

# Lesson 7

## EVANGELISM

### INTRODUCTION:

Purposes of study:

- To study the meaning and biblical basis of evangelism.
- To study the basics of evangelism.
- To study Paul and Jesus' strategy in evangelism.

### LESSON OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTION
  - A. What evangelism is Not.
  - B. What is evangelism?
  - C. Why believers are not involved in evangelism.
  
- II. THE THEOLOGY OF EVANGELISM
  - A. Evangelism is God's idea.
  - B. Evangelism and the New Testament.
  - C. Key Words in Evangelism.
  
- III. THE BASICS OF EVANGELISM
  - A. The essence of evangelism.
  - B. Basic requirements of the believer in evangelism.
  
- IV. LIFE-STYLE EVANGELISM
  - A. Jesus is the best picture of evangelism.
  - B. Keys to evangelism.
  - C. Evangelism and the church.

## I. INTRODUCTION

What comes to mind when you think of “Evangelism”?

Big-time preachers?

It’s only for the experts, not for an ordinary Christian?

### A. *What Evangelism is NOT*

1. It is not just to fill up the chairs in the **church**.
2. It is not just a ‘big-time’ preacher preaching in a **stadium**.
3. It is not just an activity to be done by **pastors** in a building with a cross, called the church.
4. It is not another ‘**program**’ in the church calendar year.
5. It is not just ‘speech’ or ‘**words**’ alone.

### B. *What is Evangelism?*

1. C.H. Spurgeon, a famous 19th-century British preacher and evangelist, defined it as:

“One beggar telling another beggar where to get bread.”

*Yes, Jesus is the Bread. We are to “taste and see that the Lord is good”. Psalm 34:8*

2. Archbishop William Temple of England defined evangelism as:

“... to present **Jesus Christ** in the power of the Holy Spirit, that men shall come to put their trust in God through Him, to accept Him as their **Saviour**, and **serve** Him as their King in the **fellowship** of His church.”

- a) It involves presenting the **good news** of Jesus Christ.
- b) It involves the work of the **Holy Spirit**.
- c) It involves **acceptance** of Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

- d) It involves incorporating in to a **fellowship**.
- e) It involves **servicing** the Lord.

C. *Why believers are not involved in evangelism*

- 1. They believe it is not their job as they have paid a **pastor** or **evangelist** to do it.

*But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 2 Tim 4:5*

Yes, not all are called to be an evangelist, but we are all called to be witnesses. (Acts 1:8)

- 2. They are not **sure** themselves of what/who they believe.
- 3. They are **fearful**.

## II. THE THEOLOGY OF EVANGELISM

A. *Evangelism is God's idea*

- 1. Genesis 3:9: "Adam ... where are you?"

A redeeming God is **seeking** the lost.

"But the Lord God called to the man, 'Where are you?'"

- 2. Genesis 3:14-15: A Messianic promise of a **Saviour** to come:

*"So the Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.'"*

- 3. Genesis 12:1-3: God's call of **Abraham**. God's design to bring the 'seed' Messiah through Abraham:

*"The Lord had said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people, and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.'"*

4. The **Triune** Godhead is involved in Evangelism. The Father sends His Son with the good news and the Holy Spirit is our Helper in evangelism.

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*  
John 3:16

*"He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." Titus 3:5*

## **B. Evangelism and the New Testament**

1. The four '**Gospels**' come from the Greek word 'Evangelion' which is the root word for the English word 'Evangelism.'
2. The Day of **Pentecost** was a breakthrough in evangelism:

- 3,000 were converted in one day:

*"Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day." Acts 2:41*

By Acts 4:4, the early Church had grown to five thousands.

3. **Philip** the evangelist. He brought the Gospel to the Samaritans:
  - a) *"Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. With shrieks evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. So there was great joy in that city." Acts 8:4-8.*
  - b) He opened the Gospel to the **Ethiopian** eunuch.

Acts 8:26-40.

*“Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ Philip asked.”*  
Acts 8:30

4. **Peter** and evangelism: Acts 10:9-16.

*“As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence.”* Acts 10:25

5. **Paul** and evangelism:

*“In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.”* Acts 13:1-3

C. **Key Words in Evangelism**

1. **Reconciliation.** It means to bring two parties together as one.

*“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.”*  
2 Corinthians 5:18-19

*“But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.”*  
Colossians 1:22

God is the one who **initiates** reconciliation in evangelism.

*“For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.”*  
Ephesians 2:14-16

2. **Forgiveness of sins**

*"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Colossians 1:13-14*

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9*

3. **Freedom**

*"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."  
John 8:32*

*"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36*

*"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed."  
Luke 4:18*

### **III. THE BASICS OF EVANGELISM**

A. *The essence of Evangelism*

1. Evangelism is basically two parts:

a) to **proclaim** the message of the good news.

(i) We must proclaim **clearly**:

*"Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should."  
Colossians 4:4*

(ii) We must pray for **understanding** of the gospel:

*"And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." 2 Corinthians 4:3-4*

- b) to **persuade** to bring about conversions.

*“Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.” 2 Corinthians 5:11*

2. Evangelism should centre on **Scriptures** or scriptural explanation.

Acts 8:26-35.

Philip explained from scriptures to the Ethiopian eunuch:

*“Then Philip began with that very passage of **Scripture** and told him the good news about Jesus.” Acts 8:35*

3. The presentation of the good news can be structured around a **question** or a **topic**: Acts 17:16-34

*“Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: ‘Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious.’ Acts 17:22*

4. The **content** of the good news.

The core of Christianity is **Christ**. It is not a set of religious rules or philosophy. Paul declared:

*“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”  
1 Corinthians 15:3-4*

- a) Jesus Christ:

- (i) He is fully **man**. He got tired and thirsty.

