

Foundations of the Faith

Lesson 8 – Being a Witness

Calvary Chapel Northwest

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What is our Witness?

The Christian's message to the world must also be one of sin, righteousness and judgement. He must not accept in any measure the world moral code, but stand boldly to oppose it and warn of the consequences of following it. And this must be done loudly and persistently, meanwhile taking great care that he himself walk so circumspectly that no flaw may be found in his life to give the lie to his testimony. —A.W. Tozer



What is our Witness?

But you are God's witnesses, and you must prove it, and I must ask every one of you to prove it by the holy zeal, the conspicuous enthusiasm, the sacred fire and fervour that shall blaze and flash in your lives. For truth and for Christ let us teach this world that we retain the old power among us; let us ask the Holy Spirit to enable us to live such forceful vigorous lives, that men shall know once more what we can do.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (August 13, 1865)



Being a Witness

- Memory Verse

[Mar 5:19 NLT] 19 But Jesus said, "No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been."



What is Witnessing?

- Telling Them the Great Things

[Mar 5:1-10, 19 NLT] 1 So they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gerasenes. 2 When Jesus climbed out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out from a cemetery to meet him. 3 This man lived among the burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain. 4 Whenever he was put into chains and shackles--as he often was--he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Day and night he wandered among the burial caves and in the hills, howling and cutting himself with sharp stones. 6 When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him, ran to meet him, and bowed low before him. 7 With a shriek, he screamed, "Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In the name of God, I beg you, don't torture me!" 8 For Jesus had already said to the spirit, "Come out of the man, you evil spirit." 9 Then Jesus demanded, "What is your name?" And he replied, "My name is Legion, because there are many of us inside this man." 10 Then the evil spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place.



What is Witnessing?

- Telling Them the Great Things

[Mar 5:11-19 NLT] 11 There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby. 12 "Send us into those pigs," the spirits begged. "Let us enter them." 13 So Jesus gave them permission. The evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of about 2,000 pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water. 14 The herdsman fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. People rushed out to see what had happened. 15 A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons. He was sitting there fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid. 16 Then those who had seen what happened told the others about the demon-possessed man and the pigs. 17 And the crowd began pleading with Jesus to go away and leave them alone. 18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed begged to go with him. 19 But Jesus said, "No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been."



What is Witnessing?

- Telling Them the Great Things

[1Pe 3:15 NLT] 15 Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.

[1Pe 3:15 NKJV] 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always [be] ready to [give] a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;



What are We to Share?

- The Gospel (Good News) of Jesus Christ

[Rom 1:16 NKJV] 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

[Jhn 3:16 NLT] 16 "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.



What Does the Gospel Contain?

- Christ died for our sins
- Christ was buried
- Christ rose from the dead

[1Co 15:3-4 NLT] 3 I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. 4 He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.



What Does the Gospel Contain?

- Through one man, sin entered the world
- [Rom 5:12 NLT] 12 When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.



What does the Gospel Contain?

- All have sinned and fallen short
- [Rom 3:21-26 NLT] 21 But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. 22 We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. 23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. 24 Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. 25 For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, 26 for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.



What does the Gospel Contain?

- While we were sinners, God died for us
- [Rom 5:6-8 NLT] 6 When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. 7 Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. 8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.



What does the Gospel Contain?

- The wages of sin is death
- [Rom 6:23 NLT] 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.



What does the Gospel Contain?

- Repent and confess Jesus
- [Rom 10:8-13 NLT] 8 In fact, it says, "The message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart." And that message is the very message about faith that we preach: 9 If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. 11 As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." 12 Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. 13 For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."



What does the Gospel Contain?

- Saved by Grace, and not by Works

[Eph 2:8-9 NLT] 8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.



What does the Gospel Contain?

- Receive Him...become a child of God

[Jhn 1:12 NLT] 12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.



What does the Gospel Contain?

- You are a new creation

[2Co 5:17 NLT] 17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!



Being a witness (our part)

- Go therefore and make disciples

[Mat 28:19-20 NLT] 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."



Being a witness (our part)

- Whoever is ashamed of Him

[Luk 12:8 NLT] 8 "I tell you the truth, everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, the Son of Man will also acknowledge in the presence of God's angels.



Being a witness (our part)

- The Holy Spirit convicts of sin

[Jhn 16:7-8 NLT] 7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.



