

## EXPRESSIONS OF PERSONAL EVANGELISM

John Edwards

Personal evangelism is the work of each Christian. The Lord commissioned His disciples, *“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature”* (Mk. 16:15). *“Go ye”* means go me! This study suggests some expressions of personal evangelism

**SEED SOWERS.** As personal evangelists, we are seed sowers. The Parable of the Sower teaches us *“The seed is the word of God”* and the soil is the hearts of men (Lk. 8:5-15). Since we do not know the hearts of men, we must plant the seed in every heart possible and pray it reaches *“an honest and good heart.”* *“Is the seed yet in the barn?”* (Hag. 2:19).

**SOUL WINNERS.** The Bible says, *“He that winneth souls is wise”* (Prov. 11:30). The soul of man is his most valuable possession. *“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”* (Mt. 16:26). The song *“A Soul Winner for Jesus”* ought to express our desire as it states, *“I want to be a soul winner for Jesus every day.”*

**FISHERS OF MEN.** As

Peter and Andrew were *“casting a net into the sea,”* Jesus called, *“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men”* (Mt. 4:18-19). The personal evangelist is a fisherman! The gospel of Christ is our fishing lure. Paul penned, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation...”* (Rom. 1:16). As fishermen, we need to go where the fish are biting. Gone fishing lately?

**“AND HE BROUGHT HIM TO JESUS”.** John 1:35-40 finds Andrew becoming a follower of Jesus. After finding the Christ, the first thing he did was to find his brother. Andrew told Peter, *“We have found the Christ... And he brought him to Jesus”* (Jn. 1:41-42). If you had been Andrew, would you have found your brother and brought him to Jesus?

**“SHE SPAKE OF HIM”.** Luke 2:36-38 contains a biography of Anna. This 84-year-old widow was said to have *“spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem”* (Lk. 2:38). There are those today looking for redemption. Redemption is found in Christ (Eph. 1:7). As Anna, we need to be speaking of Christ to all that look for redemption.

**“COME, SEE A MAN”.** When the woman of Samaria

found the Christ at Jacob’s well, she *“then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?”* (Jn. 4:28-29). John 4:39 records, *“And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman...”* Suppose she hadn’t said anything? This story points out the power of an invitation as the woman said, *“Come”* and *“they went out of the city, and came unto him”* (Jn. 4:29-30). Personal evangelism is as easy as saying, *“Come”*.

**“THEY WENT EVERY WHERE PREACHING”.** First century Christians were highly evangelistic. Acts 8:4 records, *“Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”* If Luke had been writing about us, could it be said, *“they went every where preach the word”*? The result was, *“...a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord”* (Acts 11:21). We must do the same to see the same results.

**“PHILIP RAN THITHER TO HIM”.** Acts 8:26-38 shows the personal evangelism of Philip. This record reveals some trademarks of effective personal evangelism. First, we’ve got to be zealous. The word *“ran”* suggests the enthusiasm and zeal of Philip. Second, it’s

important to be a good listener. The expression “*heard him read*” indicates Philip was a good listener. Furthermore, a good personal evangelist recognizes the value of good questions. Philip asked, “*Understandest thou what thou readest?*” (Acts 8:30). Also, it’s important to begin at the right place. Philip “*opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus*” (Acts 8:35). Finally, our evangelism must demand personal application. The eunuch asked, “*What doth hinder me to be baptized?*” (Acts 8:36). The outcome of Philip’s personal evangelism is that “*he baptized him*” (Acts 8:38).

Make a list of six people you know who are good prospects for personal evangelism. Now select one of these and get to the work of personal evangelism today.

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**SOME WHO CANNOT BE SAVED**

*John Edwards*

While it is true that God will have all men to be saved (1 Tim. 2:3-4), there are some according to the gospel who cannot be saved.

**FAITH ONLY PEOPLE.**

Those trying to be saved by faith only cannot be saved as James said, “*Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only*” (Jas. 2:24). It takes more than faith to save a person (Mk. 16:16).

**THOSE NOT WILLING TO REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED.**

The Lord said, “*Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish*” (Lk. 13:3) and “*God commandeth all men every where to repent*” (Acts 17:30). Baptism is “*for the remission of sins*” (Acts 2:38) and “*doth also now save us*” (1 Pet. 3:21). So, if a person will not repent and be baptized they cannot be saved.

**FOLKS NOT IN THE LORD’S CHURCH.** There is but one church revealed on the pages of divine inspiration (Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:24), identified as the church of Christ (Rom. 16:16). The saved are in the Lord’s

church (Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23).

**SOME IN THE CHURCH OF CHRIST.**

Yes, it is true that some of God’s children will be disinherited. Those in the Lord’s church who are hypocrites (Mt. 23), unfaithful (Rev. 2:10), quitters (Gal. 5:7), first love leavers (Rev. 2:4), lukewarm (Rev. 3:16), and allow themselves to become defiled (Rev. 21:27) cannot be saved.

Hebrews 5:9 states Christ is “*...the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.*” Will we be among them that are saved?

*“Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”*

—Ephesians 4:3-6

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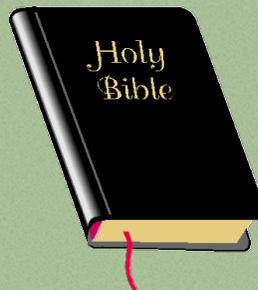
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