

Foundations Lesson #7

Sharing the Gospel Message

Peter, in his first letter, tells his readers that they should “always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks [them] to give the reason for the hope that [they] have” (I Peter 3:15). He then adds that this must be done with gentleness and respect. Jesus commanded his followers: “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:15-16, see also Matthew 28:18-20). These passages of Scripture should help us understand the importance of sharing the gospel message.

I. In sharing the gospel message, God has made us...

- ambassadors – II Corinthians 5:18-20
- salt and light – Matthew 5:13-16
- acknowledgers of Christ – Matthew 10:32-33
- testifiers – Revelation 12:11
- witnesses – Acts 1:8

II. Some reasons we are to share the gospel message

- God desires all to be saved. – I Timothy 2:3-4 / II Peter 3:9
- Heaven rejoices when one sinner repents. – Luke 15:7
- God says we should always be prepared to do so. – I Peter 3:15
- We can “snatch people from the fire.” – Jude 23
- It is wise to do so. – Proverbs 11:30
- It gives us “full understanding of every good thing in Christ.” – Philemon 6
- God has ordained that people give the world the good news. – Romans 10:14-15
- We never know when we are next to someone who is close to death. – Acts 12:6, 18-19
- No one having known hell would want anyone else to go there. – Luke 16:22-28

III. Necessary ingredients to sharing the gospel message

- compassion
 - God is a God of compassion. – Psalm 86:15
 - Jesus had compassion for the lost. – Matthew 9:36
 - We are commanded to be full of compassion. – Colossians 3:12
- prayer
 - Moses prayed earnestly for those God was about to destroy. – Exodus 32:11-14, 31-32
 - Paul prayed with unceasing anguish for the Jews to be saved. – Romans 9:2-4a, 10:1

- personal contact

- HOW TO: The Bible contains many stories of people who led others into a living, personal relationship with the Lord. Andrew was so thrilled at finding Jesus that he found his brother Peter and introduced him to Jesus (John 1:40-42). Paul and Silas spoke to a jailer at midnight, preventing him from committing suicide, and leading him and his family to the Lord (Acts 16:27-33). Jesus spoke to a puzzled Rabbi at night (John 3:1-15), a woman outcast at noon (John 4:7-26), and many others. Wherever we find ourselves, God may be wanting us to share the gospel message. Here are some practical considerations how this can be done best.

- making the most of every opportunity – Ephesians 5:15-16

- relating deeply to people's circumstances – I Corinthians 9:19-23

- being aware of a need – Mark 2:16-17

- being a good listener – James 1:19

- being consistent in what we say and how we live – I Corinthians 10:33 - 11:1

- being prepared always – II Timothy 4:2

- being gentle and respectful – I Peter 3:15

- HOW NOT TO:

- being condemning

- being insensitive

- looking down at people

- treating the unsaved as evangelistic projects rather than people

IV. Great truths about sharing the gospel message

- The need is great. – John 4:35

- There is nothing more urgent or important. – John 3:36

- The time is now. – II Corinthians 6:2

- The field is the world. – Matthew 13:36-43 / Mark 16:15

To fallen men, a dying race,
Make known the gift of gospel grace.
The world that now in darkness lies,
O church of Christ, **evangelize!**