

## **PCCC Afternoon Study**

**January 3, 2021**

**Text: Matthew 28:16-20**

**Study based on Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God- J.I. Packer**

**Evangelism Part II - What is the Motive, Means, and Methods of Evangelism?**

### **I. Review- The Message of Evangelism**

1. The gospel is a message about God.
2. The gospel is a message about sin.
3. The gospel is a message about Christ
4. The gospel is a summons of faith and repentance.

### **II. What is the Motive of Evangelism?**

1. The first motive is primary and fundamental. The chief end of man is to glorify God and obeying his revealed will, that is, the moral law. Thus we have these Scripture commandments and promises.
  - a. Mark 13:10 - And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations
  - b. Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
  - c. The promise of Christ being with us to the end of the age extends to us (not only the 11 apostles) and if the promise extends to us the commission also extends to us.
  - d. If it is the Church’s task to evangelize it is for us in particular.
  - e. Evangelism is not just an act of obedience, but we tell the world the great things God has done for sinners. God is glorified when his grace is made known.
  - f. Psalm 96:2-3-Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!
2. The second motive is to love our neighbor and desire to see him saved.
  - a. This should spring from the love in our hearts.
  - b. What greater need is for someone to know Christ and be saved?
  - c. The parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us that any fellow human that we meet that is in need is our neighbor.
  - d. We need to ask ourselves, what we can do to make Christ known to them.
  - e. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 - For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have

died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

- f. We have the example of Andrew in John 1, to tell Simon, and Phillip to tell Nathaniel. They did this naturally and spontaneously.
- g. Packer has a high bar for us that we should be obligated to share the gospel to our neighbor.
  - g.i. If we have a fear of being thought odd and ridiculous, or losing popularity in certain circles, that holds us back, we need to ask ourselves in the presence of God: Ought these things to stop us loving our neighbors?
  - g.ii. Is pride holding us back? Which matters more- our reputation or their salvation. We cannot be complacent about this gangrene of conceit and cowardice when we weigh up our lives in the presence of God. We should ask for God's grace to cause our love to overflow for our fellow-man.
  - g.iii. Then it can be easy and joyful to share with them the good news of Christ.
- h. We should note that we cannot all discharge this obligation in the same way. We are not all called to be preachers. But we all have some evangelistic responsibility which we cannot shirk without failing to love both our God and our neighbor. What can we do?
  - h.i. We should start by praying for the salvation of unconverted people, particularly in our family, and among our friends and everyday associates.
  - h.ii. We should muster all our initiative and enterprise to make the most we can in every situation.
  - h.iii. We must remember that evangelism is an enterprise of love. It should be based on friendship and establishing relationships which shows you are interested in someone and not treating them as some kind of "case." So the right to talk about Christ must be earned and we earn it by convincing the person that we are friends and we care about them.
  - h.iv. Personal evangelism can be costly, because it demands of us a really personal relationship with the other person.
  - h.v. We need to pray for the gift of friendship. A genuine friendliness is in any case a prime mark of the man who is learning to love his neighbor as himself.

### **III. What are the Means and Methods of Evangelism?**

- 1. Consider the evangelism or revival meetings in England and America for almost two centuries.
  - a. Their breezy slickness makes for irreverence.
  - b. The glamourizing of the Christian experience in the testimonies is pastorally irresponsible and gives a falsely romanticized impression of what being a Christian is like.
  - c. The result are false conversions based on inadequate instruction.

2. Let us ask these questions:

- a. Is the way of presenting Christ calculated to impress on people that the gospel is a word from God?
- b. Is the way of presenting Christ calculated to promote, or impede, the work of the word in men's minds? Is it going to clarify the meaning of the message, or leave it enigmatic and obscure, locked up in pious jargon and oracular formulae?
- c. Is this a way of presenting Christ calculated to convey to people the doctrine of the gospel, and not just part of it, but the whole of it-the truth about our Creator and his claims, and about ourselves as guilty, lost, and helpless sinners, needing to be born again, and about the Son of God who became man, and died for sins and lives to forgive sinners and bring them to God.
- d. Is this a way of presenting Christ calculated to convey to people the application of the gospel, and not just part of it, but the whole of it-the summons to see and know oneself as God sees and knows one, that is, as a sinful creature, and to face the breadth and depth of the need into which a wrong relationship with God has brought one, and to face too the cost and consequences of turning to receive Christ as Savior and Lord?
- e. Is this way of presenting Christ calculated to convey gospel truth in a way that is appropriately serious? Is it calculated to make people feel they are indeed facing a matter of life and death? Is it calculated to make them see and feel the greatness of God, and the greatness of their sin and need and the greatness of the grace of Christ?
- f. By asking these questions we must test and, where necessary, reform our evangelistic methods.

