



BEHOLD YOUR GOD - WEEK 8

Beholding God and Evangelism

Harvest Fair Thank You
Video Thank You

Opening prayer

Prayer for the persecuted church:

Prayer for a local church:

This morning we pray for our brother Ricardo Mercado who started a church in El Valle De Guadalupe.

Closing prayer

INTRO:

You know what I like about Pieology, other than their pizza? I like their wall of quotes,

which I always find inspiring me to continue in my efforts of sharing the gospel, the good news of Jesus, with people.

“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.” — Thomas Edison

“The time is always right to do what is right.” — Martin Luther King Jr.

“When it’s hard and you are doubtful, give more.” — Francis Chan

“Being defeated is often a temporary condition. Giving up is what makes it permanent.” —Marilyn Vos Savant

“For the righteous falls seven times and rises again.” Proverbs 24:16

Now, we don't need to look to self-help gurus for motivation, but we can agree with them insofar as they agree with the biblical mindset.

Here's some Bible for personal motivation.

James 1:22

22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

How many Christians say "amen" to that verse? We read it and go, "Yes, we should do what the Bible says?" Which parts? What are we doing?

How about when Jesus says:

Mark 16:15

15 And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.

Is evangelism part of our lives, because Jesus commanded it to be? Are we doers of the word?

Often, when we think of evangelism, we often think that what we need is boldness or power,

and we do need those things, but we also need wisdom.

BIG QUESTION: Is there wisdom in our evangelism?

Wisdom is applying knowledge in a practical way. Today we're going to turn to the book Proverbs, a book of wisdom, to glean some wisdom for evangelism — how to do evangelism in a practical way.

1. BEGIN WITH GOD.

Proverbs 1:7 (ESV)

⁷ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;

We treat evangelism like the main goal is to make sure someone's going to heaven. Whereas the main goal of evangelism should be that a life that is dishonoring to God should become honoring to God.

The goal of evangelism is first and foremost about the honor of God.

1 John 2:12 (ESV)

**¹² I am writing to you, little children,
because your sins are forgiven for his
name's sake.**

Psalm 25:11

**¹¹ For the honor of your name, O Lord,
forgive my many, many sins.**

Psalm 79:9

**⁹ Help us, O God of our salvation!
Help us for the glory of your name.
Save us and forgive our sins
for the honor of your name.**

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 (NET)

**¹¹ And in this regard we pray for you always,
that our God will make you worthy of his
calling and fulfill by his power your every
desire for goodness and every work of
faith, ¹²that the name of our Lord Jesus may**

be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ezekiel 36:21-22

21 Then I was concerned for my holy name, on which my people brought shame among the nations. 22 “Therefore, give the people of Israel this message from the Sovereign Lord: I am bringing you back, but not because you deserve it. I am doing it to protect my holy

name, on which you brought shame while you were scattered among the nations.

The same way we've made worship too much about us, we've done the same thing with evangelism. We've made evangelism man-centered.

When you meet a former Christian or someone who may consider himself or herself a former Christian, you find that the reason people leave the faith is due largely to faulty evangelism.

Maybe you were brought to Christ (if you were brought to Christ at all) by a misleading gospel. Maybe someone promised you happiness and happiness was the focus of the gospel presented to you. “If you accept Jesus, He’ll make you happy,” so sure, you accepted Jesus.

Evangelism isn’t about making people happy. It’s not even about bringing people to a decision. Evangelism is bringing people to a

Person so that they may honor that Person.
And that Person is Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 1:7

⁷ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;

We must always begin with God. Belief in God is foundational to sound living and reasonable thinking in all of life.

1. Life has meaning.

- 2. You have a purpose.**
- 3. Morality has a source.**
- 4. Justice will prevail.**
- 5. This life matters because the next life matters.**

And those things are only true if there is a God that we can know.

So, evangelism must begin with God. The purpose of the gospel is for God to be first in our lives. In order to do that we have to begin

the gospel with God. When sin is a small matter to people, it's usually because God is small in their eyes.

God created you, so you owe Him everything. Sin is the denial of God's right to rule over you.

Sin is the worst thing in existence. If that's not how you think of sin, then the gospel will only be a mediocre answer to some of your problems.

But the gospel must begin with God.

2. | SHARE WITH THOSE WHO ARE OPEN.

Proverbs 9:7-8

⁷ Anyone who rebukes a mocker will get an insult in return.

Anyone who corrects the wicked will get hurt.

⁸ So don't bother correcting mockers;

**they will only hate you.
But correct the wise,
and they will love you.**

Know your audience. Listen to people so you know who you're talking to. Find out if they're open. Not every non-Christian is a fool. Not every non-Christian is a mocker. Some non-Christians can have great insight.

