

Foundations Lesson #7

Sharing the Gospel Message

Peter, in his first letter, tells his readers that they should always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks them to give the reason for the hope that they have (I Peter 3:15). He then adds that this must be done with gentleness and respect. Jesus commanded his followers: “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:15-16, see also Matthew 28:18-20). These passages of Scripture should help us understand the importance of sharing the gospel message.

I. In sharing the gospel message, God has made us...

- ...ambassadors. – II Corinthians 5:18-20
- ...salt and light. – Matthew 5:13-16
- ...acknowledgers of Christ. – Matthew 10:32-33
- ...testifiers. – Revelation 12:11
- ...witnesses. – Acts 1:8

II. some reasons we are to share the gospel message

- God desires all to be saved. – I Timothy 2:3-4 / II Peter 3:9
- Heaven rejoices when one sinner repents. – Luke 15:7
- God says we should always be prepared to do so. – I Peter 3:15 / II Timothy 4:2
- We can “snatch people from the fire.” – Jude 23
- It is wise to do so. – Proverbs 11:30
- It gives us “full understanding of every good thing in Christ.” – Philemon 6
- God has ordained that people give the world the good news. – Romans 10:14-15
- We never know when we are next to someone who is close to death. – Acts 12:6, 18-19
- No one having known hell would want anyone else to go there. – Luke 16:22-28

III. ingredients necessary in sharing the gospel message

- compassion
 - God is a God of compassion. – Psalm 86:15
 - Jesus had compassion for the lost. – Mark 6:31-34
 - We are commanded to be full of compassion. – Colossians 3:12
- prayer
 - Moses prayed earnestly for those God was about to destroy. – Exodus 32:9-14, 31-32
 - Paul prayed with unceasing anguish for the Jews to be saved. – Romans 9:2-4a, 10:1

- personal contact

- HOW TO: The Bible contains many stories of people who led others into a living, personal relationship with the Lord. Andrew was so thrilled at finding Jesus that he found his brother Peter and introduced him to Jesus (John 1:40-42). Paul and Silas spoke to a jailer at midnight, preventing him from committing suicide, and leading him and his family to the Lord (Acts 16:27-33). Jesus spoke to a puzzled Rabbi at night (John 3:1-15), a woman outcast at noon (John 4:7-26), and many others. Wherever we find ourselves, God may be wanting us to share the gospel message. Here are some practical considerations on how this can be done best.

- making the most of every opportunity – Ephesians 5:15-16

- relating deeply to people's circumstances – I Corinthians 9:19-23

- being aware of a need – Mark 2:16-17

- being a good listener – James 1:19

- being consistent in what we say and how we live – I Corinthians 10:33 - 11:1

- being gentle and respectful – I Peter 3:15

- HOW NOT TO:

- being condemning

- being insensitive

- looking down at people

- treating the unsaved as evangelistic projects rather than people

IV. great truths about sharing the gospel message

- The need is great. – John 4:35

- Our need to share the gospel message is very urgent and very important. – John 3:36

- The time is now. – II Corinthians 6:2

- The field is the world. – Matthew 13:36-43

To fallen men, a dying race,
Make known the gift of gospel grace.
The world that now in darkness lies,
O church of Christ, **evangelize!**