

WINNING AT WHAT MATTERS MOST
If You Are Not Winning Souls Than You're Not Winning!
Dr. Greg Tyree, BBC, AM, April 3, 2005

INTRODUCTION:

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³⁰ The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise. ³¹ If the righteous will be recompensed on the earth, How much more the ungodly and the sinner.

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³⁰ Live right, and you will eat from the life-giving tree. And if you act wisely, others will follow. ³¹ If good people are rewarded here on this earth, all who are cruel and mean will surely be punished.

Use the “Five W’s and an H” method when thinking about soul-winning.

PROPOSITION: To win at what matter most, apply the five W’s and an H to your personal Christian life

I. WHAT IS SOUL-WINNING?

A. Evangelism Focuses on the **Process** of Relationships. Matt. 5:16.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

EVANGELISM: The process by which a believer attempts to bring an unbeliever to a saving knowledge of Christ. This process may include, but is not limited to, apologetics (a defense of the truths of the Gospel), relational activities, prayer, invitational approaches (such as inviting people to crusades or church), and so on. The purpose is not necessarily to “convert” someone, but to bring him or her closer to the point of conversion.

B. Soul-Winning Focuses on **Producing** Results. Acts 8:34-38.

³⁴ So the eunuch answered Philip and said, “I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?” ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. ³⁶ Now

as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?"³⁷ Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."³⁸ So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

SOUL-WINNING: The act of convincing, through the leadership of the Holy Spirit, someone to receive Christ, resulting in the actual implementation of saving faith, generally manifested in one's sincere expression of some form of the "sinner's prayer," and followed by some form of public expression of that faith, such as baptism or public testimony.

II. WHY DO SOUL-WINNING?

- A. The **Command** of the **Savior** Requires Us To Be Soul-Winners. Acts 1:8;

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

- B. The **Consequence** of the **Sin** Requires Us To Be Soul-Winners. Matt. 25:30; Rev. 20:14, 15.

Matt. 25:30:

And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Rev. 20:14, 15.

¹⁴Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

- C. Our **Compassion** for **Sinners** Requires Us To Be Soul-Winners. Luke 19:41-44; Rom. 9:1-3.

Luke 19:41-44:

⁴¹Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, ⁴²saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³"For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you,

surround you and close you in on every side, ⁴⁴“and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

Rom. 9:103:

¹I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, ²that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh...

III. WHO DOES SOUL-WINNING?

- A. The **Church** is To Do Soul-Winning. Matt. 28:16-20.

¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. ¹⁷When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰“teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

- B. The **Christian** is To Do Soul-Winning. Matt. 4:18.

Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.

- C. The **Called** are To Do Soul-Winning. Eph. 4:11-12.

¹¹And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...

IV. WHERE DOES ONE DO SOUL-WINNING?

- A. The **Church** is To Do Evangelism **Continually**. Matt. 28:19a.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...

- B. The **Christian** is To Do Evangelism **Consistently**.

- C. The **Called** are To Do Evangelism **Constantly**.

V. **WHEN DOES ONE DO SOUL-WINNING?**

- A. The **Passing** of Opportunities Require that We Do Soul-Winning **Urgently**. Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5; James 4:14.

Eh. 5:16:

...redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Col. 4:5:

Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.

James 4:14:

...whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

- B. The **Potential** Outcomes Require that We Do Soul-Winning **Unceasingly**. Luke 16:19-31.

¹⁹“There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. ²⁰“But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, ²¹“desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²²“So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³“And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴“Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ ²⁵“But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. ²⁶‘And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’ ²⁷“Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, ²⁸‘for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ ²⁹“Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰“And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹“But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’ ”

VI. HOW DOES ONE DO SOUL-WINNING?

- A. We Need to **Adore** the Almighty.
- B. We Need to **Address** Our Apathy.
- C. We Need to **Alter** Our Attitudes.
- D. We Need to **Attain** New Abilities.
- E. We Need to **Amplify** Our Associations.

APPLICATION:

- Learn and apply both evangelism soul-winning to your own life and convictions.
- Accept that obedience to our Lord and the outcome for sin is enough to motivate us to reach lost people.
- Acknowledge that Jesus is the only way to be saved, and that people who die without Christ end up in hell!
- Admit that soul-winning is *your* job and that not *attempting* to win souls displeases God and makes you a loser.
- Look for opportunities in all our spheres of influence to live Christ, explain the gospel, and confront (challenge) people with their need for salvation.
- Love God, address your own apathy, adjust your attitude, learn soul-winning skills, and improve your relationships so that you may effectively lead people to a saving knowledge of Christ.
- Do it now!