

Developing a Biblical Understanding



Evangelism

Session 2

Evangelism



- **Is the Great Commission for us today?**
 - Mat 28:19-20 – a direct command to the disciples.
 - How do we know it is for us?
 - “the end of the age.”
 - Indirect reiteration
- **How is the Great Commission applicable to us today?**
 - Specific vs. General
 - John 14:26 and the equipping thru their time with Christ (Paul 1 Cor 9:1; 2 Cor 12:7).
 - Gal 2:7; 1 Tim 2:7; Eph 4:11; Rom 8:14 – unique compelled sending.

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- **How is the Great Commission applicable to us today?**
 - **Our primary source of direction today – the epistles:**
 - **No repeat of the Great Commission.**
 - **No reference to evangelism in command sections (Rom 12-15; Eph 4:17-6:24; Phil 4:1-9; Col 2:6-4:6; 1 Thess 5:12-22; 2 Thess 3:6-13), or letters to the churches (Rev 2-3).**

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- **Where are the commands to evangelize in the epistles?**
 - 1 Pet 3:15-16 – different tone.
 - 2 Cor 5:20; 1 Pet 3:15-16; Jude 22-23 – around us.
 - Rom 10:14-15; 17; Eph 3:8-12 – those who have never heard.
 - Rom 15:16 – priestly duty.
 - Rom 16:25-27 – “all nations” past tense.

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- **Where are the commands to evangelize in the epistles?**
 - **Heb 13:7 – share your faith.**
 - **2 Cor 5:18-19 – the ministry of “reconciliation.”**
 - **2 Cor 5:17 – we are “ambassadors.”**
 - **1 Cor 9:19-23 – the high priority.**

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- **What is the emphasis of the evangelism message in the epistles to the churches?**
 - **1 Pet 2:9; 1 Cor 2:2; Gal 6:14; Phil 3:8-10 – the Person & glory of God.**
 - **2 Cor 2:17; Gal 1:6-10; 2 Tim 4:2; Jude ; 2 Pet 2 – purity of the message.**
 - **1 Pet 3:15-16; Eph 6:15 – preparedness.**

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“For the herald of the gospel to be spiritually out of order in his own proper person is, both to himself and to his work, a most serious calamity; and yet, my brethren, how easily is such an evil produced, and with what watchfulness must it be guarded against!...it is a terrible thing when the healing balm loses its efficacy through the blunderer who administers it...in two are three of the battles which were lost in the late American war, the result is said to have been due to the bad gunpowder which was served out by certain ‘shoddy’ contractors to the army, so that the due effect of a cannonade was not produced. So it may be with us. We may miss our mark, lose our end and aim, and waste our time, through not possessing true vital force within ourselves, or not possessing it in such a degree that God could consistently bless us.” C. H. Spurgeon

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 - **2 Cor 2:17; Gal 1:6-10; 2 Tim 4:2; Jude ; 2 Pet 2; 1 Thess 2:3 – purity of the message.**
 - **1 Pet 3:15-16; Eph 6:15 – preparedness.**
 - **Eph 6:19; 2 Thess 3:1; Rom 10:1 – prayer.**

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- **What is the emphasis of the evangelism message in the epistles to the churches?**
 - **1 Cor 9:19-23; 2 Cor 5:18-20; Rom 10:14-15; 15:16; Heb 13:7; 1 Pet 2:9 – priority.**
 - **Gal 2:7; 1 Tim 2:7; Eph 4:11-13 – specific callings.**

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- **Why evangelize if God has already determined who will be saved?**

"If God has eternally decreed that you should live, what is the use of your breathing? If God has eternally decreed that you should talk, what is the use of your opening your mouth? If God has eternally decreed that you should reap a crop, what is the use of your sowing the seed?" A. A. Hodge

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- **Why evangelize if God has already determined who will be saved?**
 - Rom 8:29-30; Eph 1:4; 2 Thess 2:13 – Divine election is taught.
 - Rom 10:14 – immediately after Rom 9.
 - Acts 18:9-11; 13:43-48 – directed by God.
 - Luke 6:46; Mat 10:38; 1 Cor 1:21 – commanded.
 - Not detriment – only possibility.

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“Without Divine election, evangelism would be much like a salesman trying to sell his products in a graveyard. Mankind is spiritually dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1), and only through the gracious act of God in electing, predestinating, and regenerating a specific people, will anyone ever turn to Christ.”

Michael Horton

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"The greatest missionaries that have ever lived have believed in God's choice of them; and instead of this doctrine leading to inaction, it has ever been an irresistible motive power, and it will be so again. It was the secret energy of the Reformation. It is because free grace has been put into the background that we have seen so little done in many places. How can men say that the doctrine of distinguishing grace makes men careless about souls? Was Whitefield a man who cared nothing for the salvation of the people? He who flew like a seraph throughout England and America unceasingly proclaiming the grace of God, was he selfish?... time would fail me to tell of the lovers of men who have been lovers of this truth." - C. H. Spurgeon

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- o James 1:18; 1 Pet 1:22-25 – Success is God’s Word and work!
- o 1 Cor 3:6-7 – sinners resignation.
- o John 16:8; 1 Thess 1:5 – sovereign conviction.
- o 2 Cor 2:16 – our role.
- o John 8:24; 10:25-26 with Acts 2:22-23; John 13:18 with Mat 26:24 – man’s accountability.

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"I do not come into this pulpit hoping that perhaps somebody will of his own free will return to Christ. My hope lies in another quarter. I hope that my Master will lay hold of some of them and say, "You are mine, and you shall be mine. I claim you for myself." My hope arises from the freeness of grace, and not from the freedom of the will. Free will carried many a soul to hell, but never a soul to heaven." - C. H. Spurgeon

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- **Conclusions to this study:**
 - All Christians have the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing.
 - Some Christians are called to special evangelistic efforts.
 - God has determined the ends (who will be saved), and the means (evangelism – corporate & personal).
 - The New Testament places great emphasis on personal preparation, and readiness for evangelism.
 - Prayer is integral and necessary for evangelism's success.

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- **Conclusions to this study continued:**
 - **God uses the true Gospel (the rightness or biblical accuracy of the message is essential) in conjunction with the Holy Spirit in order to effect salvation in the elect.**
 - **Even though man is not capable of himself to believe, he is accountable. This also becomes a component of the evangelistic message seen in the law, and because of man's compunction to sin.**