

Fall - 2023

THE DISCIPLES' WORK

Basics of Evangelism

THE C3 SEMINARY

Fall - 2023

THE DISCIPLES' WORK

Basics of Evangelism

YOUR NAME HERE



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Connection Community Church



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AS FOR YOU, ALWAYS BE SOBER-
MINDED, ENDURE SUFFERING, DO
THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST,
FULFILL YOUR MINISTRY.

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Paul to Timothy (2 Timothy 4:5)

AS FOR YOU ⁰¹
ALWAYS BE SOBER-
MINDED ^{02 03}
ENDURE SUFFERING ⁰⁴

FALL BREAK ⁰⁵

DO THE WORK OF
AN EVANGELIST ^{06 07 08 09}
FULFILL YOUR
MINISTRY ¹⁰

Required Materials

Pencil, Pen, Highlighter, Notebook

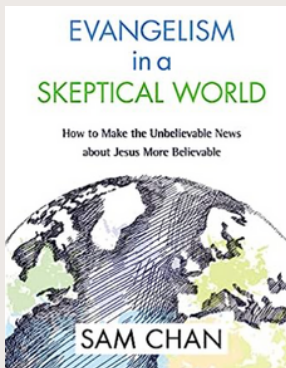
Required Books

Bible (Teachers will be using ESV)



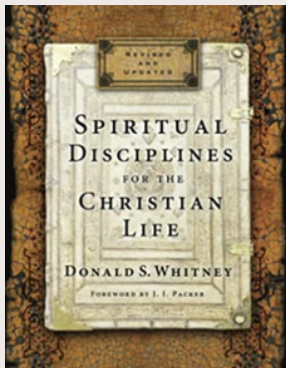
COURSE RESOURCES

Our primary source will be the Holy Bible (ESV). In addition to God's word, these are just a few additional resources we will utilize in our pursuit to be more faithful evangelists.



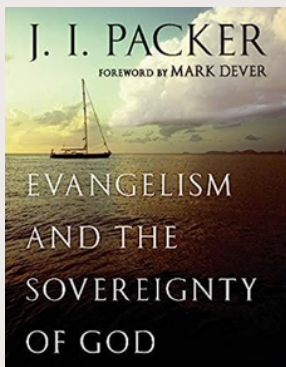
EVANGELISM IN A SKEPTICAL WORLD

Most Christians already know that they should be telling their friends about Jesus. But they have been poorly equipped with methods that are no longer effective in today's post-Christian world. As a result, many people become frustrated, blame themselves, and simply give up. *Evangelism in a Skeptical World* is a textbook on evangelism that is ideal for the church or the classroom to equip Christians with the principles and skills they need to tell the unbelievable news about Jesus to friends in a skeptical world.



SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

We aren't meant to wait for holiness—we're meant to pursue it. God commands Christians to actively "be holy," but what does that look like in daily life? Rather than overwhelming legalism or loose boundaries, Don Whitney encourages us to find a practical middle ground through biblical habits.



EVANGELISM AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

If God is in control of everything, can Christians sit back and not bother to evangelize? Or does active evangelism imply that God is not really sovereign at all? J. I. Packer shows in this new edition to the popular IVP Classics how both of these attitudes are false. In a careful review of the biblical evidence, he shows how a right understanding of God's sovereignty is not so much a barrier to evangelism as an incentive and powerful support for it.

PART ONE: OUR IDENTITY AS EVANGELISTS

S E S S I O N

01

AS FOR YOU...

In this session, we will look at various Scriptures to see our identity as partakers of Christ and the gospel, ministers of Christ and the gospel, and stewards of Christ and the gospel.

S E S S I O N

01



NOTES:

Course Verse

2 Timothy 4:5

[5] As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (ESV)

Course Outline

Part 1. Our _____ as evangelists.

Session 1 - "As for you..."

Part 2. Our _____ as evangelists.

Sessions 2 - 4 - "...always be sober minded, endure suffering..."

Fall Break (Session 5) - Midterm Evangelistic Assignment

NOTES:

Part 3. Our _____ as evangelists.

Sessions 6 - 9 - "...do the work of an evangelist..."

Part 4. Our _____ as evangelists.

Session 10 - "...fulfill your ministry..."

Discussion Starter: Complete the following statement and discuss with your table:

I am a(n) _____, therefore I _____.

God's work for us in Christ (The Gospel)

Ephesians 1:3-14

Spiritual Blessings in Christ

[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, [4] even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love [5] he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, [6] to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. [7] In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, [8] which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight [9] making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ [10] as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

NOTES:

[11] In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, [12] so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. [13] In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, [14] who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (ESV)

Because of God's work for us in Christ...

1. We are _____ of Christ and the gospel.

1 Corinthians 10:17

[17] Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all _____ of the one bread. (ESV)

Ephesians 3:6

[6] This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and _____ of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (ESV)

Philippians 1:7

[7] It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all _____ with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. (ESV)

NOTES:

2. We are _____ of Christ and the gospel.

2 Corinthians 5:18

[18] All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the _____ of reconciliation; (ESV)

2 Corinthians 5:20

[20] Therefore, we are _____ for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (ESV)

2 Timothy 1:9

[9] who saved us and called us to a holy _____, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, (ESV)

3. We are _____ of Christ and the gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:17

[17] For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a _____. (ESV)

NOTES:

[17] For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a _____ . (ESV)

Colossians 1:25

[25] of which I became a minister according to the _____ from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, (ESV)

Ephesians 3:2

[2] assuming that you have heard of the _____ of God's grace that was given to me for you, (ESV)

I am a _____ of Christ and the gospel, a _____ of Christ and the gospel, and a _____ of Christ and the gospel. Therefore I _____ in the gospel. I _____ in suffering for the gospel. I make the word of God fully _____.

