

Personal Witness – Part 1

Lesson 6

- I. Some are saved but never instructed in the word. Deal with them from:
 - 1 John 5:13 – ***Ye may know*** if you ***believe on the name of the Son of God***.
 - John 1:12 – ***As many as received him*** have been given salvation.
 - John 5:24 – All who believe have everlasting life and shall never enter condemnation.
 - Acts 13:39 -Complete justification is ours through the finished work of Christ.
- II. Some are saved but have not grown to victory over sin.
 - John 8:12 – Correct your walk.
 - Proverbs 28:13 – Forsake your sins.
 - Psalms 32:1-5 – Deal properly with iniquity and transgression.
- III. Some have no assurance because they have no salvation.

Dealing with Those of Other Religions

- I. Be sufficiently acquainted with beliefs of major cults and false religions.
 - A. Knowing what he believes will keep you from making false statements about his faith.
 - B. Knowing what he believes will prevent him from misleading you.
 - C. False groups will often use bible terms but with different meanings.
 - D. Most cults are trained to lie.
- II. Remember he sincerely imagines he is right.
 - A. He may have been greatly helped by his religion.
 - B. It may be all he has known.
- III. To insult his religion is to insult his loved ones.
 - A. Remember you may be speaking of his dear mother or revered father.
 - B. Many religions are national or tribal, so you may be speaking against his heritage.
- IV. Be careful not to excite his prejudices.
 - A. For example, a Muslim recalling the Crusades and not knowing that papists are not Christians has reason to think evil of Christianity.
 - B. For example, a Sioux may have strong reasons for rejecting what he considers the white man's religion.
- V. Be courteous and patient.
 - A. Christ died for this man.
 - B. It may take time and many sessions to convince him.
- VI. Be sympathetic.
 - A. He was born and raised in this religion. It was not his choice.
 - B. All his training makes you suspect.

- VII. Avoid side issues related to religious matters.
- A. Politics: Why lose a soul arguing right vs left?
 - B. Historical conflict: Why lose a soul debating the Civil War?
 - C. Current events: Why lose a soul debating over differing views on a news item?

Witnessing to Roman Catholics

- I. Same terms but different meanings.
- A. Salvation
 - 1. In the bible, salvation is a present possession through the finished work of Christ.
 - 2. To the Catholic, salvation is a goal to be achieved through sacraments and human merit.
 - B. Saviour.
 - 1. In the Bible, it is Jesus Christ alone.
 - 2. To the Catholic, it is Roman Catholic church and Mary.
 - C. Born Again.
 - 1. In the Bible, it is regeneration of a believing sinner.
 - 2. To the Catholic, it is infant baptism.
 - D. Body of Christ.
 - 1. In the Bible, it is the union of all saved people in Jesus.
 - 2. To the Catholic, it is the wafer turned into Jesus' literal body when a priest says some magic words.
 - E. Jesus
 - 1. In the Bible, He is God alone; He is Saviour alone; He is the only way to the Father; etc...
 - 2. To the Catholic, he is a nice man who does what Mary tells Him to do; He is a piece of bread; or He is a dead man on a crucifix.

If you believe your Roman Catholic family and friends are saved because they told you they were Christians or said they believe in Jesus, you are wrong. You must press beyond these surface answers and get to the meaning of the words.

- II. Getting to heaven
- A. The Roman Catholic believes the way to heaven is:
 - 1. Baptism of a Roman Catholic shortly after birth
 - 2. Confirmation following a catechism something between youth and adulthood
 - 3. Partaking of the sacraments throughout life
 - a. Having done all this, even the pope has no higher hope than a short stay in purgatory.
 - b. The fires of purgatory or masses purchased by one's family and friends may eventually gain one entrance into heaven.
 - B. The Bible says the way to heaven is:
 - 1. Faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - 2. Plus nothing

- III. How to reach the Roman Catholic
- A. You must understand that the Bible means nothing to him.
 - B. His authority is the church and the teaching of its leaders.
 - C. It is going to take a great deal of time, not three or four verses in one quick session, to move him.
 - D. He is trusting his good works and his faithfulness to his church.

- E. You must undermine his self-confidence by proving to him with scripture that he is not fit for heaven.
- F. You must undermine his confidence in his church by proving with scripture that its teachings are fraudulent.
- G. There is no way to win a Roman Catholic by saving faith in Christ Jesus without being politely critical of his religion.
- H. You must demand that he confess that the only way to be saved is by faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Witnessing to Protestants

- I. Divided into Two Groups
 - A. Those that can be traced to Calvin (Calvinism):
 - 1. Hold that those who would be saved were chosen by God prior to Genesis 1:1.
 - 2. Hold that these chosen will be so identified by the rite of infant baptism.
 - 3. Hold that while good works could not possibly save, if good works were present, one could not possibly be saved, even after infant baptism and after being told all your life you were chosen to salvation.
 - B. Those that can be traced to Wesley:
 - 1. Hold that Jesus is the Saviour but that He only saves those who do enough good works to earn it.
 - 2. Hold that infant baptism or adult baptism makes one a Christian (maybe) or proves one is a Christian (maybe) or really just makes them a part of our church.
- II. Why They Are So Hard to Win
 - A. They believe that membership and baptism are the means of salvation. This does not contradict the above, as the Protestants who believe good works save are all convinced their works are good.
 - B. They are not interested in a relationship with Jesus Christ, or they would not belong to a church that ignores Him.
- III. How to Reach the Protestant
 - F. You must undermine his self-confidence by proving to him with scripture that he lacks the good works his church believes are required.
 - G. You must magnify the work of Jesus Christ so that he can see the superiority of the Saviour over his religion.

Witnessing to Jews

- I. Why They Are Not Interested
 - A. Thinking themselves God's chosen people, they consider themselves superior to you and their religion superior to yours.
 - B. All their hopes and dreams are tied to a piece of land on earth, not to a hope in heaven.
 - C. After what they have suffered at the hands of Roman Catholics, Protestants, and Gentiles in the name of Jesus Christ, why would they anything to do with Him?
- II. How to Reach Them
 - A. Old testament scriptures pointing to Christ
 - B. The testimony of Saul of Tarsus

