Evangelism and Repentance

What does it mean to evangelize the world and how do we truly bring people to repentance?

**Matthew 28:18-19-**Go and teach all nations!

**Evangelize -**Dictionary-to convert to Christianity; to preach the gospel to

**Evangelical**-pertaining to certain movements in the Protestant churches in the 18 and 19 centuries that stressed the importance of personal experience of guilt for sin and reconciliation to God through Christ.

**Romans 3:23** For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

The traditional evangelical approach is to bring a person to the position that they acknowledge and are remorseful for their sins.

We present them with a choice; repent or be condemned.

**Psalms 40:12** This is not new! Sin produced guilt even in the Old Testament. Man has always been aware of his sin.

Is this true evangelization? Is this the message of the Gospel? Must we lead people to a God experience based on guilt? What is the true message of the Gospel?

**Genesis 1:27-28** God created man in His image and told him to take dominion over all things.

The true message of the gospel is found in **Romans 3:20-24;** The stress on sin in verse 23 has been taken out of context.

**Verse 20:** The law presents man with only a knowledge of sin.

**Verse 21-22:** The righteousness of God without the law is revealed through Jesus Christ. BECAUSE. . .

**Verse 23:** *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

If we break this last verse down, a completely different picture emerges!

*for all have sinned-*The word sin comes from the Greek word *hamartia*

which is a compound of two words: *ha-*meaning without, and *meros-*meaning form. In other words, everyone has lost his true identity.

*fall short of the glory of God-*The glory of God represents God’s intent or purpose; his opinion. What it is saying is that because of the focus on sin, everyone has lost sight of who they really are. They see themselves in a position of inferiority. They have “missed the mark!” They are not walking in the destiny that they were created to walk in.

Verse **24: The answer to man’s dilemma is:** We have been freely justified by his grace! Jesus proved that God meant what he said in the beginning.

The focus of the New Covenant is to restore man to the position that God created him to walk in. How do we do this?

***Matthew 28:19*** *Go you therefore and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the son, and in the Holy Spirit.*

 The Great Commission is to disciple everyone in the position that they hold with the Father; To teach them what is theirs because of the work of Jesus through the cross; and to teach them how the Holy Spirit enables them to walk in that position.

This can’t take place without getting a revelation of the goodness of God that leads to repentance.

***Romans 2:4*** *Or despises thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance.*

The word repentance has been radically misinterpreted. It has been misinterpreted because the original word has been changed into a fabricated word.

**Repent**-dictionary-to feel sorry, self-reproachful, or contrite for past conduct, to regret or be conscience stricken about a past action or attitude, to feel such sorrow for sin or fault as to be disposed to change one’s life for the better.

**Repentance-**Strong’s Concordance-*metanoia-*Compunction for guilt including reformation, reversal of a decision

 The original word in Greek was *metanoia* which comes from a combination of two terms: *Meta-*meaning coming together with, and *noia-*meaning mind. Putting it all together it means *to come together with God’s mind.* It means a change in direction-a change in the way one sees God and his intent for man.

It is impossible for a man to repent or change the way that he thinks about God without getting a revelation of His goodness!

Putting it all together, everyone is looking for their true identity. Because they don’t know who God is, they do not know who they are!

The law presents choices to man: Repent from your sins or be condemned. If choices could save us, we would be our own saviors. Will power exhausts!

***Romans 7: 18****For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.* ***19****For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.*

Grace awakens belief. Getting a Holy spirit generated revelation of the love of God sets faith in motion. Love is the language of grace that leads to romance. Falling in love beats making a decision to believe in love.

***Romans 10: 9****that if you confess* ***[agree]*** *with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved* ***{save, deliver, preserve, do well, be made whole.}******10****For with the heart* ***{thoughts or feelings}*** *one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession* **{acknowledgement*}*** *is made unto salvation* **{rescue, safety.}**

Salvation is not reduced to a recipe or a “sinner’s prayer” formula; it is the spontaneous conversation of a persuaded heart!

**Romans 14:5 . . .** let every man be fully persuaded **{completely convinced, have full evidence}** in his own mind.

A true evangelist will lead people to Godly repentance. They present those that they are evangelizing with evidence that proves that God loves them, and that in turn will cause the people to change the way that they think about God. Every encounter with God will lead them closer to falling in love with him. It will cause them to run to God of their own accord. **Ephesians 3:16-19** When they become rooted and grounded in love, they will be able to comprehend **{fully grasp}** the depth of the love, provision, and position that God created them to walk in.

True salvation is a change of identity that sets one free to be what he was created to be!