

BENEFITS OF EVANGELISM

(Matthew 28:18-20)

- I. Evangelism keeps the gospel at the forefront of our minds.**
 - a. The gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
 - b. It is the gospel message received in one's heart that bears fruit for God (Colossians 1:5-6).
 - c. When you and I are actively seeking people with whom to study the gospel, we know that we have to study.
 - i. Questions are going to arise when we are with someone talking about the gospel.
 - ii. So many people believe so many different things that this has to be the case.
 - d. Since this true, if we are evangelistic, we know we have to be studying God's word, the gospel.
 - i. Our minds won't stray far from it because we are looking to talk to others about it.
 - ii. No one likes to say I don't know the answer to that question.
 - iii. In order not to say it, we have to study.
 - iv. However, even when we are studying, there will be times we don't know and that's okay.
 - v. I've never met anyone who knew everything about the Bible, but I have met some who thought they did.
 - vi. When you have to answer I don't know, that will make you study harder.
 - vii. And always follow up the I don't know with but I will find out the answer and get it to you.
 - e. If we are going to step out of our comfort zones and talk about our faith with people and what Jesus can do for them, we have to have a good grasp of what we are going to be discussing.
 - i. You have to know about the authority of the scriptures.
 - ii. You have to know about the plan of salvation.
 - iii. You have to know about the church, because it is the body of the saved.
 - iv. You have to know about worship.
 - v. These are the things many people want to discuss.
 - f. The only way to know these things is to have studied them.
 - i. You and I have to be able to handle God's word correctly (2 Timothy 2:15).
 - ii. The only way we can do that is by learning it.
 - g. Also, the more we explain something to someone, the clearer it becomes to us.
 - i. The more we talk about various doctrines, after having read and studied about them, the more we will understand about them.

- ii. Talking about those things is one of the greatest ways to become more convinced of the truths found in scripture.
- h. Another aspect of this is that we will be asked challenging questions by people.
 - i. Someone is going to come up with a question about which we've not given much thought, or ask it in a way we haven't considered.
 - ii. Those are great moments because they remind us of the continued need to study.
 - iii. We need to be challenged instead of being in an echo chamber all the time.

II. Evangelism grows our love for God and man.

- a. Mark 12:28-31.
- b. Our love for God should cause us to want to tell others about Him.
 - i. Jesus said that if we love Him we will keep His commandments.
 - ii. One of His commandments is to evangelize, make disciples.
 - iii. If we truly love the Lord, we must be trying to teach others about the gospel.
 - iv. When we are doing that and talking about the blessings of being a Christian, we will be reminded of God's love for us and it will cause our love for Him to grow.
- c. The agape love of the New Testament that we are to have for every man seeks the highest good of its object.
 - i. There is no higher good than the salvation of a soul.
 - ii. The passage our Lord quoted says that we are to love our neighbor.
 - iii. Love there, is a form of the word agape.
 - iv. We ought to be evangelizing in order to show our love for mankind.
- d. Even the rejection that will inevitably occur at times will cause our love for God to grow.
 - i. It will sadden you when someone rejects you, but they are really rejecting the gospel.
 - ii. As you are saddened, you will think about that person's soul and the jeopardy it is in, but you will also think about the salvation you have.
 - iii. This thought that God has saved you will cause your love for Him to grow more even in the face of rejection.

III. Evangelism increases our risk of persecution.

- a. You are probably wondering why I didn't lead with this benefit aren't you?
- b. More than likely, you are wondering how that is at all beneficial.
- c. Romans 5:3-5.
- d. You and I aren't suffering seekers and shouldn't be.
 - i. However, we shouldn't avoid it either.
 - ii. If we suffer for the gospel, and if we are living for the Lord we will, then we should embrace it (2 Timothy 1:8; Romans 8:17; 1 Peter 1:6-9).

- e. The apostles rejoiced that they suffered for the sake of the gospel (Acts 5:41).
- f. Persecution is beneficial because it allows us to grow.
 - i. We will grow closer to God if we accept it correctly.
 - ii. We will want to be with Him more and more because we see how evil this world can be.

Idea from an article by Brian Parks.