

WEEK #8 We Must Do SOMETHING – He deserves those for whom He died!

KEY TRUTH THIS WEEK: If we have done nothing for Christ, begin to do *something* now. The distribution of tracts is the first thing.

Question – Do you cringe at the thought of giving someone a gospel tract?

The sobering thought that every unsaved person will be spending eternity in hell should compel us to do *something*! If we don't have the opportunity to speak with someone about the gospel, a well-written tract can do the speaking for us. A tract may not be as good as a personal conversation, but a Biblical gospel tract is better than no Gospel at all.

The picture below depicts what is taking place in most of Christianity today. While people “take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry” (Luke 12:19), the lost all around are sinking into “the blackness of darkness forever” (Jude 13). May it not be so on our watch!



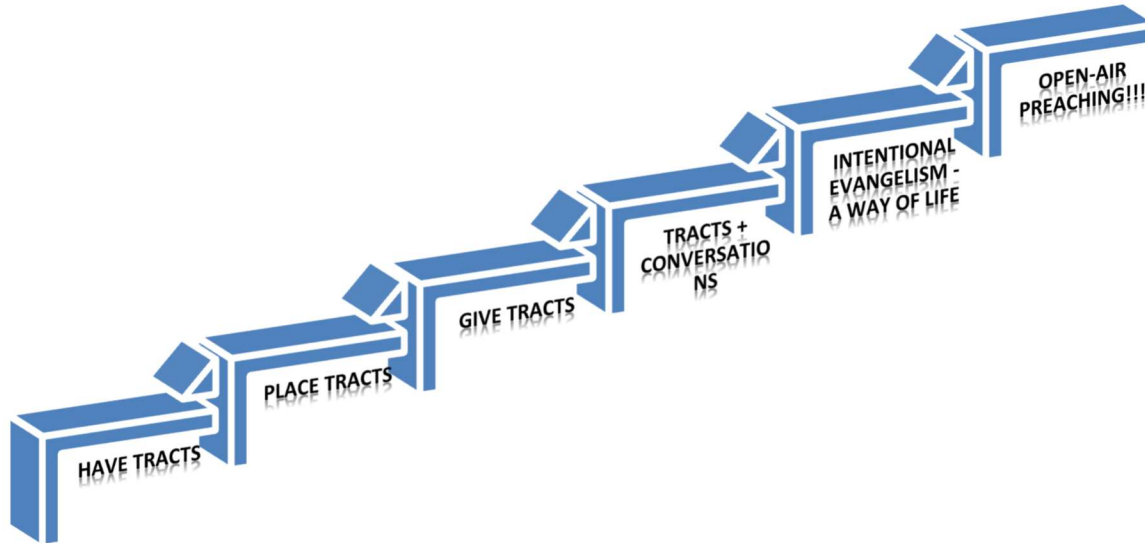
In writing to the Corinthian believers, Paul explains the lengths he would go to share the gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:19-22 – For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: ***I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake***, that I might be partaker thereof with you.

“Save some, O Christians! By all means, save some. From yonder flames and outer darkness, and the weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth, seek to save some! Let this, as in the case of the apostle, be your great, ruling object in life, that by all means you might save some.”

– Charles Spurgeon

EVANGELISM SELF EVALUATION CHART – WHERE ARE YOU AT?



1. By *all* means – use tracts!

If Paul meant “by all means,” he no doubt would have used gospel tracts as one means to reach the lost. In fact, the book of Romans was written as a gospel tract to the people in Rome. We should not only consider that fact when reading and studying it, we should use it as our model for how we witness. The first step is to **HAVE** gospel tracts on you. If you don’t have any, get some!

Never underestimate the power of a gospel tract. After George Whitefield read one called “The Life of God in the Soul of a Man,” he said, “God show me I must be born again or be damned.” He went on to pray, “Lord, if I am a Christian, or if I am not a real one, for Jesus Christ’s sake show me what Christianity is, that I may not be damned at last!” Then his journal tells us “from that moment...did I know that I must become a new creature.”

A Christian book relates the true story of a diver who saw a piece of paper clutched in the shell of an oyster. The man grabbed it, found that it was a gospel tract and said, “I can’t hold out any longer. His mercy is so great that He has caused His Word to follow me even to the bottom of the ocean.” God used a tract to save the man. He also used a tract to save the great missionary Hudson Taylor, as well as innumerable others. Joey Hancock from the American Tract Society says 53% of all who come to Christ worldwide come through the use of printed gospel literature.

Why should Christians use tracts? Simply because **GOD** uses them. That fact alone should be enough incentive for a Christian to always use tracts to reach the lost, but there are even more reasons why we should use them. Here are a few:

- Tracts can provide an opening for us to share our faith. We can watch people’s reaction as we give them a tract, and see if they are open to listening to spiritual things.
- They can do the witnessing for us. If we are too timid to speak to others about the things of God, we can at least give them a tract, or leave one lying around so that someone will pick it up.
- They speak to the individuals when they are ready; people don’t read it until they want to.
- They can find their way into people’s homes when we can’t.
- They don’t get into arguments; they just state their case.

Oswald J. Smith said, "The only way to carry out the Great Commission will be by the means of the printed page."

Charles Spurgeon stated, "When preaching and private talk are not available, you need to have a tract ready...Get good striking tracts, or none at all. But a touching gospel tract may be the seed of eternal life. Therefore, do not go out without your tracts."

