



**That I May by All Means Save Some
1 Corinthians 9:22
#1673 December 20, 2009 AM
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I. Introduction

A. Why do we not evangelize?

1. Michael Green offers 9 reasons we tend not to evangelize.

II. Proposition

A. Though there are various reasons we can give for evangelism (God's glory, love for God, love for people), I want to focus our attention on the motive of love for people.

III. Exposition

A. **What was Paul's motivation in evangelism?**

1. To be sure, love for God and His glory as evidenced in saving sinners (i.e., the gospel) – 9:23; 10:31
 - a. God is greatly glorified in gathering a multi-ethnic assembly of worshipers (Rev. 5:9-10).
2. Key-Love for people: to win more (9:19); that by all means he might save some (9:22; 10:32-33).
 - a. Love is central to Paul's argument in 1 Corinthians (cf. chapters 8-10).
 - b. We are called to imitate Paul in such love for others, placing them before ourselves (11:1).

B. **What does Paul wish to save people from (Romans 5:9-11)?**

1. The wrath of God: Because God is Holy, He must punish evil and sin. Otherwise, He would not be glorious!
 - a. This is called Retributive Justice: The wrath of God against Nineveh (Nahum 1:1-9).
 - 1). We see this in the flood (Gen. 6); Babel (Gen. 11); Days of the Lord in the OT
2. To be sure, the Lord is slow to anger, but He will not clear the guilty (Nahum 1:3).
 - a. ILLUS: Nineveh (612 BC) – Jonah had warned earlier and they had repented (Jonah).
 - 1). But they later returned to their sinful ways and God warned, then judged (Nahum).
 - b. ILLUS: Israel (722 BC); Jerusalem (587/6 BC) – read the Minor Prophets

3. All these judgments were pointing forward to one final day of the Lord (Romans 2:5-11; cf. 1 Cor. 10:11).

- a. Notice some descriptions (Revelation 16:1-21).
- b. When Jesus returns He will be the great Judge (Revelation 19:11-21).

4. Christ is coming again and bringing the Day of the Lord (see 2 Peter 3:1-10). BUT NOT YET!

C. Jesus' first coming marked the beginning of the season of salvation (Luke 4:16-19).

1. This Christmas we celebrate the love of God (John 3:16-21)!
2. Jesus came the first time to propitiate God's wrath for us (Romans 3:23-26).
 - a. God has continually warned of His impending wrath . . .
 - b. God has sent His own son as our salvation through propitiation . . .
 - c. Whoever believes in Christ's person and work is saved from God's wrath.

D. But how is the world to hear and believe unless someone tells them (Romans 10:8-17)?

IV. Conclusion

A. Why don't we evangelize?

1. Is it possible we don't share God's love for people?
 - a. Atheist Penn Jillette of Penn & Teller (illusionists) – quote

B. Why don't you evangelize?

1. Let us remember the truth about God and the gospel – rejoice in it; relish it; share it!
 - a. Trust in God's sovereignty & grace & work hard, for God uses means (1 Cor. 9:24-27).
 - b. The Practice of Intentional Witness – read

C. God will be glorified both in salvation and in judgment! Now is the season when God is glorified in saving sinners!

Atheist Penn Jillette of Penn & Teller – Illusionists

Commenting on proselytizing after a Christian handed him a Gideon Bible after a show:

“I've always said that I don't respect people who don't proselytize. I don't respect that at all. If you believe that there's a heaven and a hell, and people could be going to hell or not getting eternal life, and you think that it's not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward—and atheists who think people shouldn't proselytize and who say just leave me along and keep your religion to yourself—how much do you have to hate somebody to *not* proselytize? How much do you have to hate somebody to believe everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?”

“I mean, if I believed, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that a truck was coming at you, and you didn’t believe that truck was bearing down on you, there is a certain point where I tackle you. And this is *more* important than that.”

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