

**Why Are We Not  
Converting The World?**

**Matthew 9:35-38**

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**God's People Have Responsibility  
Teach The Gospel To The Lost**

• Great Commission

**Mark 16:15-16**

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be damned.

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**God's People Have Responsibility  
Teach The Gospel To The Lost**

**The Church is the Pillar and Ground of Truth**

1 Timothy 3:15

15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how men ought to behave themselves in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

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**God's People Have Responsibility  
Teach The Gospel To The Lost**

**Early Disciples Spread the Word**

Acts 8:4

4 They therefore that were scattered abroad went about preaching the word.

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**Acts 11:19-20**

19 They therefore that were scattered abroad upon the tribulation that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia, and Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the word to none save only the Jews.

20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus.

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**What Is My Responsibility  
To The Lost?**

1. Those who have never heard the truth. **"Go preach ..."** *Mark 16*
2. Those who have heard it and not obeyed. **"Exhort them ..."** *Acts 2*
3. Those who have obeyed and then erred from the truth. **"Restore ..."** *Galatians 6*

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### God's People Have Responsibility Teach The Gospel To The Lost

- Great Commission
- Church is Pillar & Ground of Truth
- Early Disciples Spread the Word

*We Ought To Be Working To  
Convert The World!*

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### Ways We Can Reach The World

- Gospel Meetings
- Computer Classes
- Home Bible Studies
- Tracts & Tapes, CDs
- Special Series
- Bring Others to Regular Services

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### World Is Not Interested In The Gospel

#### Why such little interest?

- *Cares of the world* (Luke 8:14)
- *Gospel demands changes – love darkness* (John 3:19)
- *False sense of security* (Jeremiah 6:14; 8:11)
- *Not popular* (Matthew 7:13-14; John 1:11-12; 6:66)

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### World Is Not Interested In The Gospel

#### Our job – not to convert, but teach

- *Command is to teach* (Mark 16:15)
- *Even if they don't listen we've done our job* (Ezekiel 3:16-21)
- *Jesus taught – many turned away* (John 1:11-12)
- *Crowds rejected the apostles* (Acts 13:45; 17:32)

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### World Is Not Interested In The Gospel

#### The “unlikely” just may listen & obey

- *Religious/Gentile* – Cornelius (Acts 10)
- *Non-Religious* – Simon (Acts 8:9-13)
- *Worldly* – Corinthians ( Acts 18:8; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
- *Ignorant* – Jews (Acts 2:23; 3:17)
- *Persecutor* – Saul (Acts 8:3; 9:1-2; 1 Timothy 1:15)
- *Politician* – Jailer (Acts 16:31-33)

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### Don't View The World As Lost

#### World is lost in sin

- *All men are sinners* (Romans 3:9, 23)
- *Sin separates from God* (Isaiah 59:1-2)
- *If die in sin – lost* (Romans 6:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)
- *Reason Jesus came to earth* (Luke 19:10)

**Anyone who has not obeyed the gospel  
is lost because he is a sinner!**

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## Don't View The World As Lost

### World is lost in sin

#### How we view people of the world

- Good people
- Believe different than we do
- Focus on friendship, likeable, good moral qualities
- Little or no attention to the fact – they are LOST!

**May be because our focus is on the here and now!**

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## Don't View The World As Lost

### Motivated to greater evangelism

- If we view them from a spiritual condition (**Ephesians 2:1-2**)
- If we view them without hope (**Ephesians 2:12**)
- If we view them on the road to eternal separation from God (**Revelation 21:8**)

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## Message Preached Is Not Redemption

### Gospel Message – Redemption / Salvation

- Power unto salvation (**Romans 1:16-17**)
- How we are saved (**1 Corinthians 15:1-4**)
- Peter's sermon – salvation from sin (**Acts 2**)
- Paul's sermon on Mars Hill – salvation (**Acts 17:22-31**)

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## Message Preached Is Not Redemption

### Gospel Message – Redemption / Salvation

- Peter's sermon to Gentiles (**Acts 10:34-48**)
- Paul's Sermon in Antioch on 1<sup>st</sup> Journey (**Acts 13:16-41**)
- Books like *Romans*, *Galatians*, *Ephesians*, *Colossians*, etc. have themes about salvation.

