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper
Rodney Ellis Cory Easley
Bill Rinehart Dave Massey

Prayers
Jack Calvert Roger Clemmons

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements
Mike Davis

Song Leader
Cory Easley

Lord's Supper
Bill Brittenham Mark Davis

Prayers
Dave Massey Sonny Monaghan

WEDNESDAY

Announcements
Gerald Eaton

Song Leader
Jack Calvert

Prayers
Rick Boswell Clay Morris

Invitation
Jon Barry

ABOUT US

Elders
Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons
Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
Mike Davis Dave Massey

Evangelist
Rick Boswell
(574) 302-1827

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday
Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.
Worship6:00 P.M.

Wednesday
Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17

Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 8:35-30

Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16;
1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Walk in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10



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Issue 4

8 Tips For Evangelism

Luke Moyer

We are in constant pursuit for better evangelism. We consume books and go to special classes and group meetings. We read Paul's instructions to his pupils Timothy and Titus about their roles in spreading the truth. I certainly cannot add information to this subject that others have not already done. No one today has 'new' information or yet undiscovered keys to unlock the perfect evangelistic method. Because of this, my first inclination is to go back to the days in which we know the gospel was successfully spread. The gospel spread so rapidly, not simply because of one or two gifted men, but because every saint employed effort. Some understudied 'tips' for spreading the gospel are found in the letters to recently converted saints. Let us look at the first two chapters of 1 Thessalonians as an example.

Firstly, Paul is not writing to 'professional' evangelists (those who make their living from preaching) but rather to 'amateur' evangelists (those who do not make their living from preaching). The tips we can draw from this

passage are examples from both the average saint in Thessalonica, and from Paul's own example among them.

1- Be Joyful (1:6)

Christians should be characterized as joyful people. Unfortunately, at times we fight against the opposite stigma. We may even have to fight against our own pessimistic tendencies. Being joyful in this passage is not about having a happy personality. It's about rejoicing in the gift of the Holy Spirit in spite of the problems that we have. Don't be the person who mopes and drags their feet because they have to struggle one more day in this life. The Gospel is not about gloomily bemoaning the sins of the present age, but about 'Good news' of the solution! Be the one who looks at their problems and smiles because God's Spirit has chosen to redeem us from this life. This genuine conviction (vs 5) translates to how others perceive our transformation.

2- Speak the Word (1:8)

Must this even be said? Yes, it must. Let's not get so wrapped up in our strategies and lead-ins

FAMILY TALK

L.G. Clemmons is still in rehab out in Ashdown. He has been instructed not to put any weight on his leg for a couple more weeks. Hopefully this will provide sufficient time for the repairs to heal.

Max Thomas continues to struggle mightily right now with his health. His cultures came back recently revealing he is suffering from E.coli as well as the previous diagnosis of pneumonia. Please continue to remember him and Ann in your prayers.

Mary Alice Turner has been battling with a bug now for a couple of weeks. We're praying that she'll be able to recover and join us again in our assemblies.

Debbie Massey is in Florida visiting with Miranda and Eden. There is no set date for her return.

It was a welcome sight to see **Bob Buls** out for Wednesday night Bible study this past week!

The Saratoga congregation is starting a **Gospel Meeting** today with Don Patton. It will run through Friday.

Get It In The Bulletin:

If you have any news concerning our church family, please notify **Rick** so it can be inserted into the weekly bulletin.

Front Page Article (concl.)

that we forget about the Word itself. The standard and message of the gospel is that which we must preach. So speak it. This is truly prompted as people see our change of living patterns. Yet it is the word sounding forth that drives our faith on. The Thessalonians were not shy about their faith. They got over whatever fears they had (amongst very real persecution) and lived a changed life while telling people why. Their changes of behavior were so rooted in the word, that when people saw and heard their behavior and changes, they, in essence, heard the word.

3- Live by the Word (1:9)

The word is powerful and able to save souls. But if we remain unchanged from our former lives or from the world we live in, the word will not spread. We must be changed. We must be transformed. We must be completely aware that the ways of this life are dead. Both we and our neighbors are trapped by the penalty of our own sin. If we truly recognize Jesus as the living and true God, then Paul mentions two outcomes; we will live in waiting for his coming, and we will beware of the wrath that is to come. These two elements work in conjunction to give us proper motivation to be changed and to speak the word to those who may suffer the wrath.

4- Be Bold (2:2)

Paul is not ignorant of the temptation to keep silent. He and his fellows resolved to speak the gospel regardless of what reaction they faced. This is boldness. Boldness isn't being annoying or idiotic or proud. It is speaking what we know to be true no matter the outcome. Hatred or scorn or mockery against us are nothing. Be bold and speak the message. Yes, it is uncomfortable at times. This is why Paul brings up his own troubles in this passage- to remind them (and us) that if prison and

beatings (like at Philippi) were small things to Paul, then how much less are petty things that may get in our way.

5- Be Forward (2:5)

When we approach people about the gospel we often like to find some connection or 'in' to the topic of Jesus. Be careful of flattering. Be careful of appearing manipulative. It is much better to bypass the chatter and be forward with our approach than by our empty air create suspicion of greedy motives. Certainly our words can be graceful and seasoned with salt (Col 4:6), and certainly we may find common ground, but don't beat around the bush when it may only distract and take away precious time.

6- Be Gentle (2:7)

This is perhaps the trait that has become most lost. We must indeed find the proper balance between boldness and gentleness. Just as boldness isn't being obnoxious or revolting, so also gentleness isn't being wishy-washy or non-committed. Boldness is our desire to tell the truth no matter what. Gentleness is our genuine desire for the hearer to be compelled from the inside out. A mother has an unfailing desire for her child to be taken care of. Many times nurturing actually requires firmness. Gentleness is our (comparatively) soft-spoken and kind approach, firmly compelling others to adopt Jesus' resurrection. Successful mothers don't yell at their baby to eat. So, too, do successful evangelists approach their neighbors with the milk of the word (1 Pet 2:2; 3:15).

7- Love (2:8)

Even though Paul had not met the Thessalonians, he felt such a compelling love for them, that he was as happy as could be to devote himself fully to their spiritual well-being. If we desire to be successful in sharing the gospel, we

must find this same motivation. We need to see those around us the way Jesus does. We must see neighbors and strangers as lost souls and potential brethren. After all, we were at one time lost and pitiful before we submitted to the gospel. Jesus loved us first (1 John 4), and came to bring us the good news. We must love those in the world enough to imitate Paul and Jesus (1 Thess 1:6). When we love then we will be bold. When we love we will be forward. When we love we will be gentle.

8- Be Transformed (2:10)

Lastly of this series is the practical result of living by the Word. We must absolutely devote ourselves to the word which we are speaking. Without our dedication to do what is right, there is little to no incentive for this world to listen. Paul is not ignoring imperfections, but encouraging genuine faith. Our life and behavior is witnessed by this world and can be called to the stand as testimony for the power of the gospel. That is what caused the Thessalonians to listen to Paul. That is what caused Macedonia to listen to the Thessalonians. Perhaps one reason so many struggle with evangelizing is because they aren't quite ready for inspection. If this is you, don't use it as an excuse, but as motivation to be transformed and to live life unashamed of the gospel. Our former selves are sinful. Don't deny it, but display the contrast from old to new. This was a successful approach for both Paul and the Thessalonians. Don't let pride take it away from your efforts.