

WINNING AT WHAT MATTERS MOST
If You Are Not Winning Souls Than You're Not Winning!
Part One: Preliminary Issues
Message Two: *Reasons* for Soul-Winning
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INTRODUCTION:

Prov. 11:30, 31.

Here are some principles that we will reiterate on a regular basis throughout this series:

1. **The U-Haul Principle:** You will never see a hearse pulling a U-Haul; the only thing you can take to heaven is other people.
2. **The Velvet-Covered Brick Principle:** We must be tough when confronting issues and soft when confronting people.
3. **The Energizer Bunny Principle:** When it comes to winning souls, you must keep going, and going and going...
4. **The Failure-is-Not-an-Option Principle:** The only way to fail at evangelism is to not do evangelism.
5. **The Let-Go-and-Let-God Principle:** It is up to God to save people; it is only up to us to tell them how to be saved.
6. **The Horseshoes Principle:** "Almost" only counts in horseshoes; the hardest people to reach are the "good" and "religious" people. Remember that being "almost" saved is the same as being lost!

This series looks like this:

1. Introduction to the Series (Last week)

Part One: Preliminary Principles

2. The ***Reasons*** for Soul-Winning (Today)
3. The ***Resistance*** to Soul-Winning
4. The ***Readiness*** for Soul-Winning

Part Two: Presentation Principles

5. The Reality of Soul-Winning: The Presentation
6. The Reality of Soul-Winning: Follow-Up
7. The Reality of Soul-Winning: Spiritual Gifts
8. The Reality of Soul-Winning: Evangelizing Children
9. The Reality of Soul-Winning: Evangelizing Post-Moderns
10. The Reality of Soul-Winning: Evangelizing Other Religions

Part Three: Problem Principles

11. The Rejection of Soul-Winning: The Exclusivity of Christ
12. The Rejection of Soul-Winning: The Suffering of People
13. The Rejection of Soul-Winning: The Doctrine of Hell
14. The Rejection of Soul-Winning: Other Objections

Part Four: Power Principles

15. The Rewards of Soul-Winning
16. The Reassurance of Soul-Winning

PROPOSITION: Today we shall consider ____ reasons why every Christian should strive to be winning at what matter most; that is, winning souls!

I. CONSIDER THE BIBLICAL REASONS TO BE A SOUL-WINNER.

- A. The Authority of the Bible. Matt. 28:19; Acts 1:8. :

Matt. 28:19:

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Acts 1:8:

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

- B. The Fall of Man. Genesis 2:16, 17; Genesis 3:9-19.

Now that we have established the authority of the Bible, let's consider what it

says about the true spiritual condition of mankind.

Genesis 2:16, 17:

¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: ¹⁷But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Genesis 3:9-19:

⁹And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? ¹⁰And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

¹¹And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? ¹²And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. ¹³And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

¹⁴And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: ¹⁵And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

¹⁶Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

¹⁷And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; ¹⁸Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; ¹⁹In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

C. Christ's **Example**. Lue 19:41; Matt. 9:36-38.

Luke 19:41:

And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it...

Matthew 9:36-38:

³⁶But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; ³⁸Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

D. Christ's **Command**. Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8.

Matthew 28:18-20:

18And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Acts 1:8:

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

II. CONSIDER THE THEOLOGICAL REASONS TO BE A SOUL-WINNER.

A. The **Depravity** of Man. Rom. 3:9-18, 23.

Romans 3:9-18:

⁹What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; ¹⁰As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ¹¹There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. ¹²They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. ¹³Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: ¹⁴Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: ¹⁵Their feet are swift to shed blood: ¹⁶Destruction and misery are in their ways: ¹⁷And the way of peace have they not known: ¹⁸There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Romans 3:23:

...or all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God...

