

Hope of Glory

Love of God to Change the World for His Glory: Live It! Tell It!

I. Who Am I? Love of God in Restored Relationship with Us: The Church

What do we do to deserve salvation? Nothing. We put faith in Jesus Christ & what He did for us.

· a. We believe all people who put faith in the Lord Jesus, receive the Holy Spirit & are born again 2nd time, spiritually by the Holy Spirit: John 3:3; 1 Cor 12:13,27; Eph 1:13-14.

· b. We become a child of God, "One" with Him: 1 John 3: 1; John 17:20-21; Eph 1: 10.

· c. Focus is now on who we are: "the Church". Col.1:27; Eph 3:21.

II. Why Am I Here? It is a privilege & a responsibility for us, "the Church" to share the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ unto all the world. Jesus saw the problem & became the solution: Mt 9:36-38; Heb 12:2.

· a. It was the last command of Jesus Christ: Mt 28:18-20; Mk 16: 15; Lk 24:47; Jn 20:21; Act 1:8.

· b. He committed the Gospel to our Trust to Tell Others: 2 Tim 2:2; 2 Cor 5: 18-20.

· c. We need a right heart to go for Him: 2 Cor 5: 14-15.

III. What Do I Go Tell? The Gospel. Lk 24:46-47; 1 Cor 15:3-4.

1. God Loves you: John 3:16.

2. We all have sinned: Rom 3:23; 6:23.

3. Jesus Died on the Cross to pay the Penalty for Sin: 1 Pet 3:18.

4. Repent and Accept Christ as your Savior: Acts 3:19.

5. Go in the Power of the Lord: Acts 1:8.

IV. When Do I Go Tell? 2 Cor 6: 1-2. ["The Day of Salvation ..." is "Today!"]

V. Where Do I Go Tell? Mk 16:15 ["The Whole World"]; Acts 1:8 ["Jerusalem > Judea > Samaria > Uttermost Part of the World"]

VI. How Do I Go Tell?

· 1. Praying: 1 Tim. 2:8; Col 4:3.

· 2. Suffering: 1 Pet 5: 10; 1:7.

· 3. Looking Unto Jesus Heb 12: 1-2; 1 Pet 1:5.

· 4. Living in Light of Eternity: Tit 2: 13-14

- 5. Having Compassion: Acts 20:31.
- 6. Discerning with Meekness: 1 Pet 3: 15

VII. Why Do I Go Tell?

- 1. It is God's Will for all to be Saved: 1 Tim 2:3-4; 2 Pet 3:9.
- 2. Unsaved to Salvation; Saved to Restoration: James 5: 19-20.
- 3. Make a Difference in the World: Acts 17:6; 1 Thess 1:9-10; 7-8.
- 4. God Takes a People for His Name: Acts 15: 14.
- 5. Joy in Our Hearts: Heb 12:2; 1 Thess 2:19-20.
- 6. Triumph in Christ: 2 Cor 2: 14-16.
- 7. He that Wins Souls is Wise: Dan 12:3, Prov 11 :30.

IX. Where Am I Going?

- 1. Everlasting Life: John 11 :25-26.
- 2. Church - Bride of Christ- Saints Come with Christ at His 2nd Coming: 1 Thes 3: 12-13
- 3. To a Kingdom for All Who Love Him: James 2:5; Unmovable: Heb 12:28; Rom 14: 17.
- 4. To the Everlasting Kingdom of Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ: 2 Pet 1:10-11.
- 5. To a Heavenly Kingdom to All Who Love His Appearing: 2 Tim 4:5-8, 18; Phil 3:20.
- 6. God Dwells with All Believers Forever in Restored Complete Relationship Rev 21: 1-3,7

<p2>

X. What About Until Then?

- 1. Holy Spirit Works thru the Church to Evangelize the World to Eternal Life: Rev 22: 17.
- 2. Gospel of This Kingdom is Preached to the World: Mat 24: 14.
- 3. We Shall All be Changed & have a Glorified Body: 1 Cor 15:51-52: Rom 8:30; Phil 3:21.
- 4. So Shall We ever be together with the Lord: 1 Thes 4:16-18; John 14:2-3.

(Notes from: Correcting the Cults by Norman Geisler & Ron Rhodes)

Hope of Glory - Lost?

(Eph 3:21) Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Does the darkness of so many religions (other cults) overshadow the light of Christianity?

1. Doctrinal Characteristics of a Cult: Work to Earn God's Grace - Truth mixed with Error

2Pet 3: 17-18 " .. Beware unless you also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace & knowledge of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. " Watch out for a new revelation from God, Denial of sole Authority of the Bible for traditions, Denial of the Trinity or distorted View of God, Denial of Deity of Jesus Christ, Denial of Bodily Resurrection of Christ, or Denial of Salvation by Grace replaced by grace/works combination. Spiritual Danger: Counterfeit Jesus, counterfeit gospel, counterfeit salvation = no salvation.

