

Are We Winning? 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

I. Intro

- Anecdote

- Soul Winner

- It was back in 1996 - when a brother in Christ gave me a book by Charles Spurgeon - titled - The Soul Winner.
 - This book was a collection of lectures - regarding the discipline of SOUL WINNING...
 - ...which Spurgeon referred to as: "that most royal employment"
 - That's right - those who win souls - for the sake of our Savior Jesus - are engaged in the most royal employment.
 - And as I read that book - I remember wanting to become a winner - and more specifically - I wanted to become a winner of souls.
 - With this in mind - I'd like to begin our study today by posing an important question - - and the question is this...
 - ...is the Christian church winning - OR - are we failing to become those believers who win souls for our Savior - Jesus?

- Stats

- In order to answer this question - let's take a moment to consider the available data.
 - According to a Barna poll - from 2018 - fewer and fewer Christians agree that evangelism is a personal responsibility.

- As of 2018 - only 30% of Christians believe that evangelism is the local church's responsibility.
- And I have no doubt that this number has continued to shrink - over the last 8 years.
 - It's also important for us to realize that - OF those who believe that evangelism is the responsibility of the local church...
 - ...the number of those who actually engage in evangelistic endeavors - is much - much smaller.
 - As a matter of fact - less than 10% of "Evangelical Christians" ever share their faith with an unbeliever.

II. Outline

• Points

• Winning

- Now - as we consider this data - there should be no doubt in our minds - that the church is largely failing to WIN the souls of those who need Jesus.
- And knowing how important it is - for Christians to become Soul Winners...
- ...Paul took the time to share his heart - about this godly goal of winning souls.
- And as we study the scriptures before us this morning - we'll begin to see that...
 1. ...Christians Win Souls by Serving our Savior
 2. ...Christians Win Souls by Saving Sinners
 3. ...Christians Win Souls by Sharing the Scriptures

- With this as our outline - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 9...
- ...where we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth to understand how to become winners of Souls.

III. Serving

- Set up
- Context
 - As we make our way to the ninth chapter of 1st Corinthians - I wanna take a moment to remind you that we find ourselves in a section of this epistle...
 - ...in which Paul was addressing the questions that the Christians in Corinth previously presented.
 - This included questions about marriage and singleness - as well as questions concerning meats offered to idols.
 - It was back in the beginning of this chapter - where Paul addressed the question about financial supporting full time ministers.
 - And now - here in our text today - we find Paul - reminding his readers...
 - ...about the way that we've all been called to win souls according to the great commission of Jesus Christ.
 - With this as our goal - let's pick up our study of 1st Corinthians chapter 9 - beginning there at verse 19 - where Paul declared...

● Text

1Co 9:19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;

1Co 9:20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law;

1Co 9:21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law;

1Co 9:22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

1Co 9:23 Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.

- Win

- Here in our text today - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand how we can become those believers...
 - ...who are winning the souls of sinners - for the sake of Savior.
 - Just to be clear - it'll help you to know that the word - win - found there in verses 19 - 20 - 21 and 22...
 - ...was translated from a Greek word - which was used of those who gain more of the thing they're trying to acquire.
 - In the context of the Christian faith - this word was used of those who gain an unbeliever - by leading them to the cross of Christ.
 - And in this way - believers become winners - as we help sinners to trust in our Savior - Jesus.

- Winners

- Now - I have no doubt that we all want to become winners - - and the reason why is because - we love to win.
- Whether we're talking about game night with friends - - or we're talking about multiplayer video games - - we want to win.
- Football fans want their team to win the Super Bowl - - and soccer fans want their club to win the World Cup.

- And listen - there are fans who will engage in all sorts of superstitious rituals...
 - ...because - they think that their silly sacrament will secure the victory for their team.
 - Without debate - most of us are obsessed with winning in one way or another.
 - And with that being the case - I should take a moment to ask - are you winning where it counts?
- Wise
 - With this question in mind - let's consider the statement that King Solomon presented in Proverbs chapter 11 - it's verse 30 - where he declared...

