

February 2019 Newsletter



Sundays At 6:30 AM on



THE EVANGELIST

By Hernando Motta
Lima, Peru

Are we as evangelists continually growing in our understanding of the message of each Bible book? The Apostle Paul suggests that all Christians strive to “be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:18-19). In order to reach this goal, one must follow his diligent example of reading, reflecting, and responding to God’s word.



He describes this process in 1 Timothy 4:13-15 “Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.”

There must be power in the pulpit in order to save souls and edify the church. While there will be exceptions like Eutychus (Acts 20:9), energetic preaching translates to less sleeping in the pews.

Diligent preparation is the first requirement for power in the pulpit. Both preacher and his audience will be edified when he speaks with biblical authority instead of rambling (1 Timothy 1:7; 2 Timothy 2:15; Matthew 7:29). Realizing the great potential of prepared preaching will motivate the evangelist to present

sermons with great enthusiasm, knowing that: “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10-11).

In addition, carelessness, indifference, and laziness imperil not only the evangelist’s ministry, but also his soul. The Apostle Paul stresses the responsibility of fulfilling one’s ministry (2 Timothy 4:5) while the Holy Spirit says more pointedly in James 3:1, “My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.” Jesus issued a similar warning in Matthew 23:1-12. So, the evangelist is never satisfied. His work is not done after he leaves the church building. He constantly seeks for souls to save.

2/3 Sermon #1183
How to Preach Christ

2/10 - Sermon #1186
The Josiah Moment

2/17 - Sermon #1184
Bible Biology

2/24 - Sermon #1185
The Greatest Command

Finally, the evangelist must live the life. The Apostle Paul instructs the young evangelist, “Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you” (1 Timothy 4:16). The preacher who exhibits energy in and out of the pulpit but does not provide a godly example is as beneficial to the church as is a dull razor to a man’s beard. In time, the preacher’s character will be widely known and impact his work for the Lord accordingly.

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MONEY MATTERS

By Matt Tison
Waterloo, IA

Through my teenage years, I borrowed money on credit cards and from others; and when nobody would lend to me anymore, I stole—more than \$3,200 from my grandparents by hacking into the credit union. To pay my grandparents back, I borrowed money from other people. It was an endless cycle.

My next commitment was to pay everyone back. When that commitment didn't happen, I borrowed money on the same credit card I used to buy the gas. By then, I had an over-drafted bank account, had gone over the limit on my credit cards, and had \$57.00 in my wallet. My poor choices didn't stop there. I bought my wife a necklace from Kay Jewelers: on credit. This \$100.00 necklace ended up costing me \$317.00 after interest, not to mention I lied to her when she found the credit card statement.



Poor financial decisions will lead a person to this kind of lifestyle. Secrets, guilt, frustration, stress, heartache, anger... all symptoms of poor finances. And the worst part of it all? I could have avoided all of it.

Solomon was a wise man. When God asked Solomon what he wanted, Solomon didn't ask for riches... power...love...many servants, or many cattle. What did he ask for?

"Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who can judge this thy so great a people" (1 Kings 3:9)?

And God granted his request. To find out what this request got him, you will have to read the story. My question is, though, what can wisdom get us? What if we would have just listened to our parents?

Of the thirty-eight recorded parables of Jesus, sixteen of them deal with money or possessions. In the Gospels, one out of ten verses (288 in all) deal directly with the subject of money. The Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 on faith, but more than 2,000 on money and possessions.

One of the great topics of the Bible is stewardship—that is, being a good steward. Merriam-Webster defines stewardship as, "the job of supervising or taking care of something, like an organization or property."

So being a good steward of money means, "the job of supervising or taking care of our finances." It's not ours, but we have just been entrusted with taking care of it. It's God's money that He allows us to use.

The parable in Matthew 25 teaches about a master entrusting assets to three servants. When the master returns, he asks the servants to give an accounting about how they have used the assets. The first has doubled his assets, as did the second. But the third servant has done nothing with his. And he is chastised for it. This parable teaches a profound lesson about stewardship.

The Bible says in Matthew 25:15, "...according to his ability..." Each servant is given an amount that he has the ability to handle. The master is careful not to waste his assets by placing more responsibility on the shoulder of each servant than he can handle.

The Bible teaches God will not give us more than we can handle. Paul teaches the same principle about temptation in 1 Corinthians 10:13. So, whatever comes our way in the form of blessings or temptations, we should be able to handle.

We surely realize that the way we handle our finances is a reflection of our reverence and respect for God. If there's anything I can do to assist you in making wise financial decisions, please reach out to me. I've been there and done that, and by the grace of God and a wife who wouldn't give up on me, we are now debt free. I'd love to help you do the same.



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