2. By all means – use tracts that speak of sin, righteousness, and judgment to come!

That brings us to an important question. As your passion grows for the gospel that Paul and Jesus declared, you will want to make sure that the tracts that you use align with the same message. Be careful to read them before you buy them – not just any "tract" will do.

Is it possible for a gospel tract to speak of death, **JUDGMENT**, righteousness, hell and Christ? You better believe it – check it out. Get some good striking tracts! (www.livingwaters.com)

3. By all means – do something!

If you want people to accept your literature, try to greet them before offering them a tract. If you can get them to respond to a warm "Good morning," or "How are you doing?" that will almost always break the ice and they will take it. After the greeting, don't ask, "Would you like this?" They will probably respond, "What is it?" Instead say, "Did you get one of these?" That question has a twofold effect. You stir their curiosity and make them ask, "One of what?" That's when you hand them a tract. It also makes them feel as though they are missing out on something. So they are.

Perhaps you almost pass out at the thought of passing out a tract. Don't worry; you are not alone. We *all* battle fear. The answer to fear is found in the prayer closet. Ask God to give you a compassion that will swallow your fears. Meditate on the fate of the ungodly. Give hell some deep thought. Confront what it is that makes you fearful.

Do you like roller coasters? Some Christians want to try skydiving or bungee-jumping. Isn't it strange? We are prepared to risk our lives for the love of fear – and yet we are willing to let a sinner go to hell for fear of giving out a tract. Ask yourself how many piles of bloodied stones you can find where Christians have been stoned to death for preaching the gospel. How much singed soil can you find where they have been burned at the stake? Part of fear is fear of rejection. We are fearful of looking foolish. That's a subtle form of pride. The other part of our battle with fear comes directly from the enemy. He knows that fear paralyzes. We must resist the devil and his lies. If God is with us, nothing can be against us.

If you have never given out tracts, why not begin today? If you are fearful when it comes to witnessing, here's something you can do that doesn't take much courage, leave tracts where others will be able to find them. Some examples include: gas station pumps, library books, magazines, with good tips, newspaper stands, movie dispensers, grocery stores, ATM machines, postage paid reply envelopes, restrooms, elevators, waiting rooms, laundromats, etc., etc., etc.

Then each night as you shut your eyes to go to sleep, you will have something very special to pray about – that God will use the tracts you put somewhere. You will also have a deep sense of satisfaction that you played a small part in carrying out the Great Commission to reach this dying world with the gospel of everlasting life. Don't waste your life. Do something for the kingdom of God while you are able to. Always remember: treat every day as though it was your last – one day you will be right.

4. Take the 7 Day Challenge – it will change your life!

Here is something that is guaranteed to change our perspective on evangelism. Get a small group of accountability partners (true friends☺) together to take the “7 Day Challenge” with you **this week** starting on Monday. For seven straight days, make a point to get the gospel to **at least 1 person each day!**

Start your day by praying to God for open doors and boldness. Then, head out into the world to **find** someone who is lost. Each day make a point to record what you did. Be sure to write down the people’s names so that you can pray for them and have others pray for them. If you have email, send an email out to the group letting them know what you did and how they responded.

Remember, if you only give 1 tract away to 1 person – that is a great gospel story!

Think about it. If you did that every day of the year, 365 people would get the gospel each year until the Rapture!! I am telling you, it will be contagious and you will never forget it. In addition, if you are like me, it will be the most exciting evangelism you have ever done – not to mention the **MOST** intentional witnessing that you have ever done or have done in a long time.

Wait a minute. I have an idea. Let’s all do it together! We will start tomorrow morning and report back next week. See there, the challenge is now on. Remember, this is about God’s glory. We are debtors – we owe a debt that we could never pay. To the extent that we are grateful for what He has done, it would be a great thing to start making payments to God for His glory by sharing the gospel with as many people as you can before you die. He deserves those for whom He died!

Consider this encounter...

Laodicean: “I’m a Christian, but I feel that it would be better for me just to live my life, rather than talk to people about Christ.”

Christian: “Why is that?”

Laodicean: “I don’t have the gift of evangelism. I don’t know what to say.”

Christian: “There’s no such thing as the ‘gift of evangelism.’ That’s like saying someone has the ‘gift’ of feeding starving children. It’s not a gift – it is love in action. Another word for ‘evangelism’ is ‘love.’”

Laodicean: “I’ve never thought of it like that. Perhaps I should go to Bible college and study first.”

Christian: “Take the time to see how long the woman at the well (in John chapter 4) spent at Bible school before she shared her faith.”

Laodicean: “But...”

Christian: “No ‘buts.’ Just stand up for Christ. You can do it.”

Laodicean: “Do you think so?”

Christian: “Yes. Say, ‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.’”

Laodicean: “What should I do?”

Christian: “Start by placing a few tracts here and there.”

Laodicean: “Where?”

Christian: “Anywhere. How about leaving one in a shopping cart or in the phone book at a pay phone?”

Laodicean: “I could do that.”

Christian: “Just think – as you lay your head on your pillow at night, you can have the satisfaction that you stood up for the kingdom of God.”

“Let each one of us, if we have done nothing for Christ, begin to do something now. The distribution of tracts is the first thing.”

– Charles Spurgeon