Pro 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,
And he who wins souls is wise.

 - Those who win video games - or board games - super bowls - or world cups - might enjoy some earthly accolades for a season...
 - ...and yet - it's a short lived win - which will be forgotten in eternity future.
 - In contrast to this - those who win souls is wise - and the reason why is because...
 - ...the soul winner has secured a spiritual victory - that will be enjoyed for the rest of eternity.
 - And it's for this reason that I encourage every Christian to secure eternal victories - by winning souls for our Savior Jesus.
- Servant
 - With this as our goal - let's consider Paul's plan for how we can win more souls - look with again - there at verse 19 - where he declared...

1Co 9:19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;

- As we take a closer look at this verse - we must not fail to notice how Paul connected the dots...
- ...between his commitment to serving our Savior - and the number of souls being saved.
- Simply put - Paul made himself a SERVANT of all - - so that he could win more souls for the sake of our Savior.
- And just to be clear - that word - servant - found there in verse 19 - was translated from a Greek word...
 - ...which was used of those who make themselves the bond-slave of another.
- Slave
 - I like the way that the scholars who created the Amplified Bible rendered verse 19 - they put it like this...

1Co 9:19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to everyone, so that I may win more [for Christ].

- Paul was willing to become a bond-slave - so that he could spend more time winning more souls for our Savior.
- And knowing that those who win souls are wise - - then it only stands to reason that...
 - ...the wisest way for Christians to spend their time - is to serve our Savior - so that we can become soul winners.
- In other words - the believer who wants to become a winner - - should spend time serving our Savior...

- ...with the goal of leading the lost to the cross - so that they might receive the love of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Serving All
 - With this as our mission - we must not fail to notice that Paul made himself a servant of all.
 - Let's consider again how he put it - there in verse 19 - where he declared...

1Co 9:19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;

- Paul didn't decide that he would become a servant of some - - by sharing his faith with a select few.
- No - instead - he made himself the servant of ALL - - and the reason why is because...
 - ...he was determined to lead as many people as possible - according to the predetermined plan of God.
 - Remember - the Lord isn't willing that any should perish - but desires all to come to repentance.
 - Therefore - the believer who wants to become a winner of souls - should first become a servant of all.
- Work

- With this as the goal - it's crucial for Christians to realize that - evangelism is hard work.
- Let's consider how Paul put it - in 2nd Timothy chapter 4 - - it's verse 5 where he declared...

2Ti 4:5 ...be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

- Here in this verse - we find Paul - encouraging pastor Timothy - to do the work of an evangelist.
 - That word - work - was translated from the Greek word - ergon- which refers to any enterprise that demands laborious deeds.
 - And as we consider how Paul encouraged Timothy to do the work of an evangelist...
 - ...there should be no doubt that evangelistic endeavors include the difficult work of sowing and reaping the spiritual seed of God's word.
- Example
 - In order to better understand how those who want to win souls - must become the servants of all - we should consider the example of the Lord Jesus.
 - Hold your place here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles to Mathew chapter 20.
 - And as we make our way to the 20th chapter of Matthew's gospel account I wanna take a moment to remind you that...
 - ...the incarnation of Christ Jesus - was our Savior's way of becoming a Bondservant - so that He could save sinners like us.
 - And while it's true that He made Himself of no reputation - by taking on the form of a bondservant...
 - ...it's also true that He became the servant of all - so that He could save those who trust in Him.
- Application
 - Jesus
 - Let's consider how Christ Jesus put it - here in Mathew chapter 20 - look with me - beginning there at verse 25 - where Jesus declared...

Mat 20:25b “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.

Mat 20:26 “Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.

Mat 20:27 “And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—

Mat 20:28 “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - helping His apostles to understand that...
- ...we've been called to become servants - who are humbly ministering to those we've been called to lead.
 - And just to be clear about this - the Lord Jesus appealed to Himself as the example...
 - ...as He described the way that He came to serve - by offering Himself as a sacrifice for our sins.
 - And in light of His example - the believer who wants to win souls for our Savior - should become the servants of all.

● Transition

- Points
 - Now - this brings us to our second point - because listen...
 1. ...Christians will not only Win Souls - by Serving our Savior...
 2. ...but - Christians will also Win Souls - by Saving Sinners
 - With this as our focus - let's make our way back to 1st Corinthians chapter 9...
 - ...where we find Paul - helping his audience to understand how he became the servant of ALL.

- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 20 - where he declared...

IV. Saving

• Text

1Co 9:20 ...to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law;

1Co 9:21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law;

1Co 9:22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

• All

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - elaborating on what he meant - when he informed the Christians in Corinth...
 - ...that he made himself a servant of all - so that he might win the more.
 - And just to be clear - this included the Jews - and Gentiles alike.
 - This included those who were living under the law of Moses - as well as those who weren't
 - This included those who were weak - and by implication - those who were strong.
 - And I have no doubt that Paul was ready to win the souls of people from every tribe - tongue - and nation...
 - ...just as the Lord Jesus commanded - when He presented the great commission.
- Commission

- I'll remind you that - it's in Matthew chapter 28 - verses 18 thru 20 - where our risen Redeemer declared...

Mat 28:18b "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
 Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
 Mat 28:20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - helping His disciples to understand that...
- ...we've been sent into all the nations of the world - so that we can win the souls of people from every tribe - and every tongue.
 - That's right - the God Who made us from one blood - every nation of humans - to dwell on all the face of the earth...
 - ...also has a plan to save sinners - no matter their nationality - and regardless of their bloodline.
 - And we can rejoice in knowing that there will be people in heaven - from every nation.
- Nations
- Here's how the apostle John put it - in Revelation chapter 7 - it's verses 9 and 10 - where he declared...

Rev 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,
 Rev 7:10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

- As we consider John's vision of the people in heaven - we can rejoice in knowing that...

- ...the great multitude that the apostle John saw - included people from all nations - tribes - and tongues.
 - What this means is that - there will be people from all the nations of the world...
 - ...who's souls will be saved - by faith in the substitutionary sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - And it's for this reason that Paul was ready to save sinners of every stripe - no matter their nationality.
- Jews
 - Let's consider again how he put it - here in our text today - look with me again - there at verse 20 - where Paul declared...

1Co 9:20 ...to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law;

 - Here in this verse - we find Paul - assuring his audience - that he had a heart - to win the souls of those who were Jews.
 - Just to be clear - it'll help you to know that - Paul used the word - Jew - in reference to the children of Israel.
 - The term - Jew - was derived from the name of Israel's fourth son Judah.
 - And while there are different ideas about how the descendants of Israel became known as Jews...
 - ...what we can say for sure is that Paul used Jew - and Israel - interchangeable.
- Benjamin

- As a matter of fact - it's in Romans chapter 11 - verse 1 - where Paul asked...

Rom 11:1 I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

- From this - we can see that Paul wasn't a descendant of Judah - - no - instead - he was a descendant of Israel's son - Benjamin.
- And it's for this reason that he informed the Christians in Rome - that he was an Israelite - from the seed of Abraham.
- We should also consider the way that Paul defended himself before an angry mob of Israelite - at the temple in Jerusalem.
- It's Acts chapter 22 - verse 3 - where Paul presented his defense - by declaring: "I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia."
- From this - we can see that Paul treated the word - JEW - as a synonym of the word - Israelite.
- Win
- With that being the case - we must not fail to realize that - Paul was a Jew - who was hoping to win more Jews - so that they might be saved.
- Look with me again - there at verse 20 - where Paul declared...

1Co 9:20 ...to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews

- From this - we can see that - those who are Jews aren't automatically saved - just because they're Jews.
- And while there are many - like John Hagee - who assures us that the Jews will be saved - apart from the sacrifice of our Savior...
- ...Paul assured us that there both Jew - and Gentile alike must be saved - by faith in Jesus Christ.

