



## EVANGELISM

### You Need Something to Do?

- We've talked about the importance of **WORSHIP**
- We last talked about how we can serve our Brothers and Sisters in **MINISTRY**

#### SLIDE

- Do you feel like you need something to do?
- Good news!

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- You were made for a **MISSION**
- God is hard at work in the world, and He wants you to join Him

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- When you reach out to your **BELIEVERS** it is called **MINISTRY**

#### SLIDE

- Reaching out to **UNBELIEVERS** it is called **EVANGELISM**

- ***What's the Mission you were made for?***
- "Mission" comes from a Latin word that means "Sent"
- A Missionary is one who is "sent" into the world as a representative of Christ
- We are sent...

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- John 20:21

21) Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so **I am sending you.**"

- Jesus clearly understood **HIS** Mission in Life
- At age 12 he said, ***"I must be about my Father's business"***
- 21 years later he said, ***"It is finished"***
- But, we are now the body of Christ, so we now have that same mission...
- What he did in his physical body, we are now supposed to continue in his spiritual body
- The mission is quite clear:

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- Mark 16:15

15) And he said to them, "Go into all the world and **proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.**"

- God wants to save as many people from death as possible
- God wants to fulfill His purposes in everyone, so that everyone can love Him,

be a part of His family, become like Him, serve Him, and tell others about Him

- Fulfilling this mission is an essential part of living for God's glory

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- Here are **6** reasons the scriptures give us to show why your mission is important

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**1)** Your mission is a **CONTINUATION** of Jesus' mission

- We looked at the Great Commission that Jesus gave us in Matthew 28:

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- Matthew 28:19-20

- 19) 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,
- 20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- Jesus says this to **EVERY** one of his followers...
- Not just to missionaries
- This is your commission from Jesus, and is not optional
- ***It's called the Great Commission, not the Great Suggestion***
- We are familiar with the concept of a Watchman
- God holds us responsible for the unbelievers around us

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- Ezekiel 3:18

- 18) If I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood **I will require at your hand**.

- ***You are the only Christadelphian that most people will ever meet***

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- It is your **MISSION** to continue to share God's message of hope and salvation with them

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**2) Your mission is a wonderful PRIVILEGE**

- Being a Watchman is a big responsibility, but it's also a big honor

- We are given two great honors:

a) Working with God

b) Being representatives of God and Christ

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- 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:20

- 20) Therefore, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

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- ***We are not only received by God, but he trusts us enough to send us out also***

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**3) Telling others about God is the greatest GIFT you can give them**

- If your neighbor had cancer, and you knew the cure...
- It would be criminal of you to withhold that lifesaving information
- If you know the way to forgiveness, grace and eternal life...
- And withhold that information from your neighbor, then it's even worse
- You have the greatest news in the world...
- Sharing it with someone is the greatest love you can show to someone
- It's a wonderful feeling to give a great gift to someone, and to see their response...
- How much more wonderful to share God's Kingdom with them!
- Often, if you grow up in the Truth, or if you have been baptized for many years you forget how hopeless you can feel without God in your life
- Remember that no matter how contented or successful people **APPEAR** to be, without God in their life they are hopelessly lost and headed for death
- And **YOU** have the ability to help change all that

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#### **4) Your mission has **ETERNAL** significance**

- What you say to someone can impact their lives for eternity
- This is more important than any other goal or career or achievement in your life
- ***The consequences of your mission will last forever***
- ***The consequences of your job will not***
- Nothing else you do will ever matter as much as helping people establish an eternal relationship with God

- That is why we have to be **URGENT** about our mission

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- John 9:4
  - 4) We must work the works of him who sent me **while it is day**; night is coming, when no one can work.
- God wants you to share the good news where you are...
- As a student, or a mother, or a salesman, or a preschool teacher, or a manager... or whatever you do...
- ***You should continually be looking for the people that God places in your path with whom you can share the gospel***

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- Because it has **ETERNAL** consequences for their life

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**5)** Your mission gives **MEANING** to your life

- ***The best use of your life is to spend it on something that outlasts it***
- Only the Kingdom is going to last forever
- Everything else in this world will eventually vanish
- That is why we walk with purpose
- Lives committed to Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry and Evangelism
- That is why we share our hope with others
- ***Everything else doesn't matter***

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- Acts 20:24
  - 24) But **I do not account my life of any value** nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.
- There are people out there whom only **YOU** can reach
- Because of who God has made you, and where He has caused you to live

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- *If just one person is in the Kingdom because of your efforts*
- *Then all of your efforts will be worth it*

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- **6)** The timetable for the return of Christ is **CONNECTED** to the completion of your mission
- Everyone has always wanted to know when God was going to establish his Kingdom
- Even the apostles asked Jesus the same question
- *Look closely at his answer:*

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- Acts 1:6-8
  - 6) So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, **will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?**”
  - 7) He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

