

## The Church – The Evangelism of the Church Mk. 16:15-20

*Thesis: To help us better understand the evangelism of the early church.*

### Introduction:

- A. The early church was very effective in their evangelism.
  - 1. They were effective because they went and did the work that Jesus gave them to do.
  - 2. Today, if we are going to be effective in evangelizing this community, we must do the work that Christ has given us to do.

### I. Jesus tells His apostles to “go” and “preach” (16:15).

- A. The command that Jesus gives to His apostles was simple.
  - 1. The apostles were to go and preach the gospel.
    - a. There was nothing that was confusing about this command.
    - b. The apostles first had to “go into all the world.”
      - 1) This meant that the apostles could not stay at home all of the time.
      - 2) They had to go amongst the people in order to fulfill this command.
    - c. As they went, they were to “preach the gospel to every creature.”
      - 1) There was something for them to do when they went.
      - 2) As they went, they would preach the word of God to everyone they met.
  - 2. This is the same command that we have today.
    - a. We cannot rely on others coming to us to hear the gospel.
    - b. We must go to them and teach them the gospel.
    - c. While some may not want to hear it, there are some who will.

### B. As they went preaching the gospel, they performed miracles to confirm the word of God (16:17-18, 20).

- 1. God did not leave them alone in this world.
- 2. Miracles were always done to confirm the word of God.
  - a. This was the purpose of the miracles of Jesus.
    - 1) **Jn. 3:2** - This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”
    - 2) **Jn. 5:36** - But I have a greater witness than John’s; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish-- the very works that I do-- bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.

- 3) **Jn. 10:25** - Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me."
  - 4) **Jn. 10:37-38** - If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; {38} but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.
  - 5) **Jn. 20:30-31** - And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; {31} but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.
- b. This was also the purpose of the miracles of the apostles (**16:20**).
- 1) **Acts 3** – Peter and John heal a lame man so that others can know that the message they taught was from God.
  - 2) **Acts 8** – Philip heals many and performs many miracles so that the people of Samaria can know that he is teaching by the authority of God.
  - 3) **Acts 9:36-43** – Peter raises Tabitha from the dead and the people of Joppa believe in the Lord.

## II. Jesus tells the apostles what to do based upon the response of the people (**16:16**).

### A. Jesus says, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved."

1. We must believe in the gospel.
  - a. The gospel is the good news of salvation.
  - b. It is the news that God sent His Son into the world to die for us.
  - c. **Jn. 8:24** - Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.
  - d. **Rom. 10:9** - that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
2. Based upon that belief, we must be baptized.
  - a. Remember, Jesus says that "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (**16:16**).
  - b. Without baptism, we have no hope of eternal life.
3. Jesus had always taught about baptism.
  - a. **Jn. 3:3-5** - Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." {4} Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" {5} Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."
  - b. **Jn. 3:22** - After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized.

- c. **Mt. 28:19** - 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,
4. There is no doubt that baptism is necessary for salvation.
- a. **Acts 2:38** - Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
  - b. **Acts 22:16** - “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
  - c. **Rom. 6:3-4** - Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? {4} Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
  - d. **Gal. 3:27** - For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
  - e. **I Pet. 3:21** - There is also an antitype which now saves us-- baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

**B. Those that did not believe were condemned.**

- 1. Some say that baptism is not necessary for salvation because Jesus did not say that those who were not baptized would be condemned.
  - a. Jesus only says that those who do not believe will be condemned.
  - b. However, it is important to note that if they did not believe, there would be no reason for them to be baptized.
  - c. Notice this illustration concerning a \$20 bill.
    - 1) Let’s say I place a \$20 bill on the podium, and say, “He who wants this \$20 and comes and gets it can have it.”
    - 2) If someone did not want the \$20 bill, would I need to tell them not to come and get it?
    - 3) Obviously, if someone did not want the money, I would not have to tell them to stay seated; they would do that on their own.
- 2. The point is that if someone believes in the gospel, they will be baptized.

**III. The apostles fulfilled the command that Jesus gave them (16:19-20).**

**A. Throughout the book of Acts, we read of the apostles going and preaching.**

- 1. Beginning in **Acts 2**, Peter and the apostles begin to preach the gospel to the entire world.
- 2. In **Acts 8**, when there was a great persecution against the church, they continued to spread the word of God.

- a. **Acts 8:1-4** - Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. {2} And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. {3} As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison. {4} Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.
  - b. **Acts 8:5-8** - Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. {6} And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. {7} For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. {8} And there was great joy in that city.
3. **Acts 10** – Peter goes to the household of Cornelius.
  4. **Acts 13-28** – Paul goes into the world and continuously preached the word of God.
  5. The point is that the apostles did **“go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”**
    - a. The book of acts is the account of the gospel being preached to the entire world.
    - b. **Col. 1:23** – Paul says that the gospel **“was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.”**

**B. Those who believed in the gospel were baptized.**

1. In each case, those who believed were baptized.
2. Whether it was individuals or entire households, they were baptized into Christ.

**Conclusion:**