

WITNESSING WITH WORDS

REACHING THEIR HEARTS THROUGH HIS

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SCRIPTURES

Romans 15:14-22

PURPOSE

To encourage people to share their faith through words.

INTRODUCTION

1. You are more able to teach others about God than what you may think (14).
 - a. You are good people.
 - b. You possess knowledge of God.
 - c. You are capable of instructing people about God.
2. You are more influential than you imagine.

Studies shows 73-87% of those who come to church and to Christ do so, because they were invited by a family member or a friend.
3. Paul wrote these words in order to remind people of what they knew.
 - a. We need reminders that what we say does make a difference.
 - b. We tend to be bombarded with words.

Used to be advertisers needed to get their message out 3 times in order to be heard. Then it moved up to five times. The last I heard was eight times.

I. GOD UNITES WITH WHAT WE SAY TO ASSURE THE MESSAGE IS HEARD.

William Fay, an atheist, CEO and founder of several businesses, including illegal drug running and houses of prostitution, came to faith in God. He is presently an author and lecturer who trains people to share their faith. He tells audiences that when people talked with him about God, he would threaten them, mock them or ignore them. But he says he never forgot what they said to him. He remembered every occasion where a Christian shared the good news with him. God's Spirit used what Christians said.

II. WHAT RIGHT OR RESPONSIBILITY DO WE HAVE TO TALK TO PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS?

Read Ezekiel 3:16-21

- A. The Great Commission authorizes us to speak to others on God's behalf.
- B. Because God graced us (15).
- C. We are given the work of a priest (16).

Peter wrote, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (I Peter 2:9).

- D. Priest means a bridge-builder; one who bridges the gap between sinners and God.
- E. A priest intercedes, meets needs and interacts in caring ways.

III. WHAT DO I SAY?

- A. We fear we must confront people and we want to avoid that conflict.
 - # A pastor said to a young married lady, "If you keep drinking you are going to die and you are going to hell." She gave her life to God, gave up drinking, and has been sober for a decade.
- B. At times confrontation is needed, but usually other methods work better.
- C. Instead, speak what Jesus has accomplished through you (18).
 - 1. Explain the Gospel (19).
 - 2. Paul writes, "These, then, are the things you should teach" (Titus 2:15).
 - a. To what things does Paul make reference?
 - b. Read Titus 2:11-15a

IV. WHAT CAN WE HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH?

- A. To see the unsaved become fully acceptable to God (16)
- B. For the unsaved to be cleansed by the Holy Spirit (16).
- C. To fully proclaim the Good News (19).
- D. To announce the Good News where Jesus is not known (20).

E. To inform the formerly uninformed (21).

CONCLUSION

1. But it is not convenient (22).
2. We are capable.
3. Are we willing?