

THE NECESSITY OF EVANGELISM

Introduction: Syria, turkey, Germany, England, all these countries were once official Christian nations and were once sources of revival and reformation that spread to other nations but now have been taken over by other faiths systems. Persia: once a nation that sent out missionaries than any other country, now an Islamic nation, Germany: a country where one of the greatest reformation took place now spiritually bankrupt, England, where one of the best translation of the bible now has her churches being bought and tuned into night clubs. One must realize that there is no one centre for Christianity. Every generation has a task from God to ensure the revelation of Jesus Christ and His kingdom in that nation and in their time, so the saying any nation is one generation from reformation or destruction

Illustration: Manasseh 2kings 21:2-6, Josiah 2kings 22-23

Hence the necessity of evangelism, for the revelation of Christ in a nation is not in legislation or inscription on national monuments, although good, but the engraving of truth on the heart of the people and the transformation of their lives.

{Speaking in contrast, comparing the response of the earlier church to our response to this task}

Scripture: Matt 28:18-20, Rom 10:13-15

They saw the call of God as a privilege not a right

*illustration: Paul **1Ti 1:15-16** It is a true saying, in which all may put their faith, that Christ Jesus came into the world to give salvation to sinners, of whom I am the chief: But for this reason I was given mercy, so that in me, the chief of sinners, Jesus Christ might make clear all his mercy, as an example to those who in the future would have faith in him to eternal life.*

God chose us, he could have chosen anyone else and that knowledge alone should cause to give ourselves in eternal appreciation and gratitude to Him in obedience and worship. Luke 7:38-45{woman who washed Christ feet with her tears}.

They responded in conviction not in convenience.

What is conviction: it is not just a posture of the mind which is severed from conduct, attitude and

behavior. A strong belief that one is prepared to die for.

Illustration: Origen, who castrated himself

St Francis of Assisi, who gave up marriage for the gospel

Henry Martyn: When he fell deeply in love with a girl named Lydia, he told her of his call from God to live and minister in India. Was this agreeable to her? He asked, and pleaded that it might be. But it was not. If he would stay in England, he could have her as his bride; if he went to India, he must do without her. The question came like a drumbeat in his brain—India or Lydia? Lydia or India? Henry Martyn was a mastered man ...constrained by the love of Christ. The mastery was his in a crisis involving a crucial choice.' My dear Lydia and my duty call me different ways, yet God has not forsaken me. I am born for God only, and Christ is nearer to me than father or mother or sister.' So he went to India to 'burn out for God.' " he translated the New Testament into Hindi and Persian, revised an Arabic translation of the New Testament, and translated the Psalter into Persian and the Prayer Book into Hindi.

Contrast David Livingstone who when asked for his marriage status, he wrote: "Unmarried: under no engagement related to marriage, never made proposals of marriage, nor conducted myself so to any woman as to cause her to suspect that I intended anything related to marriage. The book goes on to say and he met a woman and all his celibacy evaporated. Many of our so called convictions evaporate when we face challenges or issues that come to test us.

Pastor R.C. Whitcomb who together with a group in America got themselves incarcerated in juvenile halls just to reach the inmates with the gospel and if we are to impact lives as we ought to with the gospel, our message must come with conviction not just content.

They had an eternal perspective and understood sin for what it is

illustration: Adoniram Judson

Sin is first a condition before it becomes an expression. Impiety always precedes immorality. People are immoral because they are impious. When last did we see sin in its expression and was grieved in our hearts.

Illustration: St Telemachus,

Acts17:16(HCSB) While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, his spirit was troubled within him when he saw that the city was full of idols. One preacher puts it this way we will never lighten any load until we feel the burden in our own souls.

Song lyrics

A hundred miles an hour in the wrong direction

She is trying

But the canyon's ever widening

In the depths of her cold heart

So she sets out on another misadventure just to find

She's another two years older

And she's three more steps behind

*Does anybody hear her? Can anybody see?
Or does anybody even know she's going down today
Under the shadow of our steeple
With all the lost and lonely people
Searching for the hope that's tucked away in you and me
Does anybody hear her? Can anybody see?*

Do we hear the inner loneliness and cry of the people around us

They responded in prayer

Today, I read about the Moravian Christians in Herrnhut. Herrnhut, Germany is the home of the renowned Hundred-Year-Long Prayer Meeting. In 1722, persecuted Christians from Moravia fled to Saxony and found protection in the domain of the regional Count Nicolas Ludwig von Zinzendorf. Initially, twenty-four people took one hour shifts during which they committed to pray – the Lord's Watch. More joined the watch and this prayer watch went on unbroken until 1847.

Steve Hickey's website writes: "As Moravians at Herrnhut started to sense God's missionary call to take the good news to the lost, they would hold funerals for the missionaries before they sent them off to places like Jamaica. (We found Moravian missionary graves when we were in Jamaica a couple years ago!) Imagine holding a funeral for someone who is about to leave because it was understood that the call of Jesus was to go give your life reaching lost people and that you'd not return in this life. To reach the slaves in Jamaica, the Moravian missionaries would sell themselves into slavery as it was the only way to gain access to Caribbean slaves. Stories of supernatural visitations and provision accompany each missionary account of the Moravians."

Why are we not responding this way as they did?

We are living and practicing a crossless Christianity. Some doctrines tell us we must move beyond the cross. Rev 5 2Pet 1:9. The love of God is not demonstrated fully in the gifts of the Holy Spirit nor even in second coming but it is seen on the cross where God became man and died for our sins. Why is it that the more we have come to know our so called position in God we have become more closed hearted and are thinking only of ourselves.

It is only by looking to the cross of Christ that we can see our calling as a privilege. Illustration, *saving private ryan*

It is only by the cross that we can respond in conviction 2co 5:14 and

It is only on the cross we see the true picture of sin in its fullest expression and consequence, even the Father turned away from His Son at that moment.

APPLICATION

God is moving people all over the world and the church in Ghana in general must see this opportunity likewise the church on campus in particular must take this great opportunity where people are being moved from different places to the university. E.g. the city of Corinth

There are no mass movements, it only appears to be so, and behind every mass movement is one man who knows His God and where He is going

Illustration: W.H. Lecky's statement about John Wesley, the revolution that destroyed France would have been the same revolution that would have destroyed England if not for that one man John Wesley
Challenge them to personalize this statement

Story of what started the Moravian mission: that the lamb who was slain may receive the rewards of His suffering. That is evangelism bringing in the rewards of His suffering

CONCLUSION AND PRAYER

The parable of the Sower in matt 13:37-38, do you see yourself as being sown by God in this university, faculty, hostel or room?

John Wesley's 11th rule. You have nothing to do but to save souls, so spent and be spent for this work.

