

CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES COURSE PAPER 7

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Bible Memory Verses: Luke 8:39

"Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over the town how much Jesus had done for him.

Jesus plainly expresses the importance of every Christian being a witness to Christ before men. Scripture indicates that our salvation is secured as we are prepared to acknowledge and confess our allegiance to Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9 is a favourite verse, it says:

Why share?

After our initial confession of the Lord Jesus we should want to continue as His witnesses. God's word shows the importance of this.

1. We have been given the ministry of reconciliation and need to fulfil it. 2 Corinthians 5:17-20
2. We have been given instructions to take this Gospel message all over the world. Matthew 28:18-20
3. We are baptised in the Holy Spirit so that the Church may continue the ministry that Jesus began. Acts 1:1, Acts 1:8
4. We have been chosen in Christ Jesus to be fruitful. John 15:16
5. Jesus is God's faithful witness, as He lives in each of us, as we are made like Him, we will be faithful witnesses also. Revelation 1:5
6. Faith undoubtedly grows as we share the life of Christ with others. 1 Timothy 6:12

Many other scriptures speak of the need to witness for the Lord Jesus, because the witness to Him is in our hearts.

Write out here 1 John 5:9-10

What does "witness" mean?

1. "Those whose lives and actions testified to the worth and effect of faith, and whose faith received witness in scripture." (Vines Dictionary of New Testament Words), or...

2. "One who bears witness by his death (Vines).

By His death and resurrection Jesus has brought us into a whole new dimension of life, but not an enhanced "old life." When we were baptised, our "old lives" were buried and we were raised to live this new life "in Him." (Romans 6:4, Galatians 2:20). As we live this "new life" we are all the time witnessing to the reality and power of Jesus Christ.

Who should witness?

Read Mark 16:15-18 and then carefully answer these questions:

1. What is our commission?

2. What happens to those who do not believe?

3. What kind of people demonstrate God's power with those miraculous signs?

4. Does this include you? YES/NO Why?

Read Acts 8:1-7 and answer these questions

1. Was it the Church leaders (the apostles) who preached everywhere?

2. What did Philip proclaim?

3. Did miraculous signs inspire confidence in what he said? YES/NO

4. What happened in the city after Philip had preached?

So God's Word tells us that each and every believer should be a witness to the Lord Jesus Christ.

How do we share?

Write out Acts 5:32

Who else, in addition to the apostles, does this scripture say is witness to Jesus Christ?

Who has God given the Holy Spirit to?

Does this include you? YES/NO

Now read 1 John 1:2-3 and notice:-

1. We share Jesus' life from our personal experience of His working in our lives, and,
2. We share Jesus' life so that those who hear may come into "fellowship" (sharing) with God the Father and Jesus the Son.

Have you shared the life of Jesus with others? He wants you to, and has given you the Holy Spirit to help you do just that, let Him work through you and enjoy the thrill of seeing others come to Christ, (always remember that it is God who draws men to Jesus Christ, not you - John 6:44).