

holding gospel meetings in every town where the church does not exist? Any one of a number of rich brethren could make that possible! Following the Bible in all things; note the command: “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). Note the early Christians: “Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word” (Acts 8:4). Philip went to Samaria and preached and converted many there and then went on to the eunuch and converted him and then went to “Azotus: and **passing through he preached in all the cities**, till he came to Caesarea” (Acts 8:40). Believe it or not, some opposed what we are doing, cut out our support and did not want to hear the above. One elder said to me “Don’t bring up Acts chapter 8.” I said “I must, it is Bible!” And I brought it up again and still do. Acts 8 will meet us in the Judgment! It is a shame that some will not support good works and to the point of willingly forgetting about a Bible example given to us by God. Note also Paul: “And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues” (Acts 9:20) and went about preaching in many places. “Peter passed throughout all quarters” (Acts 9:32). Paul and Barnabas were “sent forth” by the church (Acts 13:3,4 cp. Rom. 10:15).

**We are well able to evangelize the world now if only we would.** As one preacher reportedly said of an evangelistic work “We have the money for the work, the only problem is the money is still in your pockets.” I have for a long time believed that we are well able to evangelize the world in our time **IF** we would (cp. Num. 13:30). God has not given us an impossible task. And always remember “we are labourers together with God” (1 Cor. 3:9). How then can we fail? Well, some are failing but some others are not. God has given us the message and the means by which we can convert the world, but some are hoarding those blessings up for themselves living extravagant lives and millions of cold cash in the brotherhood gathering rust as a witness in the Day of Judgment! All while a sin sick world is headed straight to hell without ever hearing the gospel because we have misused the blessings and means by which God has given to His people to carry out His work!

**Art thou come to the kingdom at such a time as this O rich man (cp. Est. 4:14)???** Surely so, but what will you do? Sadly, many choose the way of Judas and rob God and many of the lost the opportunity to hear the saving gospel. It is surely a matter of faith and trust in God. Thanks be to God for those few who have faith. “But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: ... <sup>21</sup>So *is* he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God” (Luke 12:16-21). That night is coming for us all! ♥



## “Hold fast the form of sound words”

SW

(II Tim. 1:13 cp. Tit. 1:9; Jude 3)



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### Evangelism: Converting Self (Part 2)

**“And yes YOU also can be a Paul, a Peter, a Steven, a Phillip, a Restoration worker, a personal worker, a financial supporter of the very greatest work on earth!”**

by Perry Sexton

**When one is truly converted** will he not seek to learn how to give to the Lord (see part 1) and indeed give himself to God: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service” (Rom. 12:1).

**The old adage: “I’d rather see a sermon any day as to hear one”** has a lot of meaning to it. However, hearing is important, but often times a wayward life will surely dampen the words of truth. Recently a preacher relayed a story of himself and another “brother” door knocking years ago. He said they came to one house and the man knew the “brother” with him. The preacher, upon stating the purpose of their visit, said the man whom they were visiting looked at the “brother” with unbelief and said something to the effect of “You mean you are a Christian!” The man kept on talking about how he couldn’t believe the “brother” was a Christian. Well, it was obvious that the “brother” was not living the Christian life but that he was playing the hypocrite. Now just how effective can a person like that be in evangelizing? “Do as I say and not as I do” just does not work very well at all. Thus we are brought to another situation of like kind.

**“I would never go there with that hypocrite.”** Of course as Christians we know the other side of this: The ones who make this argument are highly inconsistent not being willing to suffer with the hypocrite for a while on earth and perhaps truly convert him by their own good examples and words, but they are willing to be with the

hypocrite forever and ever in eternity!!! Perhaps they never think of this. Often times such statements are just excuses and when making excuses one is just as good as another. But at the same time there is verity in the statement. No one should want to be in fellowship with hypocrites. And if we are, are we not guilty with them and guilty of hindering the gospel of Christ (cp. Eph. 5:11; 2 John 1:10,11, etc.)? But many brethren and congregations will not obey God concerning the erring (2 Thess. 3:6) and therefore greatly hinder evangelization and edification of the church and so stand guilty before God!

**Another problem is inviting people to services and then not being at the services yourself!** I have heard several accounts of this very thing happening and what effect do you think it has on the prospect? When the church member does not love God and seek God and the church first (Matt. 6:33; John 14:15) it will show up in his attendance (Heb. 10:25). Where are our priorities? Are we truly converted ourselves?

**We must live the Christian life to be effective in evangelization.** Then the people will see the “sermon” and hear the sincere invitation to visit the services of the church. We must be lights. Jesus said: “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. <sup>16</sup>Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 5:17). Christianity and evangelism go hand in hand. We are talking about living the Christian life which includes evangelism.

**Love is the motivating force** (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8). God is love (1 John 4:8). As the offspring of God we must be the children of love (ibid.). Do we have the love of God in us to carry on the work of our Father? As Jesus said “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4). So must our minds be! Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10); and so we are commissioned (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15).

**But yet some say they cannot evangelize.** Yes you can. If you can be a Christian, you can evangelize. And what person on earth cannot be a Christian? If you are a faithful member of a faithful evangelistic congregation you are already helping to evangelize by your giving. You are not faithful if you are not giving to the Lord as you ought (1 Cor. 16:1,2; 2 Cor. 8:5,8,9; 9:6,7; Luke 16:1-15; Mal. 3:8ff). And this seems to be the determined fate of many church members (see part 1). There are many very rich church members

whose affection is truly upon worldly things, but they do present themselves before the Lord at least once a week as it is their duty and only duty they sadly think!

**Much eternal good could be done by just one of these rich members if** they were truly converted and determined to do all they can in evangelism. Just think, if one would turn loose of a few thousand dollars of the multitudes of thousands they have in store (cash in banks, lands, etc.); just think how much good could be done! And if those many members with millions laid up in store would turn loose of just a few million – think how much good could be done. Oftentimes people think of being back in the days of Paul or during the Restoration Movement and think of how they would have done so and so good (help in evangelistic works). But what they fail to realize is:

**Evangelistic works abound in the world today: foreign needs and domestic!** Anyone of the great number of rich people among us could do so much good abroad and or at home. There are around 717 counties in this country alone without the church of Christ. **And yes YOU also can be a Paul, a Peter, a Steven, a Phillip, a Restoration worker, a personal worker, a financial supporter of the very greatest work on earth!** If by no other means use your money to support those sound brethren who are willing to go.

**Use your wealth for the glory of God.** Joseph of Arimathaea was rich and gave his very own tomb for the Lord (Matt. 27:57-60). Some may say “Well, yeah, if I had been there **I** would have buried the Lord in the very best grave possible – **I** would have even done better than Joseph. Well brother or sister you are not there and your life **now** is proof of what you would have done if you had been there! If this is not so, why isn’t it? You have as great an opportunity here now to do as great works or greater works because there is such a great need in the world and even in this country today. We can be greatly involved in resurrecting dead evangelistic works. We can be involved in preaching the gospel to a lost and dying world which is the Lord’s will and for which God gave His Son to die and for which Jesus did die. How shall we neglect, ignore, and turn away from such great opportunities as we have??? Yet it seems many would rather die with their wealth as a rusty witness against themselves (cp. James 5:3). I speak of those who are rich, but not rich toward God (Luke 12:21). Those who are infected with the world ( cp. Luke 8:14; 2 Peter 2:20-22; 1 John 2:15-17).

**Would it not be wonderful to have a good dedicated sound in doctrine team to go across this great nation door knocking and**