



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#55)

Our "Witnessing" about the Good News

If it weren't for so many people distorting the Good News today, this Mission Moment wouldn't have even been necessary!

If people were satisfied to base their "good news" on Scripture, instead of modern-day substitutes, the conclusions would be obvious!

WHAT DO PEOPLE MEAN WHEN THEY TALK ABOUT "WITNESSING"?

Some people use the phrase "**witnessing**" in reference to going door-to-door (or person-to-person), telling people about Jesus, passing out printed leaflets, or something equivalent.* (Sometimes they call it "soul-winning.")

Though the Bible occasionally uses the word "**testify**," the New Testament concept is quite different from the activities that many people do today.

* (Unfortunately, many of these people are actually using a manipulative "canned speech," designed (like bait) to get "decisions for Jesus" from people, without taking the time to tell them what the New Testament actually says. There is a great tendency for such "converts" to abandon the faith at a later time.)

WHEN THE APOSTLES "WITNESSED," they were telling people about *Jesus* – what they personally saw (or heard him say).

EXAMPLES:

- ❖ Jesus went around doing good.
- ❖ You murdered him.
- ❖ God brought his corpse back to life.
- ❖ We saw him alive... he ate and drank with us.
- ❖ God has exalted him over all people, as ruler and judge.

BUT WHAT ABOUT US?

What are we supposed to "witness"?

LIKE THE APOSTLES, WE CAN WITNESS DAY-TO-DAY THINGS – SUCH AS THE GOOD AND EVIL CONDUCT OF PEOPLE.

As the Scriptures say, "The facts of every case must be established by the testimony of two or three **witnesses**."
2 Cor. 13:1b (NLT)

If we don't speak truthfully about people's conduct, we become false witnesses.

★ BUT WE CANNOT "WITNESS" THE LIFE, DEATH, BURIAL, RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION OF JESUS! ★

WE WEREN'T THERE TO WITNESS IT!!!

so our salvation-related witnessing is going to be different.

OUR "WITNESSING" – HOW IS IT SIMILAR?

⇒ WE WILL NEED TO RELY ON GOD'S POWER.

← Just like the apostles did

I pray that... [God] may strengthen you with **power** through his Spirit in your inner being, ...
Ephes. 3:16 (NIV)

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity but one of **power**, love, and self-discipline.
2 Tim. 1:7 (ISV)

ESPECIALLY WHEN PEOPLE OPPOSE US.

So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord or be ashamed of me, his prisoner. Instead, by God's **power**, join me in suffering for the sake of the Good News.
2 Tim. 1:8 (GW)

⇒ **IT WILL STILL REQUIRE VERBAL COMMUNICATION.** ← Just like with the apostles

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? **And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?**

Romans 10:14 (NLT)

THE MESSAGE WILL BE REINFORCED (OR DENIED) BY THE WAY WE LIVE.

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Live as children of light** (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ...

Ephes. 5:8-9 (NIV)

[IN CONTRAST WITH...] They claim to know God, but **by their actions they deny him.**

Titus 1:16a (NIV)

⇒ **WE STILL MUST RELY ON GOD TO SAVE PEOPLE.** ← Just like the apostles did

He saved us, not because of the good things we did, but because of **his mercy.**

Titus 3:5a (NLT)

For the message about the cross ... to us who are being saved it is **the power of God.**

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NET)

GOD WILL USE THE GOOD NEWS TO BRING SALVATION.

I'm not ashamed of the Good News. It is **God's power** to save everyone who believes, ...

Romans 1:16a (GW)

⇒ **WHAT WE SAY CAN BUILD ON WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY DONE.** ← Just like with the apostles

GOD HAS ALREADY GIVEN THEM AN INNATE AWARENESS OF HIS EXISTENCE AND THEIR FUTURE JUDGMENT.

- ✓ They know God through creation, but they have suppressed that knowledge – Romans 1:19-20.
- ✓ They experienced God's kindness, even though they have rejected God – Acts 14:17.
- ✓ They know that sin earns judgment – Romans 1:32.
- ✓ Their consciences also testify about the things they do, whether those things are right or wrong – Romans 2:15.

OUR JOB IS TO RE-INTRODUCE THEM TO THE TRUE GOD, AND SHOW THEM HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE COMING JUDGMENT DAY.

⇒ **WE MUST RELY ON GOD TO USE SCRIPTURE TO SAVE PEOPLE.** ← Just like the apostles did

OUR JOB IS TO TELL THEM WHAT SCRIPTURE SAYS.