B. God's **Plan** of Salvation.

Wayne Grudem, in his work, *Systematic Theology* (Zondervan, 1994), sets forth ten “steps” to the “order of salvation” (the “plan of salvation”). These steps are:

1. Election (God’s choice of people to be saved)
2. The gospel call (proclaiming the message of the gospel)
3. Regeneration (being born again)
4. Conversion (faith and repentance)
5. Justification (right legal standing)
6. Adoption (membership in God’s family)
7. Sanctification (right conduct of life)
8. Perseverance (remaining a Christian)
9. Death (going to be with Christ)
10. Glorification (receiving a resurrection body)

C. The **Reality** of Hell. Matt. 5:27-30; Matt. 25:30; Luke 6:22-24; 2 Peter 2:4; Rev. 20:14, 15.

1. Hell is real
2. Hell is eternal
3. Hell is hot
4. Hell is dark
5. Hell is lonely
6. Hell is a place where the conscience lives on
7. Hell, once a soul is there, is inescapable
8. Hell is the eternal residence of all who die without Christ
9. Hell is avoidable (by receiving Christ as Savior)

Matthew 5:27-30:

²⁷Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: ²⁸But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. ²⁹And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. ³⁰And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Matthew 25:30:

And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Luke 16:22-24:

...the rich man also died, and was buried; ²³And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴And 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.

2 Peter 2:4:

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment...

Revelation 20:14, 15:

¹⁴And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

When people conclude that a loving God will not allow anyone to go to Hell, they fail to recognize two things:

1. *They fail to recognize the infinite **holiness** of God.* Our human minds cannot conceive the infinite holiness of God. His purity and goodness goes beyond our ability to comprehend;
2. *They fail to recognize the infinite **sinfulness** of man.* Sin is not a “mistake” or a “weakness” or a “disadvantage” or a “perspective.” Sin is a violation of God’s holiness. To sin is to trespass against God’s perfect will.

D. The Reality of **Heaven**. John 14:1-3; Rev. 22:1-5.

Since even liberal Christians believe there is a Heaven, we need not spend any space defending the reality of this glorious place. Suffice it to say, Heaven is:

1. Real
2. Beautiful
3. Painless
4. Death-less
5. Sinless
6. The residence of God and His glory
7. The residence of all believers of all the ages
8. A place of rewards
9. Eternal life in all of its abundance

John 14:1-3:

¹Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Rev. 22:1-5:

¹And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. ²In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: ⁴And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. ⁵And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

E. The **Imminence** of the Rapture (The coming of Christ).

F. The **Exclusivity** of Christianity. John 14:6.

1. **Jesus** Claimed Exclusivity Himself (the “Trilemma”).

- a. Jesus said He is the only way to Heaven. The Gospels are authoritative and trustworthy, so we know He really did say this.
- b. If He was correct when He said this, He is Lord and we must obey His exclusive command to follow Him.
- c. If He was intentionally deceptive and incorrect when He said this, He was a liar.
- d. If He thought He was correct when He said this, but was actually wrong, He was a lunatic.
- e. Jesus is either Lord, liar, or lunatic.
- f. Jesus can neither be liar nor lunatic, thus He is Lord.
- g. Therefore, belief and faith in Jesus is the only to Heaven and to God.

2. The New Testament **Affirms** Exclusivity Outside the **Gospels**.

In Acts 4:12 we read, “*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*” Not only does Jesus claim the exclusivity of Christianity, the Bible in general does.

3. **Logic** Confirms the Exclusivity of Christianity.
4. God’s **Moral** Character Demands Exclusivity.

III. CONSIDER THE PRACTICAL REASONS TO BE A SOUL-WINNER.

- A. Our Love for Our **Savior**.
- B. Our Love for the **Lost**.
- C. Our Love for the **Church**.
- D. The **Mortality** of the Unsaved. Hebrews 9:27; James 4:13, 14.

Hebrews 9:27- *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment...*

James 4:13, 14- ¹³*Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: ¹⁴Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*

- E. The Improvement of **Temporal** Lives.
- F. A Passion to “**Populate**” Heaven.
- G. Our Desire to **Change** the World.

APPLICATION:

1. Do your actions regarding soul-winning reflect your professed value of the Word of God (the Bible)?
2. If God’s Word says that we should be winning souls, what does that mean for you and your current personal evangelism efforts?

3. Does the fact it is a reality that hell is hot and heaven is sweet a truly motivate you to witness to others? Are you okay with people going to hell?
4. How good must one be to get into heaven? What if the answer is, “As good as Jesus”? How can someone be “as good as” Jesus? Are you?
5. What practical talents, spiritual gifts, and relationships has God given you that you may be a “door” to Him for others?
6. What will you do beginning today to be a soul-winner who please God, brings others to Him, and invests in the lives of new Christians?