MAKING THE MAIN THING
THE MAIN THING
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STUDY GUIDE
Introduction

The Church in general has been caught up with a multiple of activities viz. counseling centers, media units, feeding schemes, emergency relief, HIV/Aids ministry, etc., etc. All excellent but at the same time have the danger of becoming ends in themselves.

The late Dr. Oswald Smith of the Great People’s Church in Toronto, Canada once said, “The supreme task of the Church is to evangelize the world”.

This chapter, presented and used by permission of Multi Ministries International, is a very clear and practical help and reminder of this vital priority of the Church of Jesus Christ to “go and make disciples” – Matthew 28 : 16 – 20

Cecil J Peasley

MAKING THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING

The most important principal work of the Church is Evangelism. Without evangelism taking place the Church has no right to exist, and will ultimately DIE!

If the Church is too busy for Evangelism, then it is too 'Busy'.

THE PLACE OF EVANGELISM

a. In the life of Christ
   Christ’s first ________________ (Matthew 4:19)
   Christ’s central ________________ (Matthew 1:21)
   Christ’s final ________________ (Mathew 28:19; Acts 1:8)
   Christ’s plan ________________ (Matthew 16:19)
b. In the Scriptures any ministry must be founded on ________________.

5 words to consider:

Evangelize: ________________
Announce: ________________
Teach: ________________
Witness: ________________
Disciple: ________________

To effectively communicate the Gospel we must know and understand certain ________________:

Sin: ________________
Atonement: ________________
Salvation: ________________
Repentance: ________________
Faith: ________________
Forgiveness: ________________
Justification: ________________ "Just as if you've never sinned"

c. In the Life of Paul we see it in:

- His Making - ________________ Acts 9: 1-9
- His Motivation - ________________ 2 Corinthians 5: 11&14
- His Message - ________________ 2 Cor. 5:14,19
- His Method - ________________ Acts 17:16
- ________________ Acts 25: 23-27

d. In the Early Church

Certain signs are found in the Early Church that makes it an Evangelistic Church!

1. Responsive to Christ's Authority
2. Reliant upon the Holy Spirit
3. Regular in Intercessory Prayer
4. Responsive to the Lost
e. A definition of Evangelism
   • What it is not
   • What it is

2. THE PROBLEMS OF EVANGELISM
   • It's the ____ thing - where the rubber hits the road.
   • A _____ is not a ________ in gifting or heart.
   • Failing to accept the different _____ of evangelism.
   • The sects and their errors spoil it for those with the ____.

3. THE PRICE OF EVANGELISM
   • Commitment and Sacrifice. Take up your ____ and follow.
   • Requires a ________ - Holiness and Evangelism are linked (Romans 12:1; Ephesians 1:4 & 1Peter 1:15 & 16).
   • Giving time to memorizing the outline and learning the techniques of sharing it.
   • Demands everything you've got - You must perform on the job.

4. THE PLAN OF EVANGELISM
   • The ________________ Plan
   • The ________________ Plan
   • The ________________ Plan
   • The ________________ Plan
   • The ________________ Plan
   • The ________________ Plan

Professor Michael Green said:
"Whenever Christianity has been at its most healthy, evangelism has stemmed from the local church and has had noticeable impact on the
surrounding area. I do not believe that the re-christianization of the West can take place without the renewal of local churches in this whole area of Evangelism"

May it be said of us, as of the Thessalonians in 1 Thess 4: 8, "your faith in God has become known everywhere!"

THE MAIN THING - ‘WHY?’

1. BECAUSE OF WHAT THE MAIN THING IS:
   a. A ________ that must be paid - Romans 1: 14
   b. A ________ that must be fulfilled - Romans 1:15
   c. A ________ that needs no apology - Romans 1: 16
   d. A ________ that is inexhaustible

2. BECAUSE OF THE NEED OF THE WORLD
   Distinguish ___________/__________
   1. Needs ________ of past ________
   2. Needs ________ for present ________
   3. Needs ________ for the future ________

Tell the world there is ________ for its blindness
Tell the world there is ________ for its healing
Tell the world there is a ________ for its dumb
Tell the world there is ________ for its cleansing
Tell the world there is ________ for its dying

"Tell them of Jesus and bid them to come!"

3. BECAUSE THE CHURCH IS FAILING
   The church has done a ________ job over the years of effectively communicating the Gospel (Rev 2: 1-5)
   It has lost its :
   1. _________: Bader said, “When Christians fail to evangelize, the
very existence of the Church is threatened.”

2. __________: “The health curve of the Church throughout the centuries, can pretty well be plotted by the warmth of its evangelistic fervor.”

3. __________: Bonar said, “No soul will be in heaven, without a human mark upon it’s body.”

4. __________: Many churches fail to plan or set goals.

