

Evangelism – Our Most Sobering Task

Excerpt from the Evidence Study Bible by *Ray Comfort*

Luke 10:2 “..The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; pray you therefore the Lord of the harvest, That He would send forth laborers into the harvest.”

Late in December 1996, a large family gathered for a joyous Christmas. There were so many gathered that night, that five of the children slept in the converted garage and were kept warm during the night by an electric heater placed near the door. During the early hours of the morning, the heater suddenly burst into flames, blocking the doorway. In seconds, the room became a blazing inferno. The frantic 911 call revealed the unspeakable terror as a child could be heard screaming, “I’m on fire!” The distraught father rushed into the flames to try to save his beloved children, receiving burns on 50% of his body. Tragically, all five children burned to death. They died because steel bars on the windows prevented their escape. There was only one door blocked by flames.

Imagine you’re back in time minutes before the heater burst in[to] flames. You gaze through the darkness at the peaceful sight of the five sleeping children, knowing what will happen. Can you in good conscience walk away? No! You must **awaken** them and warn them to run from the death trap!

The world sleeps peacefully in the darkness of ignorance. There is only one Door by which they may escape death. The steel bars of sin prevent their salvation and at the same time call for the flames of Eternal Justice. What a fearful thing Judgment Day will be! The fires of the wrath of a holy yet just Almighty God will burn for eternity.

The Church has been entrusted with the task of **awakening** them before it is too late. We cannot turn our backs and walk away in complacency. Think of how the father ran into the flames. His love knew no bounds. Our devotion to the sober task God has given us will be in direct proportion to our love for the lost. There are only a few who run headlong into the flames to warn them to flee (Lk 10:2). Please be one of them. We really have no choice. The apostle Paul said, “Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel (1Cor 9:16). “Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with *tears*” (Acts 20:31).

The Prince of Preachers, Charles Spurgeon said, “We need to be ashamed at the bare suspicion of unconcern.” A Christian cannot be apathetic about the salvation of the world. The love of God in him will **motivate him to seek and to save that which is lost.** Share your faith with family and friends. Pray for boldness to speak about what the Lord has done for you.

Remember every believer has the sobering responsibility of speaking to other people’s loved ones. Perhaps another Christian has prayed earnestly that God would use a faithful witness to speak to his beloved loved one, and you are the answer to that prayer (repentance toward God & faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ Acts 2-21).

Keep the fate of the ungodly before your eyes. Too many of us settle down on a padded pew and become introverted. Our world becomes a monastery without walls. Our friends are confined solely to those within the church when Jesus was a “friend of sinners.”

So take the time to deliberately befriend the lost, for the sake of their salvation. Remember that each and every person who dies in his sins has an appointment with the Judge of the universe. Hell opens wide its terrible jaws. There is no more sobering task than to be entrusted with the gospel of salvation, working with God for the eternal well-being of a dying humanity.”

Ray Comfort