8) **But** you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- The apostles wanted to talk about the time of the Return
- ***Jesus switched the topic to their mission of being witnesses to all the world***
- We don't know when the return of Christ will be
- But, we do know that the preaching of the Gospel has to happen **BEFORE** the return of Christ

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- Matthew 24:14

14) And this gospel of the kingdom **will be proclaimed throughout the whole world** as a testimony to all nations, and

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**then the end will come.**

- if you really want God to fulfill His plan for the Earth
- Then get to work at fulfilling your mission!
- ***What is the best way for you to share God's message with others?***

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- 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 1:8

8) For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but **your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.**

- ***God has given you a message about your life that He wants you to share with those who are around you***



- ***God wants to speak to the world through you***
- You may think you don't have any story to tell
- But, that is not true...

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- 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:9-10
  - 9) If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son.

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- 10) **Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself.**
- **EVERYONE** that believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart
  - ***That means you!***

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- ***What is your Life Story?***

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- Your Life Story contains **4** parts:
- 1) Your Life Story Contains Your TESTIMONY**
- ***Your Testimony is the most powerful preaching tool you have***
  - ***Your Testimony is the story of how God has made a difference in your life***

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- 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:9
  - 9) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that **you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**
- This is the essence of witnessing...
- ***Simply sharing your personal experiences about God with someone else***
- In a courtroom, witnesses aren't expected to argue the case, prove the point or press for a verdict...
- ***Witnesses simply report what happened to them***
- ***But, it's the witnesses that convince the jury!***
- God calls us to be Witnesses, not Attorneys
- He simply wants us to share our Testimony with others
- Sharing your Testimony is an essential part of your mission because it is unique
- There is no other Testimony just like yours, so only you can share it
- If you don't share it, then it will be lost forever
- You may not be a Bible Scholar, but you are an authority on **YOUR** life
- It's hard to argue with personal experience
- ***Shared stories build a bridge between people, and allow relationships to grow***
- It's through these relationships with others that the Gospel spreads from your heart to theirs
- Many people are put off by the Bible, and won't listen to talk about it

- ***But, they will listen to a humble, personal story***
- Consider the Apostle Paul...
- No one else in the Bible uses Testimony as often as Paul
- On six separate occasions we have records of him sharing his Life's Story

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- 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:15

15) but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to **make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you**; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

- ***The best way for you to be ready, is to write out your testimony, and memorize the main points***
- Most Testimonies easily divide into four easy parts:
  - a) What your life was like before you came to the Truth
  - b) What made you realize that you needed to be baptized
  - c) How you went about committing your life to Christ
  - d) The difference in your life since coming to God
- You will probably want to focus on different parts of this message...
- Depending on who you are talking to, what the context is, and where they are in their life

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- ***But, the message is the same...***
- God has brought meaning and purpose to your life, and they can have it also
- That is your Testimony

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### **2) Your Life Story Contains Your LIFE LESSONS**

- ***You know certain truths that God has taught you from your experiences with Him***
- These are lessons and insights you have learned about life
- These Life Lessons are incredibly valuable to the people around you who are continually struggling with life's problems, temptations and relationships
- Keep a journal of the spiritual lessons you have learned
- Write down your major Life Lessons...
- And be brave enough to share them with the people around you
- Look at your life and see what lessons you can extract that will be helpful to others
- *What has God taught me from **failure**?*
- *What has God taught me from a **lack of money**?*
- *What has God taught me from **pain and sorrow**?*
- *What has God taught me from **depression**?*
- *What has God taught me from **waiting**?*
- *What has God taught me from **illnesses**?*
- *What has God taught me from **disappointment**?*
- *What has God taught me from **my family**?*
- *What has God taught me from **my ecclesia**?*

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### **3) Your Life Story Contains Your **GODLY PASSIONS****

- ***God is a passionate God***
- He passionately loves some things
- He passionately hates other things
- As you grow closer to God...
- ***You will also become more passionate about something***
- Whether it's a problem, a purpose, a principle, or a group of people...
- You will feel compelled to speak up about it and do what you can to make a difference
- ***You cannot keep yourself from talking about what you care about most***
- Your passion is often related to something you have experienced yourself:
- Abuse, addiction, infertility, depression, illness, etc.
- Or your passion may be related to a group of people that you feel aren't able to speak up for themselves:
- The young children, the poor, the imprisoned, the disadvantaged, etc.
- You might have a passion for a purpose:
- Starting a new Ecclesia, strengthening families, promoting Bible study, etc.
- You may have a passion to reach out to a group of people you feel close to:
- Businessmen, teenagers, young mothers, certain nationalities, etc.
- ***God give us all different passions so that everything he wants done will get done***

- Speak openly and freely about your passions to others...
- Because God is speaking through you to bring them to His Gospel

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#### **4) Your Life Story Contains The GOOD NEWS**

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- 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:19

19) that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and **entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.**

