

**Longview Baptist Temple**  
**Sunday School Lesson**  
**February 1, 2009**



**=I HAVE SET BEFORE THEE AN OPEN DOOR=**

World Evangelism

Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 24:45-48

**LESSON AIM:** From a study of the Scriptures to give understanding to the meaning of world evangelism and to understand what our responsibility is as a church and as individual Christians.

**INTRODUCTION:** We live on the planet called earth. There is, at the present time, about 6.7 billion who live on this same planet with us. The vast majority of these do not know anything about Jesus Christ, the Bible, or our God. What we, as Bible believers, have to deal with is this: do we, as Christians, have any responsibility of making known to the other earth dwellers anything about our "beliefs"? If we don't, let's forget it! What we believe isn't really important. IT is just for our own satisfaction and contentment. If we do, then we must know what that responsibility is and what we are to do about it.

**I. WHAT TO DO?**

- A. Three things we can do about world evangelism.
  - 1. Ignore it...Just completely ignore the Scriptures that deal with this subject.
  - 2. Explain it away...Come up with an explanation of the Scriptures that lets us off the hook.
  - 3. Believe it...Take the Bible at face value. Believing that Jesus meant what He said and said what He meant.
- B. What most fundamental Churches do.
  - 1. They believe it, or say they do and put forth a feeble effort at mission work.
  - 2. They only get involved enough to say, "We give to missionaries and we believe in missions."
- C. What we ought to do
  - 1. Either completely reject it or believe it with such an emphasis that we do as God has instructed us.
  - 2. We should believe this truth as we believe all other truths of the Bible. The revealed will of God made known unto all through His Word, the written Word. Luke 24:47.

**II. WHAT IS WORLD EVANGELISM?**

- A. Noah Webster defines evangelism –"to instruct in the Gospel; preaching or promulgation of the Gospel." This is what we are to do, all of us, instruct the world in the gospel; reach the gospel to the world!
- B. This is what we are NOT doing, while the communist sow the seed of Godless communist philosophy to the inhabitants of the world.
  - 1. A communist editor wrote, "The gospel is a much more powerful weapon for the renovation of society than our Marxist view. Yet it is we who shall conquer you in the end. We communists do not play with words, we are realists, and because we are determined to reach our end, we also know how to provide the necessary means." He continued, "How can anyone believe in the all surpassing value of this Gospel if you do not practice it, if you do not spread it, if you sacrifice neither your time nor your money for that purpose?"
- C. World evangelization is making the gospel of Jesus Christ available to the citizens of the world. Not a part of the world, but the world! The truth of God must be presented to them if it is His truth. If we believe what we say we believe, we must be involved in world evangelism.
  - 1. The bible is god's Word...not a book, but THE BOOK. II Timothy 3:15
  - 2. All men are depraved...lost hell-bound sinners. Romans 3:23
  - 3. Jesus Christ is the only Saviour...not a savior, but THE SAVIOUR. Acts 4:12

**III. THE BARRIERS TO WORLD EVANGELISM**

What stands in our way. Why are we not winning the battle. I simply mention the following for your consideration.

- A. Governments that are not friendly to the philosophy of Christianity. Many equate Christianity with the western world. Many governments have a national religion and are zealous with it.
- B. Religion
  - 1. Religions within other countries. Many religious leaders are also political leaders and hold sway over the people through pagan religious beliefs.
  - 2. Religion within our country. Many religionists of our land can see no need of carrying the gospel to other people. We list them under the following:

- a. Liberalism
  - b. Modernism
  - c. Extreme Calvinism
- C. Wrong ideology—Many well meaning born again Christians confuse world evangelism with a “foreign aid” type of governmental program.
- D. Immature believers—Many who name the name of Christ do not understand the task of the Church. Have no world vision.
- E. Inadequate instruction to believers.
- 1. Born again believers within the Church not knowing of their responsibility because pastors have never instructed them.
  - 2. Missionaries, full-time workers, pastor, etc. not knowing how to perform the task that God has assigned to the church. A waste of God’s money, even on the mission field. Time and talent wasted not knowing, not taking time to study the Scriptures or blinded to its truth.
- F. Ignorance, Spiritual.
- 1. Pastors and people who are ignorant of God’s plan. Many have assigned the task of world evangelism to just a few. A group of ladies, or youth group, etc.
  - 2. World evangelism is to be the pivotal point of the church’s ministry. Everything is to revolve around this one great truth, “Christ must be known to the world.”
- G. Indifference among God’s people.
- 1. Just don’t care. The so-what attitude. Amos 6:1
  - 2. Many feel bewildered by the largeness of the task.
- H. Involvement, lack of...a token involvement to satisfy the conscience. When it should be TOTAL INVOLVEMENT.
- I. Insatiable appetite of god’s people...The desire for materialism found in this generation of Christians.
- J. Inflation—worldwide...The shrinking of the dollar. It hurts here at home and abroad.
- K. Intense attack of Satan upon God’s people...This attack is upon the Christian who gives, the missionary who goes and the pastor who teaches his people. The attack is threefold...Spiritual, mental and physical.