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## Message Preached Is Not Redemption

### The Gospel Demands A Change of Life

- Repentance (**Acts 2:38; 17:30-31; cf. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Acts 19:17-20**)
- Stop the practice of sin (**Romans 6**)
- Give up old religion (**Philippians 3:3ff; 1 Thessalonians 1:9**)
- Start doing things to serve God (**Acts 26:17-20**)

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## Message Preached Is Not Redemption

### Message Has Shifted – Social

- More on relationships
- How to be a better person
- "Feel Good," "motivational" preaching

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## Building Relationships

July 11-13, 2003  
**Third Annual Youth Gospel Meeting**  
 at the Church of Christ in [redacted]  
 For Jr. High through College Ages

July 12, 2003  
 Saturday- 10:00am-11:15am: \*Bible classes & singing  
 4:30pm-5:30pm: \*Bible classes  
 \*Bible classes provided for adults as well as teens and young adults  
 Adult Topic: Building relationships with your children

July 13, 2003  
 Sunday- 9:00am: Bible Classes for all ages  
 10:00am Worship Service  
 Lesson: Building relationships with friends  
 Speaker: [redacted]  
 6:00pm: Worship Service  
 Lesson: Building a relationship with God  
 Speaker: [redacted]

In addition to the worship and bible classes, **other edifying activities** are prepared and provided by individual members. We hope you will plan to attend. (see attached list of activities and registration forms)

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## Building Relationships

### Fellowship Activities

July 11, 2003 Friday, 6:30-9:30pm: [redacted]  
 for Final Registration, Games, Singing, Housing Information and Drop-off.  
 \*\*\* Pre-registration is preferred- please be sure to mail in your forms early.

July 12, 2003  
 11:30am: [redacted]  
 Blvd. for BBQ, games, sports, etc.  
 6:00pm: Pizza & Pipes  
 Sat Evening: Select on pre-registration form your preference of three activities (Laser tag, Bowling, or games/videos)

July 13, 2003 Sunday  
 11:30am: [redacted] Park for Potluck lunch and more activities  
 7:00pm: Parent Pick up after evening services  
While these recreational activities are optional, they have been planned by individual members for further fellowship. It is their hope that all teens and young adults will plan to attend.

For Additional Information Call [redacted]

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### The Social Gospel

NOTE: Social activities, recreation, and benevolence were never offered in N.T. days as the means by which to get people to become Christians. THE GOSPEL IS GOD'S DRAWING POWER BY WHICH TO CALL MEN. (2 Thessalonians 2:14; Romans 1:16)

**Are these things worthy of the blood of Jesus Christ? cf. Ephesians 5:25; Acts 20:28**

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### Content To "Keep House"

**What is meant by "keeping house"?**

- Assemble, worship – do little more
- Maintain "status quo"
- Thinking: We have a place to worship – so we meet Sunday and Wednesday and do nothing more.

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### Content To "Keep House"

**Why are we content?**

- Think our mission is to merely show up at worship
- View the church as a religious club

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### Content To "Keep House"

**A church that did not just keep house**

Church at Antioch  
in Syria

Acts 13-14 First evangelistic tour of Paul  
 Acts 15-18 Second evangelistic tour of Paul  
 Acts 18-21 Third evangelistic tour of Paul

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## Fear Of Offending & Alienating Others

### Fear of offending

- *Gospel will offend (Matthew 15:12; Acts 13:45-48)*
- *Gospel convicts the world of **sin** (John 16:8; Acts 2:37)*

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## Fear Of Offending & Alienating Others

### Fear of alienating a friend

- *Gospel will sometimes alienate people (Matthew 10:34ff)*
- *So, we deem it not worth the risk (cf. Luke 16:28)*

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## *Why We Are Not Converting The World*

**World Is Not Interested In The Gospel**  
**Don't View The World As Lost**  
**Message Preached Is Not Redemption**  
**Content To "Keep House"**  
**Fear Of Offending & Alienating Others**

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## **What Can We Do?**

Become more evangelistic  
Try to reach family and friends with the gospel  
Use Bible materials  
Set up home Bible studies  
Bring someone to a Gospel Meeting  
Bring someone to a special class or service  
Talk to others about Bible questions

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