

THE
BIBLICAL
POSITIVITY

Soul-Winning

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Indeed the first question that we should ask, if we are to discuss the “biblical philosophy” of soul-winning, is whether or not it truly is biblical. One would think a question of this nature would be ridiculous to even pose. And indeed, we will see it is an unnecessary question, for the bible is very clear as to our privileged responsibility to spread the Gospel of Christ Jesus. The bible is also very clear as to why, when, how, where and for how long we are to be steadfast in our work for the Lord.

Sadly, many Christians in these last days do not have a heartfelt burden for the lost. Often we think that if through our tithes and offerings we are supporting missionaries, then we are actively involved in soul-winning. While this is important, it surely does not replace our personal responsibilities to witness for Christ Jesus. It should not be used as a crutch for personal, individual soul winning.

When I use the term “soul-winning” I refer to the actions of a Christian preaching Christ’s crucifixion (1 Corinthians 1:23), burial and resurrection. To seek true repentance (Mark 6:12) in the heart of the unbeliever and salvation by the grace (John 1:17) of God through the shed blood at Calvary (Luke 23:33) in the culmination of glorifying Christ Jesus. By no means do I allude to the idea that man can “win” a soul to heaven, that is the work of God alone (Luke 9:56).

Why should we be soul-winning? If for no better reason, but because Christ gave his life for us (John 3:16), that we might be saved from eternal separation from Him and the eternal everlasting fire of Hell. However, we have been given a command to go and disciple, instruct, teach and baptize throughout the known world in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost” (Matthew 28:19). “He that winneth souls is wise” (Proverbs 11:30). Here, God gives us insight about what he thinks of a soul-winner. John R. Rice writes, in his book *Soul Winners Fire*, “All other labor is insignificant beside the supreme labor of winning souls.” Christ proved by His sacrifice, the worth that He put on a single soul. Anything that important to God, should be top priority for us.

When should we begin soul-winning? We have a pretty clear example in John 1:41. Andrew, thought to have probably been the first witness, other than John himself, heard John preaching Christ. The first thing he did was to share the “good news” with his brother Simon. We should begin our witness for Christ immediately upon being born-again into His family. The woman at the well was so excited that she left her waterpot and went into the city to tell the men about Christ. Just like the woman at the well, the joy of receiving Christ as our Lord and Saviour should spark a fire so hot that we are unable to contain ourselves.

How should we witness to the lost? We should go forth weeping and brokenhearted (Psalms 126:6), knowing what lies in wait for them that are lost. Time and time again we see that Jesus “had compassion on” those (Luke 7:13,

Matthew 9:36, Mark 1:41, Romans 9:15) around Him. He is gracious, and full of compassion, slow to anger, and of great mercy (Psalms 145:8). We need to be continually in prayer, asking God to give us more of these attributes of Himself. We should always speak with grace, seasoned with salt (Colossians 4:6). We should be continually in prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17) for those we are witnessing to, asking God to soften their heart. We must also remember that it is a spiritual battle that we are fighting, we need to let God do the work. We should be seeking God's power (Matthew 28:18, Ephesians 6:10), knowing that in our own, we will fail. We should be 100 percent dependent upon the Holy Spirit to do a miraculous work in those we are given the privilege of witnessing to. And we should be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

Where should we witness to the lost? Simply put: everywhere! As we are going (Mark 16:15, Matthew 28:19) through our daily routines we should be witnessing through our actions, as well as taking the time to verbally confront those around us with the Gospel message. Our light should be shining before all those we come in contact with, that they may see our good works and Glorify our Father in Heaven (Matthew 5:16). This will prompt them to see a difference and be curious as to what we have that is so special. John R. Rice has stated that "The one who wins souls is the one who tries to win souls, the one who talks to sinners, the one who makes it his business." Once again, we should always be about our Father's business (Luke 2:49), and we can not do that sitting still. We must go!

How long should we continue to witness? Until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 6:14). We should be redeeming the time (Colossians 4:5) that the Lord is giving us here. We are ambassadors for heaven, as the Father sent Jesus, he sends us (John 20:21) to gather lost sheep, and to seek those who are lost.

We are to be the salt of the earth. (Matthew 5:13) Salt is a great preservative, but it also makes one thirsty. Our prayer should be that through our testimony and witness, the Holy Spirit would be creating a thirst for Him in those we are witnessing to, that we might be able to share with them how they too can be given the living water.

To sum it up, I quote C.H. Spurgeon as having said, "If ye carry arrows let them be dipped in love; if ye bear a sword let it be the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; but otherwise, be ye everywhere, even among those that would harm you, "holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners" (Hebrews) 7:26. "As the sons of God,".

Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain. - Phil 2:14-16

**God's command, "Occupy till I come",
Our Response, "Here am I".**