For the word of God is **living and active**. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

Humbly accept the word that God has placed in you. This word **can save you.**

James 1:21b (GW)

... the holy Scriptures, which are able to **make you wise for salvation** through faith in Christ Jesus.

2 Tim. 3:15b (NIV)

⇒ **WE CAN REALIZE THAT MANY WILL REJECT WHAT SCRIPTURE SAYS.** ← Just like the apostles realized

IT'S NOT LACK OF EVIDENCE... BUT UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT IT.

"... you [leaders] **do not accept** our testimony."

John 3:11b (CSB)

"... they **will not accept** your testimony about me."

Acts 22:18b (CSB)

THE BASIC ISSUE: ... they **refused** to love the truth...

2 Thes. 2:10b (NIV)

IF THEY REJECT SCRIPTURE, EVEN MIRACLES WON'T CONVINCE THEM.

If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, **neither will they be persuaded** if someone rises from the dead.

Luke 16:31b (NASB)

OUR "WITNESSING" – HOW IS IT DIFFERENT?

⇒ **WE CAN SHOW HOW JESUS FULFILLED OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY.** ← Just like the apostles did

⇒ **WE CANNOT SAY THAT WE PERSONALLY SAW IT HAPPEN.** ← Unlike the apostles

⇒ **OUR MESSAGE WILL BE:**

- ✓ "The *apostles* saw it happen."
- ✓ "*Scripture* accurately records what they saw."
(Everything else will be basically the same!)

The DIFFERENCE:

EVERYONE can say this: JESUS FULFILLED EVERYTHING WRITTEN ABOUT HIM IN THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS.

The **APOSTLES** could say this: WE SAW IT WITH OUR OWN EYES.

WE must say this: THE APOSTLES SAW IT, AND WHAT THEY SAW IS RECORDED IN THE BIBLE.

WE HAVE THE **SAME** MESSAGE, BUT WE EXPRESS IT IN A SLIGHTLY **DIFFERENT** WAY.

⇒ **WE CAN TELL PEOPLE HOW JESUS FULFILLED OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE.** ← Just like the apostles did

I stand and testify ... , saying nothing other than what the prophets and Moses said would take place...
Acts 26:22b (CSB)

... trying to convince them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and the Prophets.
Acts 28:23b (ISV)

But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.
Romans 3:21 (NIV)

This is the difference – and it's not that much!

⇒ **WE CAN TELL PEOPLE HOW THE NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE RECORDS WHAT THE APOSTLES SAW AND HEARD.**

[John] is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.
John 21:24 (NIV)

But God raised [Jesus] from the dead, and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people.
Acts 13:30-31 (NIV)

[Jesus] appeared to Cephas [Peter]. Next he appeared to the twelve apostles. Then he appeared to more than 500 believers at one time. ... Next he appeared to James. Then he appeared to all the apostles. Last of all, he also appeared to me.
John 21:24 (NIV)

Many appearances, now recorded in Scripture!

⇒ **WE CAN TELL PEOPLE ABOUT GOD AND WHAT HE HAS DONE.** ← Just like the apostles did

... testifying about God's Kingdom...
Acts 28:23b (WEB)

... proclaiming to you the testimony of God.
1Co 2:1b (WEB)

This is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is found in his Son.
1 John 5:11 (GW)

... a righteousness from God, ... to which the Law and the Prophets testify.
Romans 3:21 (NIV)

⇒ **WE CAN TELL PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS AND WHAT HE HAS DONE.** ← Just like the apostles did

You study the scriptures thoroughly because you think in them you possess eternal life, and it is these same scriptures that testify about me [= Jesus], ...
John 5:39 (NET)

"[I, Paul] testify ... that the Christ would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to his own people and to the Gentiles."
Acts 26:22b, 23 (NIV)

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, a testimony at the proper time.
1 Tim. 2:5-6 (CSB)

YOUR MISSION... "CONSIDER"

CONSIDERING WHAT WE HAVE ...

- ✓ An accurate description of:
 - What Jesus said and did
 - What the apostles saw and heard
- ✓ The significance of these things.

... ALL RECORDED IN SCRIPTURE.

WITH ALL THAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN ...

>> **Do YOU have anything worth testifying ("witnessing") about?**

{ WE HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER ALL OF THIS TO BE WORTH TALKING ABOUT! }

Credits

SCRIPTURE

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