

FAMILY NEWS

MAY 27, 2018

Madrid
CHURCH OF CHRIST

"COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS..."

WELCOME GUESTS!

If you are visiting with us and have any questions about what you have seen or heard today, please fill out a visitor's card or ask to talk to one of our shepherds. Our desire is to give you a biblical answer about the things that we believe and practice.

THIS WEEK'S READING:

5/28 - Job 42; Ps 1-2

5/29 - Psalm 3-5

5/30 - Psalm 6-9

5/31 - Psalm 10-12

6/01 - Psalm 13-15

6/02 - Psalm 16-19

6/03 - Psalm 20-22

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

ASSEMBLY TIMES:

SUNDAY

Sermon 9:00 am

Bible Classes 10:00 am

Worship 11:00 am

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

OUR NEW SERIES

During the next four weeks, we will look at many areas where God warns His people not to be deceived. The Israelites in the OT and Christians in the NT needed to be warned because they could be taken away from trusting in God (and often were) by listening to the lies of the world, by false teaching, and by lying to themselves (self-deception).



EVANGELISM PEP-TALK BY GRADY HUGGINS

"...I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek" (Rom 1:15-16).

We often forfeit opportunities to share the gospel with others because we are afraid of what they might think. The world's need for salvation is much too urgent to allow these personal concerns to interfere. We need to stop letting Satan hold us back and start sowing the seed every opportunity we get. We should have the attitude of Paul and boldly proclaim the gospel of Christ. Jesus tells us plainly, "whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels" (Mark 8:38). Would Christ be ashamed of how many opportunities we have neglected because we felt awkward bringing up God in everyday conversation?

Sometimes we deceive ourselves into thinking that we don't have many good opportunities. We just sit around waiting for someone to bring up spiritual things before we are willing to talk with them about Christ. Only when we are sure they are interested in God's word will we share the gospel with them. Is that the type of evangelism that God expects from us? Is this what sowing the seed looks like? In the parable of the sower, the seed was sown on all types of soil—wayside, rocky, thorny, and good (Matt 13:3-9). We need to look at every individual as an opportunity to share God's word. It is not our job to judge the heart. We just sow the seed and leave God to be the judge. **(continued next page >>>)**

"Count your many blessings, name them one by one, And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done."

We should even share the gospel with those we view most unlikely to respond. Many accepted the gospel in Corinth who had formerly been fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, sodomites, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, and extortioners (1 Cor 6:9-11). What if Paul had just assumed these people wouldn't listen and passed them by? Paul trusted in the power of the gospel to change the heart of even the vilest sinner.

Do we worry about how these people might react? Are we afraid of rejection? We need to remember what God told Samuel when the people of Israel requested a king—“...they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me...” (1 Sam 8:7).

Many times we are too focused on ourselves and we forget what evangelism is all about. It's not about us; it's about God! We should be more concerned that someone might reject God and lose their soul than the possibility of personal rejection. When we are so worried about how people will view us that we fail to sow the seed, we have become ashamed of the gospel of Christ. We need to put the focus where Paul put it—on the power of God to salvation.

Our Words Reflect Our Priorities

We tend to talk about things that we are excited or passionate about. Our conversations steer towards these topics with ease. Maybe its our children or grandchildren, our favorite sports teams, politics, or the newest movie in theaters. Since these topics are often on our minds, they frequently show up on our lips as well.

This principle should be no different when it comes to spiritual matters. If our relationship with the Lord, the furtherance of His work, and the well-being of His people is of primary importance in our hearts, it will be something that we want to talk about. We should constantly want to share this central part of our lives in all our interactions.

Sometimes we feel like all spiritual aspects of our life must be compartmentalized and kept separate from those whom it may offend. I can talk all day about my political opinions and sports allegiances, but bring up religion and I've crossed the line.

The scriptures do not advocate such a line. While we must not present our faith to others in an offensive manner, we must not shrink back from wearing our religion on our sleeve. The Psalmist told others of God's salvation all the day long, not just when he was inside the temple among believers. The apostles could not stop speaking of the things they had witnessed regarding Jesus (Acts 4:20).

If our relationship and service to God is truly the first priority in our life, it should be evident to all those we interact with on a daily basis. We cannot shine our light if we keep it tucked away in the “religion compartment” of our lives. Let us strive more and more to include the Lord in our conversation each day and to share His salvation with all those we meet.

Where To Begin?

- **Begin with prayer.** I would encourage you to be praying for the courage to talk to someone about Jesus and to bring Him up more in conversation. You have all of the information you need to share the Gospel with someone. Also, can you think of a few people you can be praying for who you would like to see become a Christian?