

Evangelism: outreach to the neighborhoods

Introduction

- A summer series
 - To explain how we take the Scriptures and turn them into ministry
 - To lay out clearly particular ministries at the Chapel
- Tonight's teaching
 - To make plain the ministry of evangelism

Introduction

A summer series

- Practical Ministry at the Chapel

Tonight I desire to continue a series started by Pastor Russ on June 4th titled Practical Ministry at the Chapel. This series aims to explain how we take the Scriptures and turn them into practical, hands on ministry. Our objectives (whether we are talking about pulpit ministry, biblical counseling, spiritual education or tonight's emphasis evangelism) are 1) to ground the ministry in the Word of God 2) to explain how ministry is derived from the Word 3) to show how we work out this ministry by wisdom 4) to lay out a particular ministry's mission, vision, objectives and goals.

Tonight's teaching

- Evangelism; outreach to the Neighborhoods

And so, tonight I desire to make plain our ministry of evangelism at the Chapel. My purpose and objectives for this teaching are shaped by the series aim but will be tailored to the specifics of reaching our neighborhoods with the gospel

Current Problem

- In Montana
 - “If only I do...then they will...”
- In Ohio
 - “If only you would have...then he would have...”
- A look modern evangelism
 - Its development
 - Its distinctives
 - To see the contrast to biblical evangelism.
 - To sense when we are hearing or speaking a modern gospel.

Practical Ministry at Clearcreek Chapel

Current Problem

To begin, I want to set up a problem currently within our culture / church regarding evangelism so as to make way for the biblical view of evangelism. We will look at modern evangelism briefly. Then we will observe a paragraph in the Bible related to true evangelism. Finally, with the remainder of our time tonight I will outline the mission, vision, objectives and goals of the Chapel's evangelism along with its practical implementation.

Let's get started with two examples I encountered earlier in my pastorate that illustrates the problem we face in evangelism today (The below examples play out the technique-oriented, decisionistic evangelism prevalent today).

- In Montana

- “If only I do...then they will...”

- In Ohio

- “If only you would have...then he would have...”

- A look modern evangelism

- Its development

- Its distinctives

- To see the contrast to biblical evangelism.

- To sense when we are hearing or speaking a modern gospel.



Modern Evangelism

Its development

Refer to the article "The Fight". This article was written by me for a class on evangelism last year. The article has been edited in order to be more useful for us in evangelism training. If you would like to read it, copies are made available in the lobby after service.

Its distinctives

For sake of brevity and time, let's look at the distinctives of modern evangelism by viewing it in contrast with the views of the Bible.

- Views God as a friend who will help you.
- Views man as sick and ignorant.
- Views Christ as a savior from failures.
- Views response to Christ as dependent upon self

In contrast with --

- Views God as the King who will save you.
- Views man as spiritually dead and lost.
- Views Christ as savior from sins and Lord over life.
- Views response to Christ as dependent upon God.

Biblical Evangelism

- Colossians 4:2-6
 - What can ordinary Christians do to participate in making Christ known to outsiders?
 - #1 Speak to God about outsiders vv.2-4
 - Steadfastly v.2
 - Expectantly v.3a
 - Specifically vv.3b-4
 - In other words...
 - *Speak to God faithfully and attentively for me that my DECLARATIONAL evangelism yields converts.*
 - #2 Speak to outsiders about God vv.5-6
 - Carefully yet courageously v.5
 - Graciously yet savory v.6
 - In other words...
 - *Speak to outsiders with a balance of tact yet zeal; kindness yet liveliness that your RELATIONAL evangelism yields converts.*

Biblical Foundations

With the above as a fitting rebuke to some of the silly and rebellious notions of evangelism, we now shift our attention to the Bible. Look with me at one paragraph from God's precious and holy Word.

Colossians 4:2-6

What can ordinary Christians do to participate in making Christ known to outsiders? There is a paragraph in the Bible that makes clear two things. These activities found in Col. 4:2-6 will provide us with perspective and principles by which we can increase in our personal and corporate evangelism efforts. This paragraph functions for the Chapel as our biblical foundation for evangelism.

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|---------------------------------|---------|
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In other words...

Speak to God faithfully and attentively for me that my DECLARATIONAL evangelism yields converts

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In other words...

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Mission and Vision

Having briefly outlined a common problem in modern evangelism and having briefly noticed a corrective perspective found in the Bible we now will make plain the mission, vision, objectives and goals of Clearcreek Chapel's evangelism ministry.

Let's begin with a look at SGM's mission and vision. The mission of our outreach and assimilation ministry at Clearcreek Chapel can be remembered by the 4 Cs.

Spreading the Gospel of God Ministries

Its mission

Through teaching and training to mobilize Clearcreek Chapel for creative, courageous, compassionate, Christ-reliant outreach

Reaching out to our guests in our church (Chapel's assimilation ministry)

*** Reaching out to our neighbors in our communities (Chapel's evangelism ministry)**

Reaching out to our nations in our world (Chapel's missions ministry)

SGM exists to mobilize (i.e. renewing and rallying) Clearcreek Chapel for creative, courageous, compassionate, Christ-reliant outreach. This "outreach" is defined in three ways; reaching out to our guests within our church (i.e. assimilation) reaching out to our neighbors within our communities (i.e. evangelism) and reaching out to our nations in the our world (i.e. missions).

SGM strives to help change our hearts so that we all are participating in reaching out to people. We aim to see more and more of us growing in the four Cs; that is, to become more creative in our outreach, to become more courageous in our reaching out to people, to become more compassionate to those to whom we are reaching out, to become more Christ-reliant when we are reaching out to people.

