

# The Greatest Need



# What Is The Greatest Need For The Church Today?

- For the church to return to its original, Divinely ordained mission of seeking and saving the lost
  - Luke 19:10 - “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

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- Jesus Christ is the head of the body, but you are His hands and feet
  - Eph. 1:22-23 - “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is *His body, the fullness of Him* who fills all in all.”

# What Is The Greatest Need For The Church Today?

- His work is not complete in this world until you have done your part
  - Eph. 4:11-12, 15-16 - “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ... 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

# What Is The Greatest Need For The Church Today?

- We are the salt of the earth
  - Matt. 5:13 - “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.”
  - Salt has no effect on food until it comes in contact with it.
  - How can we influence the lost huddled together in the building?

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- What we all need is more genuine concern for the lost.
  - Rom. 9:1-3 - “I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, 2 that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh”

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- Not merely “meeting house soundness,” but genuine soundness in works.
- Walk down the street in your neighborhood and look at the houses. How many are lost?
  - Jude 22 - “And on some have compassion, making a distinction”
  - Matt. 7:12 - “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

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- The need is fulfilled through the Lord's plan of evangelism.
- The early church carried out the great commission in 29 years
  - Jesus sent them out in Mark 16:16 in A.D. 33
  - Paul wrote Colossians 1:23 in A.D. 62, in which he wrote that the Gospel had been preached throughout the whole world

# What Is The Greatest Need For The Church Today?

- Clearly, the Lord adds people to His church as they are saved (Acts 2:41, 47), but He does not do the teaching; we do.
- If every member of this church converted just one a year, and they in turn converted just one each year, in 22 years the whole world could be converted, seven years sooner than in Paul's day.
- This is only a theoretical example; Matthew 5:13-14 shows that most will reject the gospel. However, if more had an opportunity to hear, more would respond.

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- Teaching is the second half of the plan of salvation; evangelism is not complete until the evangelized become the evangelists
  - 2Tim. 2:2 - “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”



# What Is The Greatest Need For The Church Today?

- The scope of the need: the field is the world
  - Matt. 13:38 - “The field is the world...”
- We are to teach every creature
  - Mark 16:15 - “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

# What Is The Greatest Need For The Church Today?

- Opportunities are unlimited
  - John 4:35-38 - “Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! 36 And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”

# Eight Reasons Why You Need To Be A Personal Worker

- 1) It is a direct command
  - Matt. 28:18-20 - “Go ye” means “go me”
  - We'd never dream of changing the Lord's Supper or building a fellowship hall, yet we think very little of disregarding our Savior's last words to go teach. It is not optional - Heb. 5:12
  - Christ said go, not invite. Instead of an outreach, we have an in-drag

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- 2) It is necessary for self-preservation
  - John 15:16 - “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain...”

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- Like the barren fig tree, we must produce or be cut down
  - Luke 13:6-9 - “He also spoke this parable: A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. 7 Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?' 8 But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. 9 'And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.”

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- If we don't teach, their blood is on our heads
  - Acts 18:6 - “But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”
  - Ez. 3:18 - “When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.”

# Eight Reasons Why You Need To Be A Personal Worker

- We are called to faithfulness, not results
  - 1Cor. 3:6 - “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.”
  - 1Cor. 9:16 - “For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!”
- Noah preached 120 years with no results, yet he never quit. If he had, would he have had a right to enter the ark?

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- 3) It should be a natural result of our love for others.
  - If we really loved our fellow man, we wouldn't keep the gospel to ourselves.
  - James 5:20 - “Let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”
  - Rom. 1:16 - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...”

# Eight Reasons Why You Need To Be A Personal Worker

- 4) Because every soul is precious
  - In this age, men know the price of everything and the value of nothing. Our souls are our most treasured possession
  - Matt. 16:26 - “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

# Eight Reasons Why You Need To Be A Personal Worker

- 1Peter 1:18-20 - “Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you”

# Eight Reasons Why You Need To Be A Personal Worker

- 5) Because we want to be sound like the early church
  - The church has a two-fold purpose: scatter seed and gather the saved
- The early church went everywhere preaching
  - Acts 8:4 - “Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”
  - Acts 26:20 - “...declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.”

# Eight Reasons Why You Need To Be A Personal Worker

- 6) Because of the terror of the Lord
  - 2Cor. 5:11 - “Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.”
- Do we really believe in Hell and that our unsaved friends are going there?
  - Mark 16:16 - “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”
  - Heb. 10:31 - “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God”

# Eight Reasons Why You Need To Be A Personal Worker

- 7) Because we are debtors
  - Rom. 1:14-15 - “I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. 15 So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.”
- For all that Christ has done for us, this is the least we can do in return - share the gospel with others
  - 2Cor. 5:14-15 - “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”

# Eight Reasons Why You Need To Be A Personal Worker

- Because of the joy of being a personal worker
  - We increase the number of children of our heavenly Father.
  - We cause the angels to rejoice
  - Luke 15:7 - “I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.”

# Eight Reasons Why You Need To Be A Personal Worker

- The personal joy we experience
  - Phil. 4:1 - “Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.”
  - 3John 4 - “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”
- In a sense, we become immortal and live on through others
  - Dan. 12:3 - “Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.”

# Eight Reasons Why You Need To Be A Personal Worker

- “It doesn't take much vision to see how many seeds are in each apple -- but it does take vision to see how many apples are in each seed.”
- This need must be fulfilled or the local church will suffer decline and discouragement; internal problems always arise when we look inward instead of outward.

# Objections Considered

- Not enough talent?
  - Matt. 25:14-30
  - It is not about talent and knowledge; the most effective are those who go to work

# Objections Considered

- Afraid?
  - So was the one talent man and He was called into judgment.
  - The gospel is the power - Rom. 1:16
- Don't know much - Share what you do know.
  - Best way to learn truth is to practice and preach it while we learn it.

