

Evangelism – Lesson Three – “How”

Evangelism

- **Evangelism is the work of an evangelist; the preaching** or promulgation of the gospel; missionary zeal, purpose, or activity.
- The practice of evangelism is spreading the good news about Jesus (for the purpose of causing men and women to believe)

"Evangelism is not salesmanship. It is not urging people, pressing them, coercing them, overwhelming them, or subduing them. Evangelism is telling a message. Evangelism is reporting good news." – Richard C. Halverson

“One thing I have observed in all my years of ministry is that the most effective and important aspects of evangelism usually take place on an individual, personal level. Most people do not come to Christ as an immediate response to a sermon they hear in a crowded setting. They come to Christ because of the influence of an individual.” - John MacArthur

“Evangelism is not an option for the Christian life.” - Luis Palau

Points from previous lessons.

- Evangelism has no specific form.
- Every believer is called to evangelize.

In previous lessons we have examined the “**what**” and “**why**” of evangelism; today, we will examine “**how**” to evangelize according to the scriptures.

Colossians 4:2-6 NLT

² Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. ³ Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. ⁴ Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.

⁵ Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

In these four verses, Paul hits on six elements of responsible evangelism:

1. **Pray regularly for opportunities to share the gospel.**

If you're serious about sharing the good news, you will be asking God to give you more and more opportunities.

2. **Be watching and thankful.**

Since you're praying for opportunities, you're going to be on the lookout for them and thankful when they occur.

[1 Corinthians 16:7-9](#) ESV

For I do not want to see you now and make only a passing visit; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.

3. **Pray for opportunities for others to share the gospel clearly.**

You'll also pray for others to have opportunities to share the gospel, and that they would do so with power and authority.

[Matthew 9:37-38](#) ESV

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

4. **Be wise about how you treat outsiders.**

You'll learn to think of every conversation as an important part of your evangelism. It's not that you're always sharing the gospel; it's that you don't want to do anything that undermines you before you do.

[Matthew 5:15-16](#) NIV

"Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

[1 Corinthians 9:19-23](#) NIV

Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak,

to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

[2 Timothy 2:15](#) ESV

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

[1 Corinthians 2:1-2](#) NIV

"And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."

5. Make the most of every opportunity.

Making the most of your opportunities requires a lot of vigilance and grit. You need to be on guard to recognize your opportunities, and you need to have the resolve to take advantage of those opportunities when they surface.

[Mark 6:11](#) KJV

And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for that city.

6. Ensure that your conversations are full of grace.

It's so important that we recognize that our conversations reflect the gospel—even when we're not talking about the gospel.

[1 Corinthians 9:27](#) NKJV

But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

[Galatians 6:1](#) NLT

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

[Psalm 105:1](#) NIV

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim His name; make known among the nations what He has done.

[Isaiah 12:4](#) NIV

In that day you will say: "Give praise to the Lord, proclaim His name; make known among the nations what He has done, and proclaim that His name is exalted."

[Matthew 10:7-14](#) ESV

And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. Acquire no gold nor silver nor copper for your belts, no bag for your journey, nor two tunics nor sandals nor a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart.