

The "E" Word

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Sunday, March 22, 2009

- **Mark 16:15, 16, 20 (NKJV)** And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16) He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." 20) And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen. (known as "The Great Commission," the mission of the Church, and why we exist!)
- This was Jesus' command before He left his disciples, and is to all who were to follow.
- **Matthew 5:14 (NKJV)** "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."
- As the church, we are to go into all the world and preach the gospel, and to be the 'light of the world' to all those around us. 15) Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. 16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (another way of expressing the Great Commission!)
- As the church we are to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. We are the light of the world. We are to let our light shine so that men may see Jesus in us and also follow Him.
- Our Mission! **Acts 1:8 (NJKV)** "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
- This scripture is saying to us our mission is to be witnesses in St. Louis, Illinois, Kansas, and all the nations.
- We need 'power' to fulfill the 'great commission' to tell all God has done for us.
- Peter and John got arrested and were threatened in order to shut them up.
- **Acts. 4:17-20 (NKJV)** "But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name." 18) So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19) But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. 20) For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."
- Peter and John replied that it was impossible NOT to tell all the wonderful things they had seen and heard and experienced through Christ, knowing others needed to hear.
- **Acts 5:40-42 (NKJV)** And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41) So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. 42) And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus *as* the Christ.
- They were beaten this time also, as well as threatened, yet counted it joy to suffer for the cause of Christ.
- Mystery of the "E". . . Why?
- The message today and next week is about a well-known word, "**Evangelism.**"
- It seems like an old, archaic word that is no longer relevant today. Many have tried to replace it with other words/phrases, i.e. "witnessing," "share your faith," "soul winning," etc.
- We are going to bring back the "COOL" factor in the word "Evangelism!"
- Apple Company bought out the "Mac" computer. In the early days, somebody at Apple came up with a marketing concept called "Apple Evangelists," and "Evangelism Marketing." Guy Kawasaki, a Christian, took it to a whole new level by going to Billy Graham's school of evangelism. There was no software, but Apple sent "evangelists" to the software people and talked about its value, and they came on board to write software for it. Then they decided to make all their happy customers 'evangelists' for the Mac. Apple fans proudly preached and proclaimed the 'good news' of Apple computers because of their convictions alone.
- An 'Evangelist' talks about what they believe in and they are excited about it! It's not for money.
- Marketers are 'paid' to do it, receiving money, or gifts.
- Evangelism means "Proclaiming Good News!," not "turn or burn, fly or fry."
- We must **tell** the great things God has done in and for us!
- Pastor Rick needed a laptop. His nephew told all the 'good news' of Apple as opposed to a pc. Rick bought a Mac simply because of the excitement and enthusiasm his nephew had for it.
- It is becoming more and more 'closed' in America to share the 'good news' of Jesus. We are looked at as hateful bigots, pushing our faith on someone.
- We are trying to change that thinking here at LCC, because we are happy, fulfilled people!

- It's not about trying to sell something like a Ford or Chevy. You have a choice. Both will get you where you need to go. You're free to do comparative shopping. But when it comes to your salvation and eternity, Jesus hasn't given us much wiggle room for comparative shopping. That is why His last words were, "Take this Good News, and go tell everyone. . ."
- It is like seeing a bridge out and NOT warning those who are speeding down the road to death if they continue on! An eternity in hell, without Christ, without His love, because we kept our faith to ourselves!
- The reason Jesus told us to tell about Him wherever we go is that eternity is so much greater than a bridge out!
- Eternity must remain in the forefront of our minds wherever we are!
- Pastor Donna is an evangelist because she tells everybody about everything she believes in, and gives it away, instead of selling it . . . she is an evangelist . . . not a marketer!
- **John 3:16-19 (NKJV)** (Jesus said) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18) He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19) And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
- **John 3:3 (NKJV)** Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
- **John 18:37 (NKJV)** Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."
- **John 14:6 (NKJV)** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
- **John 8:24 (NKJV)** "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins."
- Jesus is saying in this scripture there is only one way to heaven! There are not multiple paths to God! Jesus' heart is love in these declarations.
- Some say that Jesus was a good man, teacher, or prophet, but not the 'Son of God'. That doesn't 'cut it' for eternity!
- Why should I believe in Jesus above all others? The resurrection! The resurrection changes everything! It means Jesus is who He says He is, and did what He came to do!
- There is more hard evidence of Jesus' resurrection than for most scientific discoveries.
- Lee Strobel was an atheist who set out to prove the Gospel was false. Yet, the evidence for Jesus' resurrection was so strong he became a Christian, and wrote, "Case for Faith, Case for Christ." (There was at least 500 witnesses that Jesus' was resurrected!)
- Buddha's life was all about his search for enlightenment. He disowned his wife and children to search. Would you follow somebody that would abandon his family?
- **Luke 13:3 (NKJV)** "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."
- **Acts 4:12 (NKJV)** "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
- **"Roman Road"** to salvation! Use the scriptures (below) to lead people to 'salvation'. Know them.
- **Romans 3:23 (NKJV)** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- **Romans 6:23 (NKJV)** For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **Romans 5:8 (NKJV)** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- **Romans 10:9-10 (NKJV)** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10) For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- **Romans 10:13-14 (NKJV)** For "*whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.*" 14) How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?
- How will they believe unless they hear? How will they hear unless someone tells them?
- We don't need a lot of Bible knowledge and theology. We just have to be excited about even one thing God has done for us!
- All you need to know to share Jesus is He opened your eyes; you were blind and now you see!
- Tools for "Evangelism:" 1) **Prayer card**. List three people to pray for, and invite them to church for Easter Sunday. 2) **"Extreme Life Makeover" invite card**. Give the card to those you want to invite to church.
- From now on, focus outward!