



Giving an Account - Witnessing

When we become a Christian we are given responsibility by God to bear witness to Jesus and the "Truth" we have received through the Good News of the Gospel. Growing in our faith is not just about worship, but it is also about witness. Jesus clearly reveals to us the importance of bearing personal witness of our salvation to the lost. As we share our faith the Bible suggests that salvation work is deepened in our lives and our Christian identity sealed. Luke 8 v 39 says "Jesus said, "Return home and tell of how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over the town how much Jesus had done for him."

Discuss - (In group / or small groups)

- Q1) Since becoming a Christian how have people at work / socially / home responded to you?
- Q2) Why do you think we need to share Jesus with people who do not know?
- Q3) What do you think are the different ways that people will hear Jesus / Good News through you?

So what do we learn about the importance of witnessing and also how to do it effectively?

Reason 1 - Called by Jesus Himself - to Witness to Him!

One of the last commands that Jesus gave His disciples was to GO into all the world and bear witness to Him. There is a sense that to be a true follower of Jesus we need to obey what He commanded and bear personal witness to Him and as we do so - we are promised that Jesus Himself will bear witness to us being His true disciples in heaven.

Matthew 10 v 32 - 39 _____

Matthew 28 v 18 - 20 _____

Reason 2 - People will not come to Salvation unless they hear the Good News

It is a simple fact that the Bible illuminates, that people will not come to salvation unless we as God's people share the salvation we have been given in Christ. We have been given a ministry of reconciliation that has the power to bring people back to God.

2 Corinthians 5 v 14 - 21 _____

Romans 10 v 8 - 15 _____

Reason 3 - Those who do not become Christians Will go to Hell

Although it may be difficult for us to accept, the bible makes it clear that there is a cost to be paid because of sin. We have two choices - we can pay that cost ourselves or we can allow Jesus to pay it through what He has done for us upon the cross. Scripture tells us that there is only one way back to God / only one way to freedom and that is through repenting of our sin and accepting Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour. If we do not do this then on the day of judgement we will be sent to hell - along with all those who have not believed and claimed the sacrifice of Jesus.

Mark 16 v 15 - 16, Revelation 20 v 11 - 15 : 21 v 5 - 8 (Note - "the unbelieving") _____

How to Witness 1 - Through Words

There are a number of different ways that our lives witness to the life changing message of Jesus. One of those ways is the words that

we use. Scripture calls this; to be ready to give an account of the hope that we have in Jesus. Even if we are not very good at speaking, the bible promises that the Holy Spirit will give us the words we need to bring testimony.

Luke 12 v 8 - 12 _____

How to Witness 2 - Through Actions & Lifestyle

One of the characteristics that defined the early church was not only did they witness to Jesus through words - but that their actions and lifestyle witnessed to Jesus as well. In every sense their way of life and actions stood as an example and contrast to the society around them. Acts 2 v 42 - 47 _____

How to Witness 3 - Through the Power of the Holy Spirit

Throughout the ministry of Jesus and also the early church we see how as they spoke and witnessed to the Gospel, God reinforced this witness with signs and wonders which authenticated the message that they proclaimed. The power of the Spirit has been given us to put God's hallmark on the message we proclaim.

Matthew 4 v 23 - 24, Mark 16 v 17 - 18, Acts 5 v 12 - 16 _____

