

BECOMING APT TO TEACH

How to Effectively Do the Work of an Evangelist

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” – 2 Timothy 4:2

1. Faithfully Serving Christ

- a. Saved souls are tasked with a duty – 1Tim 2:4, 2Cor 5:18, Eph 3:9, 1Cor 4:2, 2Tim 2:2
- b. We were saved to serve Christ; we can't please men & Christ – 1Cor 7:3, Gal 1:10, 2Tim 2:4
- c. Too often we find excuses to justify not taking a stand to say what needs to be said
- d. Moderation, temperance, & wisdom = speaking boldly with grace – Eph 6:19-20, Col 4:5-6
- e. Better *something* is said than nothing, but we strive for mastery – Phi 1:15-18, 1Cor 9:25

2. Magnifying the Gospel – 1Cor 15:1-4, Rom 3:20-25 & 4:5, Titus 3:5-7, Eph 2:8-9, 2Tim 1:9, 2Cor 5:19-21

- a. The gospel should be the main focus of our conversations – 1Cor 2:2
- b. This common ground is necessary to maintain a fruitful discussion – 1Cor 2:14, 2Tim 2:14
- c. Saved people are not offended by being evangelized to – Gal 6:14
- d. If they're saved, don't stop! Take the time to clarify further—it makes other topics easier.

3. Explaining Dispensational Concepts – Heb 1:1, Gen 1:1, Rom 16:25/Acts 3:21, Eph 3:1-9

- a. The easiest way to teach right division is with the gospel – don't try it with unsaved folks!
- b. Resist explaining R.D. with controversial issues (baptism, intervention, signs, end times)
- c. If not the gospel, use more mundane/less-sensitive topics (food, ABC's, Noah's ark, etc.)
- d. The goal is to understand God gives diff. instructions to diff. people at diff. times for diff. purposes

4. Handling the Bible Issue – Rom 3:4, 2Cor 4:2, 1Thes 2:13, 2Tim 3:16-16

- a. This is not our primary battle, but if you take a Bible-believing position, it'll likely come up.
- b. It's not about translations or manuscript evidence; it's about authority.
- c. You can teach salvation and right division with any Bible, but know where the errors are.
- d. Demonstrate how to make God and his words the final authority instead of men

5. Avoiding Foolish Questions – 2Tim 2:23, 1Tim 6:20, Titus 3:9, 2Tim 3:5-7

- a. We should walk in wisdom & redeem the time – Col 4:5, Eph 5:15-16, Titus 3:10
- b. Left field issues are usually pointless, especially w/o mid-Acts dispensational understanding
- c. Going round and round with tough questions/hard verses is usually a defensive tactic
- d. Be smart enough to know when people are trying to evangelize you!

6. Speak boldly, as you ought – Eph 6:19-20, Col 4:4, 1Thes 2:2, Phi 1:20

- a. Be prepared: know the verses you'll use; write them down; rehearse your spiel in advance
- b. The more plain spoken you are with what the Bible says & what you believe, the easier it is
- c. It's easy to talk too much – learn to listen and guide the conversation where it needs to go
- d. You don't always have to teach/present/lecture – asking purposeful questions is a great way for others to learn
- e. Don't be afraid of what you don't know; focus on what you do know—2Tim 1:7-8, Rom 1:15

How Some Use the Bible to Excuse Themselves from Speaking the Truth

*“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all [men], apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;”
– 2 Timothy 2:24-25*

People turn...

into...

- must not strive → “I don’t want to start a fight...”
- be gentle → “I don’t want to offend anyone...”
- apt to teach → “I don’t know enough to talk about it...”
- patient → “I’ll say something later at just the right moment...”
- in meekness → “I don’t need to / am afraid to say anything...”

But really...

means...

- must not strive → Speaking the truth in love instead of arguing, fighting, and winning (Eph 4:15)
- be gentle → Your speech always seasoned with grace (Col 4:5)
- apt to teach → Sharing as much as is in you (Rom 1:15)
- patient → Not soon to anger when the conversation isn’t going well (Col 3:8, Titus 1:7)
- in meekness → Speaking without being puffed up, but esteeming others better than yourself (1Cor 13:4, Phi 2:3)

2 Timothy 2:24-25 is not a list of excuses for being silent. The verses explain HOW we are to speak with others about Bible truths; for how will those that oppose themselves be able to have a change of mind and acknowledge the truth if they never hear it?