

# The "E" Word

## "The Four Calls to Evangelism"

### Pastor Rick Shelton

### Sunday, March 29, 2009

- Recap of last week's message, the "E" word "Evangelism," and about the "Apple evangelists" fans who freely talk about their experiences as a Mac user.
- **Proverbs 11:30 (NKJV)** The fruit of the righteous *is a* tree of life, And he who wins souls *is* wise.
- He who does not win souls is foolish.
- This series of messages comes from something the Lord has personally dealt about with Pastor Rick, and that is him sharing the love of Jesus with others. The passion he is sharing today with us about evangelism is real. We must fulfill the portion of our life that is for this: to tell the 'Good News'.
- Pastor prayed to God to help him in this area. Then, he went back and studied the lives of those in the past who had been great soul winners, and it birthed a fire in him.
- One of those who greatly influenced Pastor was Jack Hyles, a pastor from First Baptist Church, in Hammond, Indiana. He was the one who began and championed bus ministry, Sunday afternoon visitation, and ministry to the 'shut-ins'. Pastor went as a kid with his mom and dad to visit an elderly lady who was in a wheelchair. His dad preached a message, and Marion Morris sang, "Where the Roses Never Fade." The elderly lady was crying. Marion went over to her husband and asked him if he wanted to be saved. He said, "Yes," and was led to Christ. This had such an impact on Pastor's life as a young man that he went back to study Jack Hyles life again. His most famous message was, "The Four Calls to Soul-winning." Today Pastor's preaching Jack's message with his own passion and stories, and calling it "The Fours Calls to Evangelism."
- Jack Hyles tried out for a church. When asked about their service, he said "I thought it stunk." He said he would change it to be like a Billy Sunday (Billy Graham) revival campaign. They hired him anyway. Months later the wealthiest member came to him saying they had a problem with his preaching. Every service was like a revival, and soul-winning. He said everyone was nervous about this. Jack said he would give them his answer Sunday night and he preached the following message, "There's a call from within, from without, from above, and from beneath."
- **Call from within: Acts 4:17-20 (NKJV)** Peter and John, after being beaten and threatened, said, "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."
- Jack Hyles, at 17 years old, was small (92 pounds), unpopular, stuttered, and never speaking. Jesse Cobb invited him to go soul-winning with him. They went to call on Kenneth Florence, a well-known, huge football player. He answered the door. Jesse said, "Jackie has something to say to you." A terrified Jackie invited Kenneth to come to church, and he accepted. Jack borrowed a car and took Kenneth to church. He was determined to win a soul. At the invitation, he invited Kenneth to the altar. He accepted. They went to the pastor, and the pastor told Jackie to pray with Kenneth. Jackie stated he didn't know how to get him saved, but Kenneth said he knew how because every Sunday somebody would come to his house and invite him to church, and pray with him to be saved. He prayed a prayer of salvation. Fireworks of heaven exploded in Jackie. He was never the same. He brought 37 people to church and to the altar within the next seven days.
- Pastor Rick's call **from within**: Other pastors and people ask Pastor Rick, "Why don't you kick back and relax now." Pastor said, "I can't!" Pastor's first message was , **II Corinthians 5:14,(NKJV)** For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;
- **Call from without: Acts 16:9 (NKJV)** And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." (Macedonian Call)
- 1) All men without Christ are lost. 2) All lost men go to hell. 3) All men in hell burn forever and ever.

- In 1950, Jack Hyles went to East Texas to pastor. Although he had won people outside the church, he had not seen anyone saved inside the church. He lay on this father's grave for hours, and cried out to God saying he wouldn't get up until something changed inside of him. At his next service three people came forward and were saved. They had a tradition to ask them to be baptized and welcomed into the church. They sang a song and then went out to their tractors, horses and wagons to go home. As Pastor Jack was rejoicing, he felt a slap on his shoulder. A big guy, O. C. Pruitt, told him that his daughter Barbara wanted to get saved. Pastor Jack prayed with her and her sister Dorothy, her husband, Sam, and then finally O. C. Pruitt accepted Jesus as Savior. They all went through the ritual. That night changed Pastor Jack, and affected him forever.
- Wants you lead someone to Christ, you will never be the same again. It's the most exciting thing in the world! You will be changed forever!
- Call from above: **Hebrew 12:1 (NKJV)** Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
- A 'cloud of witnesses'? Pastor said for him that was his daddy (who has been in heaven for eight years), always had a love for lost souls, and for down and outers, and would lead them to Jesus and help them along the way.
- Call from beneath: Story of the rich man and Lazarus. **Luke 16:22-31 (NKJV)** So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. 23) And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24) "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' 25) But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. 26) And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' 27) "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, 28) for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' 29) Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' 30) And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' 31) But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'" The rich man in hell begged Abraham to send someone back to tell them please don't come here, but it wasn't possible.
- In preaching funerals, Pastor has often thought that if the one that died could come back they would preach a much more effective message.
- Jack Hyles went to see his dad who for eight years had worked and drank at a bar in Dallas, which was located across the street from a seminary. His dad was a drunk. In all those years nobody had come from the seminary to tell his dad about Jesus. Jack brought his dad home with him for New Year's Eve, and to hear him preach for the first time. His dad cried, but wouldn't go forward and give his life to the Lord. He told Jack that he would come back in the spring, get saved, and be baptized, and become a deacon in the church, but first he needed to go home and straighten some things out. Spring never came for Jack's dad. On May 12, he died of a heart attack.
- A couple of years later, Jack's sister came and asked to be led to salvation. Jack asked her why tonight? She said you preached about the rich man in hell tonight and it reminded me of a dream I had right after dad died. I saw a room full of caskets. An angel let me look at all their faces with beautiful smiles, but he wouldn't let me look at the last one. I broke away from the angel and looked anyway. It was dad. His face was one of agony and he was crying out, "Sister, sister, sister!" Now I know he was saying, "Sister, don't come here. Don't follow me here!" She said, "I realized tonight what that dream meant."
- Eternity is real! Heaven is real! Hell is real! Nothing is worth losing your soul over! Please today, accept Christ!