- “It hard to hate up-close.”
— Alexandra Pelosi

That sounds like the kind of person who is open. Share with people who are open.

3. | SHARE WITH COMPASSION.

Proverbs 11:7 (ESV)

7 When the wicked dies, his hope will perish,

God doesn't delight in the death of the wicked. Jesus looked at the masses and had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a Shepherd.

People fear death, because they know instinctively that they will face the God who created them.

They do not have to die with that fear.

2 Corinthians 5:20 (ESV)

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

4. YOU HAVE WISDOM.

Proverbs 11:30 (ESV)

**30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,
and whoever captures souls is wise.**

Some of you feel ill-equipped to share the gospel, but Christ is the wisdom of God. If you know Christ, you have the wisdom of God because you have Christ, Christ in you, the hope of glory.

And if you know Christ you should be able to explain the basics of the gospel. It can be debated, but I think it's pretty safe to say that your Christian faith is questionable if you can't verbalize the basics of the gospel — that God created us, that we owe Him everything, but everyone of us have turned away from Him, going our own way, but the Lord has laid on Christ the penalty for our rebellion against God.

You have to be able to verbalize the gospel in some fashion, however weakly.

But here's the thing. If you know Christ, you have wisdom. Now, we can all do with more wisdom, of course. But you have the wisdom of salvation. You have the experience of being born again. You know something of the risen Christ that is both true experientially and propositionally.

In other words, you already have more wisdom than the person who doesn't know Christ. You have wisdom. Share it.

Proverbs 14:33 (ESV)

33 Wisdom rests in the heart of a man of understanding,

but it makes itself known even in the midst of fools.

We don't need a fresh approach to the gospel. We need an ancient approach. People have

not changed in the last 2,000 years, so the message of the gospel is just as effective today as it was then.

Let the Word do the work.

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

5. REMOVE FALSE HOPES.

Proverbs 12:26 (ESV)

²⁶ One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor,

but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

It's been said before, but your life, your worldview is either moving people toward the light or toward darkness.

People do not have room for the good news of the gospel when their lives are filled with false hopes.

Proverbs 14:12

¹² There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death.

We have to remove people's false hopes and realize it can be very frightening coming to Christ. When you begin to realize that

everything you based your life upon is sand, that's going to be frightening. But then you see there is a Rock.

6. WATCH WHAT YOU SAY.

Proverbs 15:23

**²³ Everyone enjoys a fitting reply;
it is wonderful to say the right thing at the
right time!**

Sharing the gospel is more than relaying information. Giving an apt word is about giving the right word to the right person addressing the right need.

Some people need to hear about the grace of Christ and the freedom of the gospel. Some people need to hear the law of God, because the law reflects the Lawgiver and instills in them healthy fear of God, which leads to wisdom, the openness to listen to the gospel.

The greatest temptation in evangelism is to ease someone's conviction. I'm talking about when a person feels true moral guilt because of something they've done or something they're doing. Then we try to relieve them of their guilt by reassuring them of God's love. You're doing them no favors. The kindness of God leads to repentance only when a person sees his or her need for repentance, for a change of mind and direction, for a change of allegiance.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived...

7. GUARD YOUR TONE.

Proverbs 16:21

**21 The wise of heart is called discerning,
and sweetness of speech increases
persuasiveness.**

- How we misunderstand the phrase, “You catch more with honey than vinegar.”

Evangelism is delivering really hard truths with a really soft heart, because your words will reflect your heart.

Proverbs 16:23 (NLT)

**23 From a wise mind comes wise speech;
the words of the wise are persuasive.**

8. LISTEN.

Proverbs 18:13 (ESV)

**¹³ If one gives an answer before he hears,
it is his folly and shame.**

Proverbs 18:15 (ESV)

**¹⁵ An intelligent heart acquires knowledge,
and the ear of the wise seeks
knowledge.**

Proverbs 18:17 (ESV)

**17 The one who states his case first seems right,
until the other comes and examines him.**

**9. | BE INTENTIONAL &
RESPONSIBLE.**

Proverbs 21:5

**5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance,
but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.**

“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.” — Thomas Edison

Proverbs 24:10-12 (ESV)

**10 If you faint in the day of adversity,
your strength is small.**

**11 Rescue those who are being taken away to
death;**

**hold back those who are stumbling to
the slaughter.**

12 If you say, “Behold, we did not know this,”

**does not he who weighs the heart
perceive it?
Does not he who keeps watch over your soul
know it,
and will he not repay man according to
his work?**

The great work of the church should be evangelism, but we make it so many other things.

10. KEEP MOVING FORWARD.

Proverbs 24:16

16 for the righteous falls seven times and rises again,

but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.

Romans 1:16

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