2. Sociological Characteristics of a Cult: Leader becomes authority above the Bible

Exclusivism: We alone have the truth. Dogmatism: Only true church on earth,

Characteristics of Close -mindedness, Isolationism, Fear & Antagonism toward others.

Social Danger: Leader becomes authoritative substitute family over gullible members

3. Moral Characteristics of the Cult: Moral Deception

- a. Legalism - Setting down a rigid set of rules for members to live by.
- b. Sexual perversion, physical Abuse /Psychological Abuse: fear, intimidation, intolerance. Physical Danger: Mat 7: 15 "Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravening wolves." John 10: 10 "The thief comes not but to steal, kill & destroy. Jesus came that we might have life & have it more abundantly."

4. Cults are built on what founders say the Bible says. Jn 6:63 "Jesus words lead to eternal life.

If the Church was more zealous in true evangelism the world would have less cultic growth. [Sources] (1)From "Cult Evangelism-Mission Field on Your Doorstep" (2) From Kingdom of the Cults by Walter Martin Why are Cults Growing?

Has the Church failed to doctrinally train its members in sound doctrine which leads to the acceptance of false doctrine? Acts 20:30 "Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

Has the Church failed to make a real moral difference in the lives of its members?

Has the Church failed to meet people's greatest needs?

Has the Church failed to provide people with sense of belonging? Eph 4
"edifying itself in love"

The emphasis of a cult is self. It is self-salvation. It is moral depravity. Humanity against God. Rom 1:18 "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness & unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness. "

<p3>

I. Message of Evangelism

Christianity was a personal message entrusted to all who had experienced the power of its transforming properties in their own lives, who went from house to house, and turned the world upside down because they were not ashamed to proclaim it.

There is no substitute for a personal testimony of what Christ has done for someone. Christ sent them out two by two.

They went forward in the power of the resurrected Christ. Rom 1:16 "The Gospel is God's power unto salvation. " 1 Cor 15 :3-4

The Gospel is Deity of Christ, the substitutionary atonement of Christ on the cross & His bodily resurrection from the grave. John 1:45 Philip to Nathanael: "We have found Him, of whom Moses in the law & prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, son of Joseph. "

V-49 Nathanael : "You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel. " Jn 4:29 Woman at the well said, "Is not this the Christ" v-42 Samaritans believed & said, "This is Christ, Savior of the world." John 6:69 Peter, "We believe & are sure that You are Christ, Son of the living God ." Mt 18:20 They believed, "where 2 or 3 are gathered in My name, there am I in middle of them,"

2. Method of New Testament Church

2 Tim 2: 15 "Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed. rightly dividing the word of truth." Phil 2:15-16 "That you may be blameless and innocent, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the middle of a corrupt nation, among whom you shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ."

· We shine as lights in our world when we correctly handle and practice the word of truth.

Then others who follow this example can be used of God to set an example before still others. Together we can curb the growth of cults built on error, not God with the Good News enunciated & published fearlessly by believers. Act 20:20-21 " .. I taught you publicly, & From house to house .. in repentance toward God & faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."

Early Christians had incredible zeal in proclaiming the message of the living Christ, the Gospel of the Resurrection, the certainty of sins forgiven & the present possession of peace with God which was received

with power by those who heard the wonderful news of God.

What were Characteristics of the Evangelists?

- 1. They had experienced the person of the risen Christ.
-To come from death unto life Jn 5:24.
- 2. They were yielded to the Holy Spirit whom the world does not know because world is evil.
- 3. They obeyed the Word. 2 Cor 5:20 "You are ambassadors/or Christ."

Evangelism has the content of the Gospel as well as method of zeal, courage, and in an attitude of constant prayer.

The kingdom of the cults is progressing at an alarming rate utilizing the methods of Christianity.

1. There is just judgment of God on the Christian Church for lethargy in responsibility in evangelism.
2. Christians have taken for granted great doctrines of the Bible - believed on at conversion.
3. The average Christian knows what he believes but cannot explain it nor show Bible reference.
4. Many don't see evangelism as a pressing need.

We must follow what Christ asked us to do. **He did not ask us, the Church, to take control of the country's political power but to change hearts & lives of people through sharing the Gospel.** Familiarity with Christian doctrine will produce leaders to proclaim that Gospel of grace. We go door to door publishing the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ for a lost world not only because of false truths published by cultists which is a great tragedy of Christian Church but it is the final command of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.

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