5. __________: i.e. Philosophies:
   - Debt of Evangelism
   - Missions v Evangelism
   - Witness & Evangelism
   - Money & Evangelism

4. BECAUSE OF THE ACTIVITY OF THE DEVIL
   He __________ the Church
   He __________ the Believers
   He __________ the Leaders

5. BECAUSE THE CHURCH HAS THE CAPACITY AND THE POTENTIAL FOR EVANGELISM
   - _________________ Plan
   - _________________ Plan
   - _________________ Plan
   - _________________ Plan
   - _________________ Plan
   - _________________ Plan

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. (Mark 16: 15)

THE MAIN THING - ‘HOW?’

The ‘how’ deals with plans, strategies and goals. To fail to plan is to plan to fail!

Even to dream is fine, but to dream without a plan is to plan to fail
1. **RIGHT PRINCIPLES**
   a. Church is the ________ (Matthew 14:19; 16:18,19)
   
      3 Circles of People:
   b. Pastor is the ________ (Ephesians 4:11)
   c. Laymen are the ________ (Ephesians 6:13)
   d. Gospel is the ________ (Romans 1:16)
   e. Soldiers in ________ (Ephesians 6:13; 2 Tim 2:2)
   e. Training ________ (Mark 3:13,14)

2. **RIGHT HEART**
   - ____________ heart (Psalm 24:4)
   - ____________ heart (Psalm 51:10)
   - ____________ heart (Psalm 32:5)
   - ____________ heart (Matthew 9:36)
   - ____________ heart (2 Corinthians 5:14)

3. **RIGHT CONTACTS**
   - Visitors Book or Cards
   - Sunday School Families
   - New Residents in area
   - Guest Services
   - Vacation Bible Club etc.

4. **RIGHT PRESENTATION**
   A. Introduction
      a. ____________
      b. ____________
      c. ____________
      d. ____________
      e. ____________
B. Gospel

i. ____________________

ii. ____________________

iii. ____________________

iv. ____________________

v. ____________________

C. Commitment

a. ____________________

b. ____________________

c. ____________________

d. ____________________

e. ____________________

5. RIGHT FOLLOW-UP

1 Thessalonians 2:8 - Many New Testament books are
___________________________________________.

LETTER • PHONE • CHURCH • MAILING LIST • DISCIPLESHIP
COURSE • 7 DAY CALL-BACK • SUNDAY
SCHOOL • BIBLE STUDY • NURSING

6. RIGHT STRATEGIES

Leadership to be committed and involved
Start small – Concentrate on being regular
Do the work – Grace now, glory later
Good administration – Keep records

7. RIGHT FAITH

Be _________ and _________ (Hebrews 11: 6)

FINAL WORD “The fire shall ever be burning upon the alter, It shall never go out” (Leviticus 6: 2)
THE MAIN THING — ‘WHO?’

Factors surrounding the “WHO?” of evangelism that we need to consider:

1. THE LEADERSHIP FACTOR
   a. Christ’s __________
   b. Christ’s __________
   c. Christ’s __________ seen in the 4 great C’s:
      - The great __________ (Matthew 4:19)
      - The great __________ (Matthew 28:4-8)
      - The great __________ (Matthew 28:18-20)
      - The great __________ (Acts 1:8)

   "Christ's last command must be our first concern!"

   The Pastor as Christ's ________________ must be involved in ________________:
      - Prayer Leadership
      - Visionary Leadership
      - Motivation Leadership
      - Creative Leadership
      - Equipping Leadership
      - Outreach Leadership

2. THE HUMAN FACTOR

   Best seen in John 4. The woman that Jesus confronted was:
      • Confused about _______________________
        and ________________________
      • Convicted about ________________________
        ______________________________________
      • Converted to ________________________
        ______________________________________

   Meanwhile his disciples were: Busy, Bothered, Blind, Barren
3. THE DIVINE FACTOR

Divine ________________ (Acts 17:30)
Divine ________________ (1 Corinthians 3:6-9)
Divine ________________ (Philippians 2:12 & 13)
Divine ________________ (Ephesians 3:16)
Divine ________________ (Acts 8)
Divine ________________ (Genesis 1:28, 4:1)

4. THE CHURCH FACTOR

The Church _________ in _________ when it:

- Respects a _________ of command
- Regards _________ functions
- Recognizes its _________
- Releases its _________

NOTE:

➢ The Pastor is the _________ in charge
➢ The layman are the _________ troops
➢ The Gospel is the _________
➢ Victory depends on “_______”
➢ The best form of evangelism is _________

God has no hands but our hands to do his work
God has no heart but our hearts to love people through
God has no feet but our feet to walk in his way
God has no eyes but our eyes to see lost men

God has no mouth but our mouths to speak HIS WORD!

Further Enquiries:
Multi Ministries International
P.O. Box 2032
Florida Hills
1716
Tel: 011 672 3568  Fax: 011 674 1981
E-mail: Harold.p@pixie.co.za
ASSIGNMENT

Write a 5 page essay on how

1. The Pastor
2. The Individual
3. A local church

Can make “The Main Thing the Main Thing”? 