



God's Good News: evangelism

The Aim of Evangelism

“Evangelism—the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ in order to facilitate conversions to Jesus Christ and to Christianity”

Roger Olson, *A-Z of Evangelical Theology* (London: SCM, 2005), p. 175.

John 3.6-8: Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

THINK ABOUT IT

How does the idea of conversion as a process relate to your expectations about people turning to God?

The Message of Evangelism

Jesus' Evangelism

Luke 10:25-28: An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

Luke 18.18-20: A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good-- except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honour your father and mother.'" "All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said. When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

THINK ABOUT IT

What do you notice about Jesus' two answers?



“For many outside church, the complicated and contradictory connects with their everyday lives and this is precisely what Jesus wants to address.”

Jim Currin, 360 Gospel of Jesus (Cambridge: Grove Books, 2011), p.23

Paul's Evangelism

Acts 26:19-29: “After that, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, ²⁰ but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout the countryside of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and do deeds consistent with repentance. ²¹ For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. ²² To this day I have had help from God, and so I stand here, testifying to both small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would take place: ²³ that the Messiah must suffer, and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.”

²⁴ While he was making this defense, Festus exclaimed, "You are out of your mind, Paul! Too much learning is driving you insane!" ²⁵ But Paul said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking the sober truth. ²⁶ Indeed the king knows about these things, and to him I speak freely; for I am certain that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this was not done in a corner. ²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe." ²⁸ Agrippa said to Paul, "Are you so quickly persuading me to become a Christian?" ²⁹ Paul replied, "Whether quickly or not, I pray to God that not only you but also all who are listening to me today might become such as I am - except for these chains."

THINK ABOUT IT

According to Paul, what is the Good News?

Last week you created a one minute answer to the question: why are you a Christian? After what you're read this week, what more can you add, or how do you think differently?

THINK ABOUT IT

Why are you a Christian?