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.**
   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.