*“Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour.”  
John 4:6*

- (ii) He is fully **God**.

*“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,”  
Philippians 2:6*

b) Man's Need

(i) All have **sinned**:

*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."  
Romans 3:23*

(ii) **Wages of sin**:

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life  
in Christ Jesus our Lord."  
Romans 6:23*

c) God's **provision**

*"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still  
sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8*

d) Man's **response**

(i) **Repent** - Acts 2:38.

(ii) **Receive**

*"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name,  
he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12*

*"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." Romans 10:9*

**B. Basic requirements of the believer in evangelism**

1. He must have a firm **conviction** that the Bible is the Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16.

2. He must engage himself in **prayer**:

*"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always  
pray and not give up." Luke 18:1*



## IV. LIFE-STYLE EVANGELISM

### **Introduction:**

“Christians and non-Christians have nothing in common”?

Things in common: a dirty house, to clean pigs, to feed children who do misbehave.

The best way to evangelize is not “mouthing the right words” but a healthy church and a happy family.

The **Christian** is the best tool God has to convince the non-Christian.

Q. : Are you a **joyful** Christian?  
Are you living your life to **shine** for Christ?

### **A. *Jesus is the best picture of evangelism***

1. He became **man** so that we can know God.

*“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14*

*“Jesus answered: ‘Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’” John 14:9*

Jesus didn’t just talk about love, holiness, forgiveness etc.  
He DEMONSTRATED it.

*“Jesus was full of grace and truth.” John 1:14*

2. We must become **Christ-like** so that sinners can know **Christ**.

*“Whatever happens, **conduct** yourselves in a manner **worthy** of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel.” Philippians 1:27*

Our lives must be **transformed** more and more to reflect Christ:

*“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:18*

It is not how much we can argue about theology. People want to see how much we care.

*“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:35*

Non-Christians prefer to read our **lives** rather than the Bible:

*“You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody.” 2 Corinthians 3:2*

## **B. Keys to evangelism**

### 1. **Paul’s** strategy in evangelism (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

*“To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.” 1 Corinthians 9:22*

There must be the “becoming” in the evangelism of “saving”.

#### a). Paul had to be **flexible**.

He had to relate to a Jew with all his regulations and at another time he had to relate to a Gentile. Imagine the different eating habits between a Jew and a Gentile?

#### b) Paul shared his life and took an **interest** in the lives of others.

*“We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.” 1 Thessalonians 2:8*

### 2. **Jesus’** strategy in evangelism: Luke 19:1-9.

To discover the needs before sharing the solution.

Jesus met Zaccheus’ need. Zaccheus, as a tax collector, was ostracized by society. Jesus showed love to him. When Jesus left Zaccheus’ house, he was ready to give half his possessions to the poor.

- a) Meeting people's **need**:
  - (i) To **Nicodemus** : You must be born again.
  - (ii) To the **Samaritan** woman: The living water.
  - (iii) To the **Rich** Young Man: Sell your possessions and come follow Me.
  - (iv) To **Zaccheus**: Jesus didn't say, "Sell your possessions and give half to the poor." He merely said, "I'm coming to your house today."
  
- b) Model: Jesus uses men and women. He spent time with them. Mark 3:13-15
  
- c) Ministry:
  - (i) Didactic Realm:

Jesus used teaching- John 8: 31-32  
The early church used teaching - Acts 2:42  
Paul used teaching - Acts 28:30-31
  
  - (ii) Physical Realm:

Jesus fed the people who were hungry - Mark 6:41 James 2:16
  
  - (iii) Supernatural Realm:

Jesus healed the sick and cast out demons - Acts 10:38
  
  - (iii) Psychological Realm:

Jesus counselled the Samaritan woman and led her to salvation - John 4

C. *Evangelism and the church*

1. As a **pastor**

- a) As a pastor, make every **opportunity** to share the gospel in your preaching.

*Making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”  
Ephesians 5:16*

You can make use of the following occasions to share the Gospel:

- (i) **Baptism** service.
  - (ii) Children’s **dedication** service.
  - (iii) **Wedding**.
  - (iv) **Funeral**.
  - (v) **Visitation** of the sick in hospitals.
  - (vi) **Visitation** of homes of believers.
  - (vii) Organize church **get-togethers**, such as family camps.
- b) Have evangelistic Bible **study groups**.
- (i) A study of the Gospels.
  - (ii) A study on the questions non-believers may ask :

: Is there life after death?

: How to receive forgiveness of sins?

- c) **Train** your members to evangelize.

*“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” 2 Timothy 2:2*

- d) Have **literature** available for your members to use.  
John 20:31

About 85% of Christians in Latin America became Christians as a result of a book or tract.

Advantages of literature:

- (i) **Permanent**
  - (ii) **Retention**
  - (iii) **Multiplication**
  - (iv) **Objective**
  - (v) **Cheaper**
- e) Encourage your members to do **good** works:  
James 2:14-15
- f) Use **music** also as a tool for evangelism: 1 Samuel 16:23

2. As a **church**

- a) We must be open to **change**.

Stephen was effective in evangelism and many turned to the Lord.

- (i) He taught that God is not confined to a building.
- (ii) He spoke against the law (Acts 6:13-14).

The Sanhedrin was not open to change and was angry with Stephen. They stoned him to death.  
Sometimes evangelism is hindered due to the church not being open to change.

- b) We must involve the “**believers**” in the church. The Lord’s work is not confined to “clergy” or “professional pastors”.

*“.. to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...” Ephesians 4:12*

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