

- **Apostles (Acts 2).**
- **Peter and John “went” to the temple (Acts 3:1).**
- **Stephen** (Acts 6:8ff).
- **Phillip** “went” (Acts 8:5ff).
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Note that in each example they went to the lost. It seems most of us want them to come to us in this Age and surely that is one reason we are not converting that many. We surely know about Paul and those that worked with him, but Phillip is also a very good example. Phillip went to Samaria (Acts 8:5), then on to the eunuch (v.29). The eunuch was converted and Phillip went on to “Azotus: and passing through he preached **in all the cities**, till he came to Caesarea” (Acts 8:40).

2. **Convert those who have fallen** (Matt. 10:6; Gal. 6:1; James 5:19,20).

If every congregation had every wayward member within their area restored I would guess many would at least double their numbers. **Just think of the souls that would be saved.** Much emphasis is given by our Savior concerning those gone astray (Luke 15, etc.). Far too often a member of the church falls away and the church does nothing at all about it. They do not visit, they do not call, and they do not even pray for the member. What a shame on us!!! Hear the Scriptures: “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; ²⁰Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins” (James 5:20).

3. **Strengthen the converted** (John 21:15-17; Acts 20:28).

By the verses cited above we can see the grave importance of this. By observation and hearing others talk it seems our preaching has changed and the basics are not being taught, and the young and the new converts never understand the difference between us and the denominations. In some places I see very little difference!

Certainly much more can be brought from the Bible about evangelization, but the point is, we have God given instructions and examples. We just need to work the works Jesus has given us to do! “... that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together” (John 4:36). ♥



“Hold fast the form of sound words”

SW

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



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Evangelism: Converting The World (Part 9)

(Learning From Jesus And Following His Instructions)

by Perry Sexton

Acknowledging the fact that the gospel was to be preached to the Jews first (Rom. 1:16; Matt. 10:6); and that the kingdom/church had not yet been established; let us learn and apply the instructions to us from the Limited Commission (LC). They were to “Go” in the LC and we still are to “Go” in the Great Commission (GC). They were to preach the Word bidden them, so are we. From the LC we learn further: “And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, **shake off the dust of your feet**” (Matt. 10:14).

This is one point that we should think about more and put into practice. Our Lord said it, why should we not give heed? Oftentimes we keep on evangelizing an area over and over while there are other areas, even in this country, who have not heard the truth the first time. Someone well said, “Everyone deserves to hear the gospel once, before anyone hears it twice.” That makes for good sermon and article quotes but I have not actually seen it practiced. Many areas are swamped with radio and TV shows while areas not so far away have none. We are so concerned with our own area we forget to evangelize the world. Certainly we should be concerned with our own area, but not to the point of beating a dead horse while other areas have not been evangelized. Let us be concerned for souls everywhere.

I am not suggesting that we give up on people – we should never do that, but why keep on and on trying to convert one particular person or one area when the time could be spent on a new prospect or area. And then, perhaps at a more suitable time try again with those

who have heard the truth already. Also, sometimes it takes time for the truth to soak in to people's heart and understanding.

The Formula Jesus Gave Us, And Examples

1. **Prepare**: Jesus prepared His disciples (Matt. 4:19. Ezra 7:10).
2. **Go**: both LC and GC (Matt. 10:6; Luke 10:1; Matt. 28:18; Mark 16:15).
 - **Sent by twos** (Luke 10:1; Acts 13:2-4).
 - **Sent by God and by the church** (Acts 13:2,3).
3. **Preach the gospel** (Mark 16:15; Rom. 1:16).
4. **Shake the dust off and keep going** (Matt. 10:14; Acts 13:46; 18:6). Don't keep beating a dead horse.
5. **Preach and teach the unconverted: "Go" to them!**
 - **Apostles** (Acts 2).
 - **Peter and John** "went" to the temple (Acts 3:1).
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6. **Convert those who have fallen** (Matt. 10:6; Gal. 6:1; James 5:19,20).
7. **Strengthen the converted** (John 21:15-17; Acts 20:28).

Let us consider each point in a little detail (please read all the verses):

1. **Prepare**: Jesus prepared His disciples (Matt. 4:19. Ezra 7:10).

The converted should be grounded in the faith (see #7). One great mistake is not having a new convert's class, or otherwise having extra home studies with the new converts that they might be well grounded. We all need a steady diet of sound doctrine and of evangelization. The church, every member, should be continually taught and encouraged in evangelization: from the basics of inviting others to more detail.
2. **Go**: both LC and GC (Matt. 10:6; Luke 10:1; Matt. 28:18; Mark 16:15).

The command and examples are clear; we are to "Go," i.e., take the gospel to the lost. Arguably, this can be accomplished in a number of ways such as the printed page, radio, TV, internet, and personal contact. In my opinion they all should be used as much as is feasible, but I am certain that personal contact is by far the best based on personal experience and asking others about their conversion. It would be good to ask each member of the church how their conversion came about. If you do I would like to receive the results of that.

- **Sent by twos** (Luke 10:1; Acts 13:2-4).
- **Sent by God and by the church** (Acts 13:2,3).

Although it is not a command, but we all can see the wisdom of going by twos and much could be said for that. When one is preaching the truth he is sent by God in a sense. Of course, good sound congregations which are able to do so should be involved in supporting good sound preachers who are willing to "Go."

3. **Preach the gospel** (Mark 16:15; Rom. 1:16).

The gospel must be preached in its entirety. People need to hear of God's love and how God loved us all and gave His Son for us. Christ and Him crucified needs to be preached (1 Cor. 1:23). But people must also be warned and taught about hell. From what I hear many preachers have ceased, or practically ceased preaching on hell.

4. **Shake the dust off and keep going** (Matt. 10:14; Acts 13:46; 18:6). Don't keep beating a dead horse.

Of course evangelize your area well, but do not stop there; go to the next area without the church even if it is not close to you. I have been very disappointed in some preachers over the years in their lack of evangelism. Some would not even study with ones nearby let alone travel some distance to study with one. And some definitely will not study with one if they know he/she will not be attending where they preach. My very first work out of preaching school and the very first person I converted in that work was a lady that lived in another town where the church existed. I had no thoughts of her attending where I was preaching, but I still traveled to her house to study with her. I asked a brother of the nearest congregation to go with me.

5. **Preach and teach the unconverted: "Go" to them!**