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APPENDIX:

Mobilizing Members for Evangelism

The amount of desire or lack of it that a Christian has to evangelize the lost is an indicator of his heart for God (cf. Rom. 9:1-3). If he sees a need to reach the lost and acts in response to that need, then he agrees with God's heart which desires none to perish but for all to come to repentance (cf. 2 Pet. 3:9; Ezek. 18:32; 33:11). The same is true for a church. The church which is evangelistic is alive, but the church that does not reach out to the lost is dead. God desires us to reach the lost, going even to the remotest parts of the earth to accomplish this (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8). Therefore, believers are not to be ashamed of the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16), but are to make the most of every opportunity with unbelievers in order to reach them (Col. 4:5-6).



Below are elements related to the gospel which are important for a person to know in order to share his faith.

1. Prerequisite (A clean heart) -- Psa. 51:10-13

King David, after he repented of his adultery with Bathsheba, asked God to create in him a clean heart and to renew or repair his spirit so that it would remain steadfast, immovable. Implied in this is an endurance David desired for God and the things of God. David then went on and asked God to restore to him the joy which he had experienced at his salvation, and that He would sustain him with a spirit that was willing, willing to do the will of God (implied). As a result of this restoration, David said: "*Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will be converted to You." Therefore, for David to be used of God, he had to be right with God. And for a believer to be used of God in reaching the lost for Christ, he too must be in a right relationship with God.

2. Task (We are ambassadors for Christ) -- 2 Cor. 5:17-21

At salvation, a person becomes a new creature in Christ. This transformation (Titus 3:5) makes the person new in how he views, understands and lives life. It also gives him a new nature (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10), "which in the likeness of God has been created in righteous and holiness of the truth" (Eph. 4:24). The old ways no longer dominate the new believer as they once did. This changed life

comes from God who reconciled the new believer to Himself. As a result of this transformation, God then gives each believer the ministry of reconciliation. In this ministry, the believer has been appointed as an ambassador for Christ. His task is to be involved in the process of reconciling the lost to God. He does this by taking and proclaiming the message of his God who sent him. The message is, "that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them" because "He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (vss. 19, 21). This is God's plan, God's desire.

3. Message (Christ died for our sins and rose again; believe) -- 1 Cor. 15:1-4; John 1:12

The basic message that the believer needs to take to the lost world is the message which the Apostle Paul delivered to the Corinthians: " Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." Therefore the believer's message is that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again three days later. When a person accepts this message about Christ by faith, he becomes a child of God.

4. Vehicle (Serve others) -- 1 Cor. 9:19; 10:33

The primary way in which believers are to reach the lost is through serving them. The Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:19: "For though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more." Though Paul was not in bondage to any man as a free Roman citizen, he made himself a slave to others that he might win them to Christ. He became their servant. And how did he manifest this principle? By taking into consideration their culture (vss. 20-21), religious world view (vss. 20-21), and their social-economic status (vs. 22). He became as they were in those areas where he could while still remaining under the law of Christ (vs. 21) for the purpose of reaching them for Christ (vs. 23). Paul's philosophy was, "just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the *profit* of the many, so that they may be saved" (1 Cor. 10:33).

5. Agent (The Holy Spirit) -- 1 Cor. 2:14; John 16:7-11

First Corinthians 2:14 states: "But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised." Without the work of God in the life of an unbeliever, he cannot come to understand the things of God. To him they are foolishness because they can only be understood by those with spiritual insight. Since the unbeliever does not have this understanding, he needs the work of God the Holy Spirit in his life, which is His ministry in the church age. We see this in the words of Jesus when He said of the Holy Spirit: "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, be-

cause I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged." As a result of the work of the Holy Spirit in a man's life, he is able to understand that he is a sinner, that Jesus is the righteous Savior, and that one day judgment will come upon him. Therefore, as a believer witnesses for Christ, he needs to understand that the Holy Spirit is the One whom he must depend upon in this process. Without His work of conviction, the unbeliever will not be able to understand and give his life to Christ. Evangelism is a partnership between the believer and the Holy Spirit, and the believer should approach each evangelistic opportunity with the knowledge that the Holy Spirit is there with him and assisting him.

6. Necessity (Prayer) -- Col. 4:2-4

The Apostle Paul told the Colossians to devote themselves to prayer, praying for him and his companions, that God would open up a door for them to be able to speak to others about Christ. He also asked them to pray that they would know clearly what they were to say to people as they spoke to them. Therefore, prayer is a very important aspect of the evangelistic endeavor if we expect to have success. It paves the way for Spirit-led and Spirit-directed opportunities to share Christ.

7. Approach (With grace and sensitivity) -- Col. 4:5-6

Paul also spoke to the Colossians about their approach to evangelism. He explained to them how they were to treat others when speaking to them about Christ. He told them that they were to use wisdom in these encounters, making the most of each opportunity. In so doing, they were to be gracious in how they spoke, in a sense seasoning their words with salt so that their responses to unbelievers would be palatable and not distasteful. This of course does not mean that they were to modify the gospel message to make it more agreeable to the listener so that he would then accept Christ as his Savior. But it is presenting the gospel message in a manner that is kind, understanding, and appropriate to the situation. It is speaking the truth in love, even firmly when necessary, yet in a way that does not turn the listener away because he is speaking with harsh, inconsiderate words. As Paul stated, the believer is to know how to respond to each person to whom he witnesses. This means that the believer is to be sensitive to each person, seasoning what he says so that it is just right for that individual, giving him just enough information and no more.

Salvation Verses to Memorize:

Below are some basic verses that believers should know so that they can witness to others more effectively.

Genesis 1:27	Romans 5:8
John 1:12	Romans 6:23
John 3:16	Romans 10:9-10
John 5:24	Ephesians 2:8-9
John 10:10	Hebrews 9:27
Acts 10:43	1 Peter 3:18
Acts 16:31	1 John 5:11-13
Romans 3:23	