

How Do You Preach the Gospel?

8/8/26

- Today – Opportunity to give a Bible study
 - Comment – This presentation is a follow-up to my Bible study on Wednesday night
(You did not need to hear that Bible study – to gain something from this message)
 - Title – “How Do You Preach the Gospel?”
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- Do you remember how little the group was on the Day of Pentecost?

Acts 1:8	witnesses to Christ in Jerusalem, all Judea and Samaria – end of the earth
15	120 people
Acts 2:41	3,000 people
Acts 4:4	5,000 people

- Things changed during the time of Constantine I

From biography.com: “Constantine I was a Roman emperor who ruled early in the 4th century. He was the first Christian emperor and saw the empire begin to become a Christian state.”

- Constantine I’s father became the Western Roman emperor in 305.
 - After his father’s death, Constantine fought to take power.
 - He became the Western emperor in 312.
 - For a time, Constantine stood by as others ruled the Eastern Roman Empire.
 - In 324, Constantine defeated Licinius and took control of a reunited empire.
 - Constantine was the first emperor to adhere to Christianity.
 - He issued an edict that protected Christians in the empire.
 - In 325 – Not wanting questions about the divine nature of Christ to sow discord, Constantine summoned church officials to the Council of Nicaea, which affirmed that Jesus was a divine being.
 - He converted to Christianity on his deathbed in 337.
 - He had delayed his baptism (a common practice at the time) – but finally underwent the rite.
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- Let’s look at our world in 2026

- People in the world 8.3 billion
 - Many professing Christians
 - Christianity 2.4 billion
 - Islam 1.9 billion
 - Hinduism 1.2 billion
 - Buddhism 520 million
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- Are all 2.4 billion professing “Christians” going to be in first resurrection?
 - 1 Cor. 15:51-52 Paul described a mystery – “we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed” – at the last trumpet – the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed
 - Rev. 20:6 John described a future event – first resurrection – reign for 1,000 years
 - John 12:47-48 remember – everyone is being judged by what they know
 - How is God preaching His gospel to the 8.3 billion people?
 - 1 Cor. 12:4 there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit
 - 5 there are differences of ministries, but the same Lord
 - 6 there are diversities of activities – it is the same God who works all in all
 - 12 for as the body is one and has many members (all the members of that one body, being many are one body) so also is Christ
 - 14 in fact, the body is not one member, but many
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- How Do You Preach the Gospel?
- 1. By Your Example
- Matt. 5:14-16 how does your example glorify your Father in heaven?
- Matt. 9:10 example to tax collectors and sinners –
- 13 “I desire mercy and not sacrifice”
- Matt. 12:1-7 when the Pharisees criticized Christ’s disciples for plucking grain on the Sabbath, He said – “I desire mercy and not sacrifice”
- 1 Peter 4:15-16 glorify God – when you suffer
- 2. By Your Prepared Words
- Col. 4:5-6 walk in wisdom toward those who are outside – how you ought to answer
- 2 Tim. 2:14 not striving about words
- 15 rightly dividing the word of truth
- 1 Peter 3:15 be prepared to give an answer
- 3. Being a Conduit for the Father and Son
- Luke 21:12-15 let God talk through you
- (tremendous blessing OR a horrible trap)
- 2 Cor. 11:20 many leaders – use the approaches of the devil
- bondage – devouring – taking – exalting – hitting
- 2 Cor. 12:7-8 a thorn in the flesh
- 9 the Lord – “My strength is made perfect in weakness”