Being a witness (our part)

- God's Word will not return void

[Isa 55:11 NLT] 11 It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.

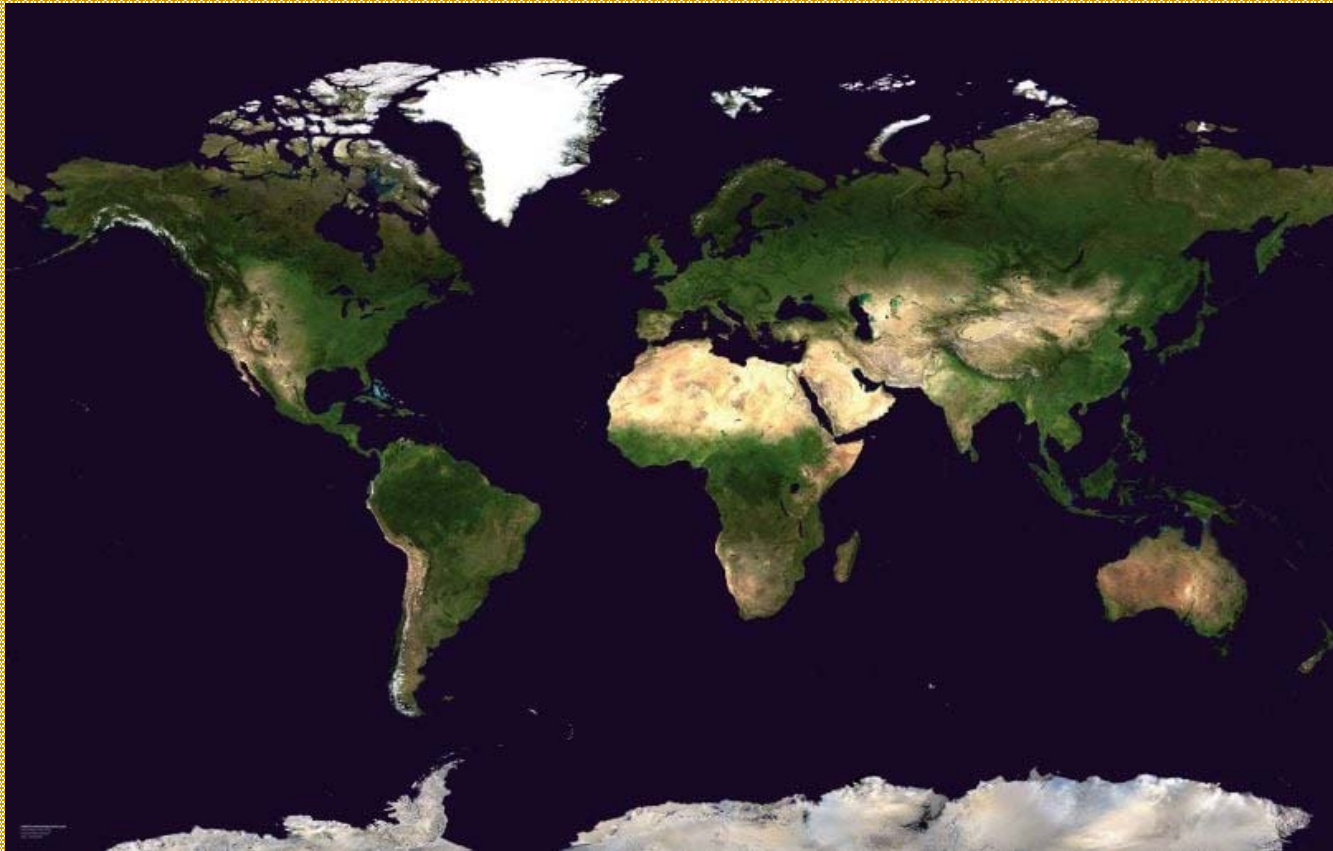


Being a witness (our part)

- Spurgeon summed it up as follows:
 - We should speak what we know and not what we have read.
 - We should speak the truth
 - Only our God has sufficiently predicted the future
 - We speak of answered prayers
 - We speak of afflictions and trials
 - We speak of the joy of Jesus
 - We speak of the ability of a man's life to be turned around
 - We speak of the peace given by Jesus
 - We speak of Christianity as being "manly" and something of which we are not ashamed
- We Should be consistent in our lives



Where to be a Witness



Next Week

- Forgiving, Judging and Reconciliation