~~When we think about what God can do in and through this ministry, what do we see?~~
Everyone on everyday in every way making visible the invisible Christ.

Objectives and Goals

- Communicating how we view & do evangelism
 - Pulpit ministry will make clear
 - Literature distribution will make known
- Cultivating camaraderie in evangelism
 - Providing opportunities to tell current gospel stories
 - Continuing the Christian witness center
- Casting and catching the vision of evangelism
 - SGGM's monthly meetings will resume
 - SGGM's training curriculum will continue
- Causing our communities to consider our Christ
 - Continuing periodic evangelism through special events
 - Becoming more helpful, winsome and strategic in our efforts to become more visible in our community.

Objectives and Goals

We understand that the SGGM's influence will be contained and short-lived unless it gains sway over the congregation as a whole. Therefore, we want to outline now the objectives and goals that are necessary to see an increase in church-wide effective evangelism.

• **Communicating how we view & do evangelism**

This objective has to do with carefully and clearly teaching and telling each other the gospel. Clearcreek Chapel will remain a place in which solid, biblical and plain truth will be found. This will continue to be so in the area of evangelism. Goals to strive after our first objective are as follows.

1. Pulpit ministry will make clear Jesus Christ through expositional preaching of the Bible.
2. Literature will be made available free or at reduced cost for all who desire to learn, live and speak the gospel.

• **Cultivating camaraderie among us in the area of evangelism**

Objective number two has to do with developing stimulating and sustaining conversations and relationships among us who want to grow in evangelism. Clearcreek Chapel will remain a place in which eager openness to each other over the thrills and chills of evangelism will occur. Goals to strive after this objective are as follows.

1. Providing opportunities to tell current gospel stories.
2. Continuing the ordinary Christian witness center in the lobby.

• **Casting and catching the vision of evangelism**

Objective number three has to do with practically and personally training those of us who want to grow in evangelism. Clearcreek Chapel will remain a place in which plain and practical ways of growing in our faith will take place. Goals to move us toward this objective are as follows.

1. SGGM's monthly meetings will resume.
2. SGGM's training curriculum will continue.

Causing the communities to consider Christ through evangelism

Objective four has to do with making Christ and the Chapel more visible in our communities. Clearcreek Chapel will remain a place in which prayer, thought, plans and participation in and for our community will happen.

1. Continuing periodic evangelism through special events
2. Becoming more helpful, winsome and strategic in our efforts to become more visible in our community.

Agenda and Development

- Clear communication in evangelism
 - Our preaching becoming more and more soul-searching, people-caring, Christ-centered
 - Our literature becoming more available and helpful
 - Our speech used more for cultivating camaraderie
- Casting and catching the vision in evangelism
 - 1st Sunday of the month seeing an increase in attendance at our SGGM gatherings
 - 100% congregational involvement in BBR
 - Developing more awareness and interest in our in-depth, correspondence training course
- Causing our communities to consider Christ
 - Seeing more enthusiasm over all-church outreach events
 - Enjoying community activities, relationships and ways of making our presence known

Practical Ministry at Clearcreek Chapel

Agenda and Development

Clear communication in evangelism

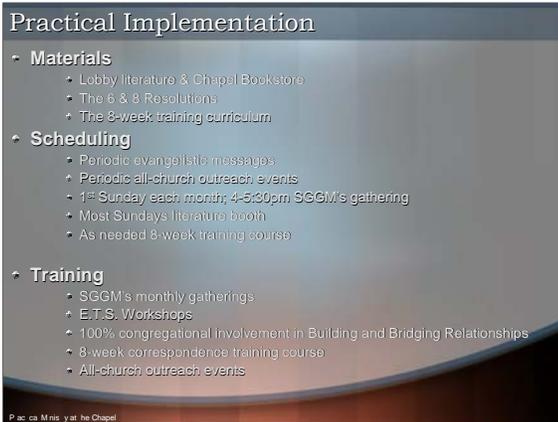
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Casting and catching the vision in evangelism

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- 100% congregational involvement in BBR
- Developing more awareness and interest in our in-depth, correspondence training course

Causing our communities to consider Christ

- Seeing more enthusiasm over all-church outreach events.
- Enjoying community activities, relationships and ways of making our presence known



Practical Implementation

Let's wrap up our time tonight by looking at how thoughts and plans become a reality. In other words, look with me at some practical implementations of Spreading the Gospel of God Ministries.

Materials

- Lobby literature & Chapel Bookstore
- The 6 & 8 Resolutions
- The 8-week training curriculum

Scheduling

- Periodic evangelistic messages
- Periodic all-church outreach events
- 1st Sunday each month; 4-5:30pm SGGM's gathering
- Most Sundays literature booth
- As needed 8-week training course

Training

- SGGM's monthly gatherings
- E.T.S. Workshops
- 100% congregational involvement in Building and Bridging Relationships
- 8-week correspondence training course
- All-church outreach events

In Conclusion

♦ As Colossians 4:2-6 says...

Let us increase in our talk to
God about outsiders and let
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In Conclusion

As Colossians 4:2-6 says...

Let us increase in our talk to God about outsiders and let us increase in our talk to outsiders about God.

This will require prayer.

This will require repentance.

This will require changing in attitudes, actions and activities.

This will require all of us providing help and hope for change.

This will require teamwork in developing creative, courageous, compassionate, Christ-reliant evangelism.

Let's team up to transform lives with His truth! And all this to the praise of His glory