

Strangely enough the word evangelism does not appear in the New Testament. Yet, we realize that we are commanded by Christ to be evangelistic. What does it mean to evangelize someone? Is every Christian to be an evangelist? What is evangelism? Let's look at the basics.

An evangelist is one who proclaims good news. The emphasis is not on how long a preacher is at a certain place, but rather on what he is saying. The preacher is a herald, or spokesman. His message is to be good news to the hearers. Of course, the word gospel means good news; therefore, an evangelist is one who preaches the gospel.

But evangelism is not to be done by only a select few or delegated to the preacher. The members of the first century church went everywhere preaching the gospel (Ac. 8:4). The church is involved in evangelism when it purposefully goes about the work of reaching lost souls with the gospel.

The most effective way to reach the lost is through "friendship evangelism." Christians simply share what Christ has done for them in their life, and invites the un-believer to investigate the promises and blessings of God. Once the non-Christian sees that your commitment to your new life is real, they are usually ready to hear the rest of the message (the plan of salvation).

Those who share their faith, usually grow in faith. I believe there is no greater joy in Christ, than teaching someone and watching them obey the gospel. Try it--you'll like it!

-gls