- And listen - this was true of those who were trying to keep the law of the Lord.
- Law
- Let's consider again how Paul put it here in our text today - it's there in verse 20 where he declared...

1Co 9:20 ...to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law;

- Here in this verse - we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth to understand that...
- ...he was not only trying to save the souls of the Jews who needed Jesus...
- ...but - he was also trying to save the souls of those who were doing their best - to keep the 613 laws found in the Torah.
- The reason why is due to the fact that those who attempt to be justified by the works of the law...
- ...are failing to realize that - the law doesn't save us - no - instead - the law condemns us as law breakers.
- God Fearers
- And listen - this is not only true of those who are Jews - but - this was also true of the God-fearing Gentiles.
- You might not know this - but - there were Gentiles who converted to Judaism.
- And just like their Jewish counterparts - the god-fearing Gentiles were also trying to keep the law of the Lord.

- What they were failing to realize is that - sinners can't be justified - by the law of the Lord.
- One reason why is because - the law can't atone for the sins that we've already committed.
- Nope
- Let's consider how Paul put it - in Galatians chapter 2 - it's verses 15 and 16 where Paul declared...

Gal 2:15 "We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,
 Gal 2:16 "knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified."

- Regardless of whether a person is a Jew - or a Gentile -- and no matter how hard we try to keep the law of the Lord...
- ...the fact still remains - no flesh will be justified by the works of the law.
 - In other words - no sinner - no matter our bloodline - will be saved through the works of the law.
 - And knowing that we've ALL fallen short of God's righteous standard...
 - ...we can rejoice in knowing that those who trust in the sacrifice of our Savior - will be justified by faith in Jesus Christ.
- No Law
- And listen - Paul was not only trying to save those who were trying to keep the law -- he was also trying to save those who were lawless.
- Let's consider how he put it - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 9 - look with me again - beginning there at verse 20 - where Paul declared...

1Co 9:20 ...to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law;

1Co 9:21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law;

- Now - the phrase - without law - was translated from a Greek word - which was used of those who depart from the mosaic law.
- The same word was also used of those who are destitute of the Mosaic law.
- As we consider the context - - Paul seems to've been referring to the uncircumcised Gentiles - who were rejecting the Torah.
- And while many Jews believed that uncircumcised Gentiles were created by God - to fuel the fires of Hell....
- ...Paul was a Jew - who spent his time - trying to win the souls of the sinners - who were without the law.

- Weak

- Not only them - but - Paul was also looking for every opportunity - to save those who were weak.
- Let's consider how he put it - there in verse 22 - where he declared...

1Co 9:22 ...to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

- Now - that word - weak - was translated from a Greek word - which Was used of those who were feeble from infirmities.
- The same word was also used of those who sick and without strength.
- And while this word was often times used of those who were weak from physical infirmities...

- ...the same word was also used of those who were struggling with a spiritual weakness - which resulted in a crippled conscience.
- And as we consider the context - it seems to me that all of these definitional variations are applicable.
- Common
- The reason I say this is because - Paul assured his audience that he became all things to all men - so that he could save some.
- I like the way that the scholars who created the New Living Translation rendered the second half of verse 22 - they put it like this...

1Co 9:22b Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some.

- Regardless of whether a person was a Jew - or a Gentile - Paul wanted to win their souls for Christ Jesus.
- He wanted to win the souls of those who had the law - and those who didn't - so that every sinner might be saved.
- Not only that - but - he was trying to win the souls of the weak - and the strong.
- Paul was willing to meet every person - right where they were - so that he could help every sinner to be saved.
- And the reason why was because - this is our commission - in Christ Jesus.

● Application

- Every
- I like the way that the Lord Jesus put it - in Mark chapter 16 - it's verse 15 where He declared...

Mar 16:15 “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

- Now - just to be clear - the Lord Jesus wasn't referring to creatures - like cats and dogs.
- No - instead - He was calling Christians - to preach the gospel to every person - created in the image of God.
- What this means is that - we've been called to preach the gospel Of grace to both Jew and Gentiles alike.
- The gospel is for those who try to keep the law - and those who are completely lawless - those who are weak - and strong.
- That being the case - those who want to win souls for Jesus - will try to save sinners - of every stripe.

● Transition

• Points

- Now - this brings us to our third and final point - because listen...

1. ...Christians not only Win Souls - by Serving our Savior...

2. ...and Christians not only Win Souls - by Saving Sinners...

3. ...but - Christians will also Win Souls - by Sharing the Scriptures.

- With this as our focus - let's continue to consider the point that Paul was making - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 9.
- Look with me again - there at verse 23 - where he declared...

V. Sharing

● Text

1Co 9:23 Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.

- Gospel
 - Here in this verse - we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth to understand that...
 - ...he was willing to become all things to all men - so that he might gain the opportunity to share gospel message of grace.
 - Just to be clear - it'll help you to know that the word - gospel - was translated from a Greek word - which means - good news.
 - The root word is - euangelizō - which is the Greek basis for our English word - evangelize.
 - Therefore - an evangelist is a Christian who proclaims the good news about Jesus Christ.
- False Gospel
 - Sadly - there are many who are presenting a false gospel - which is no gospel at all.
 - This includes every religion that presents a plan of salvation - that includes faith - plus works.
 - Whether we're talking about Catholics - Mormons - Jehovahs Witnesses - or the Church of Christ...
 - ...there are many who pervert the gospel of Christ - as they add good works - to the good news.
 - As a matter of fact - all four of these religions - require water baptism as a good work - necessary for salvation.

- And this is despite the fact that - the scriptures are perfectly clear - that the gospel message is embraced by faith - and by faith alone.
- Faith
 - Let's consider how Paul put it - in Ephesians chapter 1 - it's beginning at verse 13 - where he declared...

Eph 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Eph 1:14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

- According to Paul - we are sealed into our salvation - by the Holy Spirit of promise...
- ...AFTER we believe the scriptures that present us with the gospel of our salvation.
 - There is nothing here about water baptism - and there nothing about the necessity of the sacraments.
 - We are saved by faith in the gospel message of Grace - which helps us to understand that...
 - ...Christ Jesus accomplished the work that is necessary for our salvation - when He died for our sins up the cross.
- Power
 - I like the way that Paul summed it up in Romans chapter 1 - it's beginning at verse 13 - where he declared...

Rom 1:14 I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise.

Rom 1:15 So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Rom 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

- So - according to Paul - - the gospel message of Christ Jesus contains the power of God - - for the salvation of those who believe.
- There is no mention of baptism - there is no mention of sacraments - there is no mention of the works of the law.
- No - instead - those believe in the gospel message of Jesus Christ - are saved by the power of God.
- And it's for this reason that Paul spent time sharing the gospel message of grace...
- ...so that people from every tribe - tongue and nation might become partakers of this Good News.

- Perversion
- At the same time - Paul also warned us about those who were preaching a false gospel.
- As a matter of fact - it's in Galatians chapter 1 - beginning at verse 6 - where Paul declared...

Gal 1:6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,

Gal 1:7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

Gal 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

Gal 1:9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - challenging the Christians at the church in Galatia...
 - ...and the reason why was due to the fact that - they were beginning to embrace the false gospel of the Judaizers.
 - The Judaizers were a group of Jews - who believed that Jesus was the Messiah...
 - ...and at the same time - they also believed that salvation was received - by faith - plus works.
 - And it's for this reason that Paul assured them that the Judaizers were perverting the gospel of Christ.
- Warning
 - Much like Catholics - Mormons - Jehovah's Witnesses - and the Church of Christ...
 - ...the Judaizers claimed to be followers of Christ - - while simultaneously insisting that good works were necessary for salvation.
 - And in this way - they were denying the sufficiency of our Savior's atoning sacrifice.
 - And listen - Paul didn't say - let's work with the Judaizers - so that we can change the political system in Galatia.
 - And he didn't work with the Judaizers - so that they could create fictional stories - loosely based on the Bible.
 - He didn't encourage any sort of ecumenical collaboration with the Judaizers.
 - No - instead - he warned the Christians in Galatia - that those who pervert the gospel of grace - are accursed.
- Ecumenism

- Sadly - we now live in a day - and age - when many Christians celebrate the ecumenical endeavors...
- ...of those who are quick to collaborate with the cults - in order to achieve what they perceive to be - good things.
 - Case in point - let's consider how TPUSA works together with Catholics and Mormons - in order to accomplish their conservative goals.
 - And as they advance the good goals of conservatism - they are inadvertently promoting a perverted gospel.
 - Now - I don't mean to suggest that Christians should stay out of the political arena...
 - ...and yet - I do believe that the Christians who work together with the cults...
 - ...are potentially blurring the line - between the gospel of Jesus - and the gospel of those who are accursed.
- Scriptures
 - Christian - listen - the Lord Jesus didn't work together with the Pharisees - so that together - they could make Israel more conservative.
 - No - instead - Jesus preached the gospel of grace - so that sinners might become partakers of the gospel - according to the scriptures.
 - And listen - the only way for the Christian church to win - - is to share the scriptures with those who are lost...
 - ...so that they too might trust in the gospel of grace by which we are saved - - and sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.
 - And with this as the goal - I encourage every Christian to realize that...

- ...we've all been called to accomplish the great commission - so that others might be partakers of God's grace.

● Application

- Preach
- Let's consider how Paul put it - in Romans chapter 10 - it's beginning at verse 8 - where he asked...

Rom 10:8 What does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

Rom 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Rom 10:10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Rom 10:11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

Rom 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.

Rom 10:13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Rom 10:14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

Rom 10:15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - reminding the Christians in Rome about the first step in accomplishing the great commission.
- Just to be clear - the first step in accomplishing the great commission - is to go - and preach the gospel of peace...
- ...so that some might become believers - who continue to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

- And with this as the goal - the Christian who wants to win souls for Christ Jesus...
- ...should look for every opportunity to share the scriptures - which will help unbelievers - to believe in Jesus Christ.
- Scriptures
- If you're wondering where to start - then - you might consider the simple statement that Jesus presented - in John chapter 3.
- It's beginning at verse 16 - where He declared...

Jhn 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Jhn 3:17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Jhn 3:18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

- Here in these verses - we find the simple gospel message - sinners can be saved - by faith in the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus.
- And listen - if you wanna make sure that you are winning - - then I encourage you to look for every opportunity...
- ...to present people with the gospel message of grace - so that sinners might repent...
- ...and then believe in the death - the burial - and the resurrection of Jesus.
- And as we share the scriptures with those who are lost - we'll help some to become partakers of this grace.

VI. Conclusion

- Wrap up

- Points

- With all of this in mind - we should take a moment to examine our own lives by asking - - am I a winner?
- Am I a Christian - who is winning souls - for the sake of our Savior Jesus.
 - And with this question in mind - it'll help you to remember that...
 1. ...Christians Win Souls - by Serving our Savior...
 - ...and with this as our goal - we should spend time engaging in evangelistic endeavors...
 - ...which includes the difficult work of sowing and reaping the spiritual seed of God's word.
 2. Secondly - Christians Win Souls - by Saving Sinners...
 - ...and with this as the goal - let's preach the gospel of grace - to every person created in the image of God.
 3. Finally - Christians Win Souls - by Sharing the Scriptures.
 - ...and with this as our goal - let's look for every opportunity to share the scriptures...
 - ...which will help unbelievers - to become those who believe in Jesus Christ.
 - And in this way - we will engage in the most royal employment of evangelism...
 - ...as we become believers - who are winning souls for our Savior Jesus.