- *The Good News is that we have learned that we can trust God's grace to save us, through the sacrifice of Jesus, our sins are forgiven, and we are given a place in God's Kingdom*
- We are compelled, inspired and motivated to share this Good News with others...
- *When we come to appreciate the value of it in our lives*

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- 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:14

14) For the **love of Christ controls us**, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;

- The death of our Lord is what really motivates us to share God's Word with others
- *To realize that God loved the stranger beside you SOOOO much that he allowed His only son to die so that the stranger might live...*
- That **HAS** to motivate you to reach beyond your comfort zone, and say something meaningful to the person beside you

- A parent will run into a burning building to save the life of their child
- Because their love for the child is so strong
- For you to be successful at reaching out to others, you have to ask God to fill your heart with love for the people around you
- God doesn't want any to be lost
- God wants everyone to be saved

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- It's your job...

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- *The Great Commission is* **YOUR COMMISSION**
- The message of these classes has been very consistent...

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- *Don't focus on yourself in your service to Christ*
- **FOCUS ON OTHERS**

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- *Don't spend your time trying to use God for your purposes, but rather seek to find out how* **YOU can be used for GOD'S PURPOSES**
- The best purpose that God has for you **RIGHT NOW** is sharing His message with everyone around you
- To do so, you may find it helpful to make some adjustments to your mental attitude

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- There are 4 shifts in your thinking that will help you to be a better missionary

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### 1) Shift from **SELF**-Centered Thinking to **OTHER**-Centered Thinking

- We've said this several times in these classes, and it is true here also...
- But, this is probably the hardest thing for us to do
- Humans are naturally self-absorbed, and billions of dollars of advertising is spent to encourage you to think of yourself
- The best way to make this paradigm shift is by developing a moment-by-moment dependence on God
- A very real awareness of God in your everyday life
- Begin by asking God to help you to think of the spiritual needs of unbelievers when you talk to them
- Learn to develop the habit of saying quick, silent prayers when you meet people
- ***"Father, help me understand what is keeping this person from you"***
- Try to figure out where others are in their spiritual journey...
- And then figure out what you can do to bring them closer to God

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- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:33
  - 33) just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, **not seeking my own advantage, but that of many**, that they may be saved.



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- Start thinking of others

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### **2) Shift from **LOCAL** Thinking to **GLOBAL** Thinking**

- God loves the whole world
- God is not a White Anglo-Saxon
- God does not only speak English
- God is not Middle-Income
- Almost every verse connected to preaching in the New Testament speaks of the **ENTIRE WORLD**
- From the very beginning of time...
- God desired to reach out to **ALL** men...

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- Acts 17:26-27
  - 26) And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,
  - 27) **that they should seek God**, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us
- To start thinking globally you should begin praying for Brothers and Sisters in other countries
- Pay attention to the Bible Mission News
- Find out what countries are active and have preaching efforts going on

- Learn the names of your Brothers and Sisters who have dedicated themselves to preaching in those countries
- Pray for God to bring success to the efforts being done in His name around the world

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- 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 1:11

11) You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the **prayers of many**.

- ***Prayer is the most important tool for your mission in this world***
- ***They can reject your message, and refuse your love***
- ***But they are defenseless against your prayers***
- What do you pray for:
- Pray for opportunities to witness
- Pray for the courage to speak up
- Pray for the welfare of the newly baptized
- Pray for the spread of the Gospel
- Pray for more workers to go into the fields
- To really get yourself thinking globally, go visit Brothers and Sisters in another country
- There is simply no substitute for hands-on, real life experience in another country
- ***You will look back on that visit, and realize it was a turning point in your life***

### SLIDE

- Start thinking Globally

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#### **3)** Shift from **“HERE AND NOW”** Thinking to **ETERNAL** Thinking

- To make the most of the few years that you have here on the Earth
- You have to develop an **ETERNAL** perspective
- *This will help keep you from MAJORING on MINOR issues*
- *This will help you distinguish between what is URGENT and what is ULTIMATE*

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- 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:18

18) as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. **For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.**

- Too often we waste our time on things that won't even matter a year from now

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- *Don't trade your life for temporary things*
- *Think about Eternal things*

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#### **4)** Shift from thinking of **EXCUSES** to thinking of **CREATIVE USES** of ways to fulfill your commission

- *If you are willing, there is always a way...*

- Sarah felt she was too old to be used by God
- Moses felt that he couldn't speak well
- Jeremiah felt he was too young
- ***There will ALWAYS be a legitimate, reasonable excuse to stop you from preaching...***
- ***But, God's purpose for you is more important than any of the excuses***
- Instead, turn that same energy into finding an inventive, creative, and unique way that allows you to fulfill God's commandment to preach
- Find a way to preach...

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- Because... If you are looking for something to do... ***God has a Job for you!***
- ***Reaching out to unbelievers, fulfills your role as a Missionary***

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- **EVANGELISM** is one of God's purposes for you