



Chain Lake District Baptist Annual Session

Make the Ask - The Answer to 500

JULY 11-14, 2022

Host Church: Mt. Zion Baptist Church • 120 Roberson Street • Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Host Pastor: Rev. Dr. Addis Moore

THE GOSPEL

&

The Effective Appeal

2 Corinthians 5:18-20



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"To be a soul winner is the happiest thing in this world. And with every soul you bring to Jesus Christ, you seem to get a new heaven here upon earth."

- Charles Spurgeon

At what age would you say you received Jesus as Lord and Savior? _____

At what age would you say you became serious about Christ and wanted to serve Him wholeheartedly? _____

At what age would you say you realized that sharing the Gospel was your responsibility? _____

Foundational Truths

- The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation (**Romans 1:16-17**).
- The Gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (**1 Corinthians 15:3-4**).
- Sinners must hear the Gospel to be saved (**Ephesians 1:13 and Romans 10:14-17**).
- God uses human beings to communicate the Gospel to another human being (**Acts 8:1 and 4; Mark 16:15; and Romans 10:14-17**).
- God expects lasting fruit (**John 15:5, 8, and 16**).
- People will respond to the Gospel (**Matthew 9:35-37 and Luke 14:15-23**).
- God is active in the salvation process.
 - God draws (**John 6:44**).
 - The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin (**John 16:8**).
 - God enables people to call Jesus Lord (**1 Corinthians 12:3**).
 - God is responsible for the increase and adding to the body of Christ (**Acts 2:47 and 1 Corinthians 3:6**).
 - God's involvement does not nullify the believer's responsibility to represent Him and witness (**Acts 1:8 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20**); both are true.
- Learning more Scripture does not make an individual more qualified to be a witness (**John 4 and John 9**).
- Every believer (introvert, extravert, etc.) has the power and tools to witness (**Acts 1:8 and 2 Timothy 1:7**).



Sharing the Gospel message is not a homework assignment, a project to complete, or an item on a daily to-do list. Additionally, believers cannot view the spreading of the Gospel as a 'one-and-done' thing. On the contrary, sharing the Gospel is a Christ-follower's lifestyle (**Matthew 4:19**) - the reason for existence (**John 15:16**).

The truths on the previous page are not exhaustive but are representative of the many Scriptural references pointing to the fact that believers must be engaged in the work of spreading the Gospel.

Making Effective Appeals

Speaking in an Understandable Language

Sharon C. Brown recently relocated to a new city and united with a local church. Soon, she joined the music ministry. Music ministry members were ecstatic to have her in the community and church. Some thought inviting her to lunch after a Sunday service with a few ministry members was a good idea. Sharon excitedly accepted



the invitation and met them at the local Italian restaurant. After some brief introductions, the group settled into the dining room. Sharon marveled at the relationship each member seemed to have with one another. For almost an hour, the church members talked about shared experiences with the music ministry and the church.

"Do you remember, before COVID, we went down to Georgia with Pastor, and the air on the bus stopped working?" one would say with laughter.



Another replied, "Yeah! I sweated out my hair before we could get off the bus to go into the church and sing."

Then the group of members, remembering the shared experience, would go on and on about the trip. Sharon could not relate. She is a new Christian and has never been on a bus trip with a church. She had never traveled anywhere on a charter bus, so she did not know what it was like to accompany the pastor and be a guest at another church.

Sharon watched as they spoke and did not know how to include herself in the conversation. Occasionally, she would laugh, trying to be social. But eventually, her laughter faded away, and she felt awkward being there. For her, it was just like watching two people kiss passionately. You see that the man and woman are enjoying the moment, but it seems like you shouldn't be there. She felt like an outsider looking through a window at others having a good time.



One of the members noticed Sharon's look and tried to include her in the conversation.

However, Sharon did not feel comfortable being in the conversation because she did not experience what they all had experienced. She could not wait until the dinner was over so she could politely get away from the group with whom she felt no connection.

After dinner that Sunday, Sharon rejected every invitation the group offered. She stopped being a part of the music ministry in a few months and even left the local church to go somewhere else.

What happened? The people were friendly. The people tried to include her. However, the group talked about experiences in language Sharon could not understand. We are not debating that Sharon should have said something about this. But we highlight the fact that the group failed to include her.



How often have you used 'church' language to talk to people without 'church' experience or biblical knowledge? We say,

"Are you saved?"

"Jesus died to pardon your sins."

"Are you in the ark of safety?"

"You can join by letter, Christian experience, or candidate for baptism."

"Just believe the Gospel, and God will save you."

"All you have to do is walk the Romans Road."

"Give your life to Jesus."

Like Sharon, some may humor us for the moment but walk away without understanding what we were trying to say. Others will develop a bitter taste for 'spiritual' things because we have complicated the simple.

The Apostle Paul instructs us to esteem others better than ourselves and not look out for our interests. Instead, we must look out for the interests of others ([Philippians 2:3-4](#)). The truth here applies to making effective appeals. What if we considered the people with whom we were in conversation? We would change the way we talk to them about spiritual things. Paul said, "I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" [1 Corinthians 9:22, NKJV](#).

Taking a Genuine Interest

Effective appeals happen when we are genuinely interested in other people. For example, Jesus took an interest in the lady at the well in [John 4](#). He spoke to her concerning where she was. Jesus took an interest in Zacchaeus in [Luke 19](#) and ate at his house. Additionally, Jesus spent time eating with known sinners



[\(John 15\)](#). In all three cases, critics disliked the actions of Jesus. However, the need for Jesus to encounter people who needed Him was more significant than the threat of criticism.

The Spirit of God led Philip, in [Acts 8](#), to a man in a chariot. Philip took an interest in a man reading from Isaiah. From that very point, Philip preached to him Jesus. Many Christians are more interested in getting to their message and do not take the time to see how their message



might apply to the hearer.

Listening to people and seeing where they are can happen in a moment (with a stranger) or be developed over time with a family member, co-worker, or acquaintance.

Can God Lead You?

Reading the Bible reveals that God led people to carry out His will for His purposes. God is so powerful that He can lead a person to witness for Him (**Matthew 10**). Almighty God can show us where He wants us to go to get results, and He does. In **Acts 10**, God led Peter to go to a place where He would not ordinarily go on His own (**emphasis on verse 19**). When Peter arrived at the



home God directed Him, Peter heard the story of one seeking God and automatically shared the good news of Jesus. So, are you led by God (**Proverbs 3:5-6**)?

From Peter's experience, we learn that God works on both sides of the equation. God works on us and the one who needs to hear what we have to say. Then, God puts us together. So, do not be afraid to walk across the room to the person He leads you to.

One time I was disobedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

I was in a bowling alley enjoying a game. I felt the prodding of God and ignored it for a while. When I finally felt ready to talk to the person God pointed out, he was gone. I felt horrible and repented. The missed opportunity was not the

only reason I felt so bad. I thought about what bad things could have happened to that young man after he left the bowling alley that night without hearing the gospel. Just obey God.



Additional Notes:



Matthew 28:19-20, NKJV

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

- JESUS