

WITNESSING

Discipleship 1 - Chapter 6

WITNESSING

A courtroom “witness” has tremendous power. One eye-witness can convict a man of murder. It is therefore the grave responsibility of the witness to be totally honest in his report of what he has seen and heard.

When we speak of witnessing for Christ, we mean much the same as witnessing in the courtroom. A courtroom witness is obligated to take the stand and truthfully tell what he has seen, what he has heard, and what he knows to be true. Jesus Christ said that believers are to be “witnesses” for Him (Acts 1:8) of what they have seen, what they have heard, and what they know to be true regarding His death on the cross, His resurrection from the tomb and His power to grant eternal salvation to all who believe (John 3:36).

WITNESSING - The Priority

If you were a cancer patient and somehow discovered a cure for your dreaded disease, you would want to share the cure with the entire world so that everyone could escape the plague of cancer. When you found Jesus Christ, you discovered something far better than a cure for cancer. You found the answer to the problems of sin and death. Shouldn't you have a natural desire to share your discovery with everyone? Witnessing must become a priority!

1. **Because Jesus commanded us to witness**

In Matthew 28:19-20 we read, “go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” This passage has been called “The Great Commission.” These are the last words that our Lord spoke while on earth. This command presents to us a three-fold obligation. We must (1) teach or evangelize all nations, (2) baptize those who believe, and (3) disciple the believers by “teaching them to observe all things.” Sadly, this “Great Commission” has become our “Great Omission.” Half of the world has never heard the Gospel.

2. **Because we will give account for the blood of the lost.**

God says in Ezekiel 33:8, “when i say unto the wicked, o wicked man, thou shalt surely die, if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.” Paul lived under this burden of future accountability (Acts 18:6; Acts 20:26) and so must we.

If we see a blind man heading for a cliff and fail to warn him of his peril, we are responsible for his destruction. We are chargeable for murder. Yet, round about us the spiritually blind are heading for eternal peril - how much more shall we be chargeable for their fate?

3. **Because we will be rewarded for our service.**

If our only reward was the earthly joy of seeing a soul saved, it would be reward enough, but God offers us more. He offers us eternal reward. In Daniel 12:3 we read, "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever." Imagine, God not only grants us the privilege of being His ambassadors and the joy of seeing others accept eternal life, He also gives us eternal rewards for our service (I Corinthians 3:12-14).

WITNESSING - The Presentation

The presentation of our witness for Christ involves two elements.

1. **A Godly life.**

A courtroom witness is called into account not only for his testimony, but also for his character. The Christian who desires to effectively witness for Christ must maintain a godly life. I Corinthians 10:31 says, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." The way you maintain your home, your car, your business, your finances, or your temper will all reflect on your Lord and affect your witness.

2. **A specific Message.**

Simply living an exemplary life is not enough. A person can have outstanding virtues, but until he "takes the stand" he will never alter the outcome of a case. Isaiah 58:1 instructs us to "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people." We must "speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15) so that all the world can know our Savior. It is not necessary to be technical. It is not right to be argumentative. You should simply testify of what you know to be true.

WITNESSING - The Preparation

To be a good witness, it is necessary to be prepared. You become prepared by:

1. **Praying.** Ask God to give you an opportunity to witness to someone every day. This is certainly His will (II Peter 3:9)

2. **Studying.** The better you know God's Word the better you will communicate it to others (II Timothy 2:15).
3. **Memorizing.** Scripture memory is a vital ingredient in successful witnessing. That's why you have memorized verses in this course which will help you lead others to Christ.
4. **Carrying Tracts.** Passing out Gospel literature is another great means of getting out your message. Don't neglect this opportunity.

Won't you pray that God will burden you to be a great witness for Him?! You will never know the thrill of spiritual parenthood until you accept your God - given duty to witness.

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A hundred thousand souls a day
Are passing one by one away
In Christless, hopeless gloom.
Without a ray of gospel light,
Their future dark as endless night,
They hasten to their doom.

FROM YOUR READING

1. (True or False) - I will stand accountable before God if I fail to witness to others. _____
(True or False) - I can be a “silent witness” and be just as effective for God. _____
(True or False) - Sometimes you must argue and be just as effective for God. _____
2. List three reasons why you should witness.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
3. _____ of the world’s population has never heard the Gospel.
4. To be an effective witness one must have:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
5. What four things can you do to be a better prepared witness?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

GROUP TIME

Rules for witnessing:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

The three tools that I already have for witnessing are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Observation from the witnessing process:

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BIBLE



STUDY

The following material is given for your personal Bible Study and Christian growth. The basic assignments for the course are given and a special “achiever” assignment is suggested for those who desire to go the extra mile. Before you begin, pray that God will allow you to really grow through this endeavor.

SCRIPTURE ASSIGNMENT

You can begin to be a witness by simply sharing your testimony. As you grow in the Lord, you should desire to perfect your witnessing skills. You can do this by memorizing and studying, but the most effective way to become a good witness is to just do it!

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Read Your Bible and Answer the Following:

1. What does the Bible tell you about the person who “wins souls” (Proverbs 11:30)? _____

2. What do you learn about soul winning (witnessing) from II Timothy 1:8?

(Also see Psalm 119:46)
3. What causes heaven to rejoice (Luke 15:7)? _____

4. What promises does Jesus make to those whom He commands to witness?
 - a. Matthew 28:20 _____
 - b. Acts 1:8 _____
5. Who directed Philip to witness to the eunuch (Acts 8:26-29)? _____

We need to listen for our directions in witnessing and obey the inner voice as Philip did.

6. what was the prayer of the early church? (Acts 4:29) _____

7. What three things is the soul winner to do in order to find future joy?
(Psalm 126:6)
- a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

Achiever Questions

1. what do you learn about a soul winner's responsibility in
(Matthew 5:13-16)?

2. What does the Bible promise regarding our efforts to witness
(I Corinthians 15:58)? _____

3. Write the words of Mark 16:15 in the space provided here:

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MEMORY ASSIGNMENT

Books of the Bible: Review all twenty-seven New Testament books.
(Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are Gospels which teach about
Jesus. Acts tells of the founding of the early church. Romans through
Jude are letters called Epistle. Revelation is a book which reveals the
future.)

Verse: Romans 10:13

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Achiever Verse: Romans 5:1

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through
our Lord Jesus Christ.”

PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT

1. Review all the verses you have memorized from these six chapters. These verses can be used in order to lead someone to Jesus Christ.
2. Witness to at least two people this week. (Be prepared to share your experiences.)