

A SOUL WINNING CHURCH

"As My Father hath sent Me, even so send I you." John 20:21

I. The Meaning Explained

Soul-winning is that form of Christian activity that expresses itself in earnest solicitation for the salvation of lost individuals. Soul-winning is the work of the churches. Jesus Christ instituted the church for the purpose of winning the lost to a saving knowledge in Him. Jesus tells us that His mission in the world was "To seek and to save that which was lost". The true mission of every church, then, is the mission of winning lost souls to Christ. Jesus said, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." The aim and object of every church authorized of God is the salvation of the lost; and if we are not accomplishing this, we have no right to claim to be in any sense performing our duty as churches. If our churches are to become great soul-winning institutions, and so fulfil their mission they must realize at least three things, namely:-----

1. There is something to save men from.
Men must be made to feel that there is something the matter before they can be brought to see the necessity of a Saviour.
2. There is something to save men with.
Not only to save men with, but something that does not need any human addition; something that will do the work itself, and that is salvation by the blood of Jesus Christ.
3. There is something to save men to.
That is, a life of respectability, personal victory, Christian service, and eventually a home in heaven.

Every Christian, should work with all his might for the salvation of the lost. There is something seriously wrong with any professed Christian who is not constantly working to get men to forsake sin and to accept Christ.

II. The Motives Epitomized

By this, I mean to enumerate and briefly describe the things that should cause every Christian to work for the salvation of the lost.

1. Love for Christ
If we love Him we will want to please Him. He set us an example and commissioned us to bring the lost to Him.
2. Love for the lost
If we love lost people we will strive to win them to Christ.
3. Love for our churches
If our churches had members who loved them they would do more to win them to Christ. Many churches are facing their graves because of the lack of soul-winning. Our churches must increase in membership if they are to perpetuate themselves and be powers for righteousness.
4. Love for personal blessings
If we want peace of soul and real joy within we should be engaged in soul-winning. When we win souls to Christ, we are assured their companionship in heaven.

III. The Methods Employed

1. Gospel sermon
Andrew was won to Christ in this way. John 1:40
2. Family influence
Simon Peter was won to Christ in this way. John 1:41-42

3. Converted Neighbors
Nathaniel was won to Christ in this way. John 1: 45,47
4. Christlike atmosphere in the community
The disciples won many to Christ by filling the air with the name praises and works of Jesus.
5. Combination of forces
Four persons brought the paralytic to Jesus. Mark 2:3
6. Personal work
Christ's method was the face to face appeal. The same method was used on the day of Pentecost. Acts 1 and 2. Paul used this method and urged others to do likewise. This is the simplest and yet the most effective method of all.

However if we are to be effective and successful soul-winners in the use of any of any of these methods, we must have in some measure the following marks of character or qualifications.

1. A real Christian experience
The blind cannot lead the blind
2. A clean heart. Psalm 66:18
3. A real joy in the soul. Psalm 51:12,13
4. A consistent Christian life. II Corinthians 6:17
"God does not demand a beautiful vessel for His work, but He does demand a clean one." If a man is not straight in his life the more he keeps his mouth shut about Christ the better it is for Christ and His work.
5. A complete surrender to Christ.
6. A genuine prayer life. Matt. 6:6; Phil. 4:6; James 5:16.
7. A working knowledge of the Word of God. II Tim. 2:15; 3:16-17.
8. A conviction of the sinner's need. John 3:18; 3:36
9. A soul on fire to see the lost saved
10. A confident faith in the power of Christ to save.
"Without faith it is impossible to please God," or to win souls.
11. An absolute sincerity
12. An undaunted courage
13. A tactful approach. Matthew 10:16
Tact simply means sanctified common sense.
Say the right word at the right time to the right person in the right way.
14. A persistent effort.
No work requires so much patience and perseverance as soul-winning. Do not give up because people are not usually won to Christ in a day. Just keep on keeping on.
15. A complete dependence on the Holy Spirit for power
There will be very little power in our testimony if the Holy Spirit does not use and bless it.

Regardless of which method we employ let each of us be faithful soul-winners, and:----

1. Show people their need of Christ
2. Teach them the way to Christ
3. Persist until we bring them to Christ.