I do this by having the _____ of an evangelist, doing the _____ of an evangelist, and fulfilling my _____.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

[1] This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. [2] Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. (ESV)



Stewardship is much more than just a necessary evil needed to pay the bills. Instead, it is a truly biblical practice rooted in creation and redemption....Stewardship is not just an activity. It is an identity for which we have been created and redeemed.

Meador, Nathan; Curtis, Heath R.. Stewardship: For the Care of Souls . Lexham Press. Kindle Edition.

Homework:
Read the article *What I Had Wrong About Evangelism* and answer the response and reflection questions.

WHAT I HAD WRONG ABOUT EVANGELISM

Christian leaders often motivate others to talk about Jesus by appealing to guilt, duty, or even shame. I endured many sermons that told me I should share my faith, and I would if only I loved Jesus more. I left these messages feeling like a failure. And I didn't feel closer to Jesus or inspired to talk about him.

Now, as someone who regularly and joyfully talks to others about Jesus, I think differently about evangelism. The secret to evangelism—and something I missed for many years—is identity. When we miss this, we perceive evangelism as a guilt-driven task rather than part of joyful intimacy with God. We can define this identity from a key verb in Scripture—the often-overlooked word “sent.” In John 20:21 Jesus said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

Core Principles

The sent identity operates from three core principles that can significantly change how we live even our most ordinary days. When we believe these



PART ONE: OUR IDENTITY AS EVANGELISTS

biblical principles, our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, and larger communities become places God sends us to serve as agents of blessing and proclamation.

- God is at work to draw people to himself.
- God uses people to lead others to Jesus.
- God continually calls us into the work of evangelism.

Do I really believe God is at work to draw people to himself—even if I cannot perceive it? I think about the United Airlines ticket agent who helped me rebook a canceled flight a few years ago. As I paced nervously in a strange city, clutching the phone and grinding my jaw in frustration, the agent said, “Stay on the line. You won’t hear anything. But I am here. I am working. I am making this right.”

I called out every few minutes, “Are you still there?”

The agent would repeat, “You won’t hear me. But I am here. I am working.”

Similarly, Jesus tells us the “Father is always at his work” and that he too is working (John 5:17)—whether or not we perceive it.

We know that God has “set eternity in the human heart” so people consider spiritual things (Eccl. 3:11. We know the Holy Spirit is testifying about Jesus (John 15:26). Finally, we know Jesus’s *Holleman, Heather* (www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/wrong-evangelism).

stated mission that continues at this moment to “seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10).

First, then, God is working, and second, he uses people to lead others to Jesus.

Understanding the Sent Identity

One semester in graduate school (eating Wendy’s french fries and avoiding reading Shakespeare), I read the astonishing claims in the Bible that the Holy Spirit gives us power to be God’s witnesses (Acts 1:8), that God uses us to spread knowledge about Jesus (2 Cor. 2:14), that God gave us a ministry to lead others to Jesus (2 Cor. 5:17–20), and that God chose us and appointed us to bear fruit and complete good works (John 15:16; Eph. 2:10).

IT ISN’T JUST
SOMETHING TO DO.
IT’S SOMETHING TO
BE.

I stuffed more french fries into my mouth and sat stunned with the realization that God wanted to use me to lead others to Jesus. This was my identity. It wasn’t only being a professor or a wife or a mother or a writer. It was living a sent life.

PART ONE: OUR IDENTITY AS EVANGELISTS

God continually calls his followers into the work of evangelism—right where we are—as part of our identity in Christ.

It isn't just something to do. It's something to be.

Sent people develop a rich theology of place because they know God has determined the exact places where they live and when (Acts 17:26). In the very places of our neighborhoods and workplaces, God sends us to tell others about Jesus.

It's no accident where you live and with

whom you interact in the natural pathways of your life. It's no accident what happens to you; perhaps God has positioned you there to tell someone about Jesus.

Our sent lives allow us to experience Jesus and the world around us through a lens of expectation: we expect God to work in the lives around us; we expect that he still uses people to accomplish his kingdom-advancing work; and we expect God's call into this daily work of introducing others to Jesus.

Read the full article at the link below.

RESPONSE AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Holleman writes that evangelism "isn't something to do. *It's something to be.*" What does she mean?

We talked about our identity in class as being a "partaker," "minister," and a "steward." What identity statement does Holleman use?

PART ONE: OUR IDENTITY AS EVANGELISTS

Read the following verses (Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 2:14; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; John 15:16; Eph. 2:10). What astonishing claims do *you* see in these verses?

On the five lines below list five different people to whom God has sent you? (ie. co-workers, neighbors, friends, enemies, community members)

Do you really believe God is at work to draw these people to himself? Even if you cannot perceive it? Do you believe that, like the travel agent in the article, God is there and he is working?
