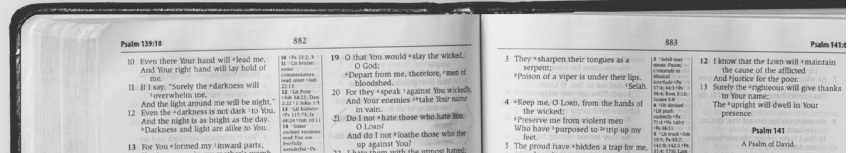


# Words of Truth

## Evangelizing a Lost World



### Featured Authors

**Jerry Bates:** He lives with his wife, Paula, in Winona, MS, and has been involved in full-time mission work with World Evangelism since 2007. His mission work has taken him to many countries, primarily India, Ghana, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. He also teaches at some of the Bear Valley Extension schools.

**Rob Whitacre:** He married Nicole of Nashville, TN, in August of 1996. They have one daughter, Hannah and one son, Jared. In 2018 he started and currently directs the House to House/Heart to Heart School of Evangelism where he and his family train 40 plus congregations annually how to grow.

**Gavin Bearden-** He has been the minister for the Detroit church of Christ in Detroit AL, for the past 3 years. He is a graduate of the Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies. He is married to Natalie.

**Ryan Gallagher:** Ryan has been with the Hamilton church of Christ since 2004. He currently serves as the pulpit minister. He is married to Kay and they have three kids Noah, Ava, and Sara Kate.

## Generation Z: Reaching the Non-Religious Generation

Justin Guin, editor

The United States is facing something for the first time in history. “Gen Z” (born between 1997-2012) is the first majority secular-minded group in American history. This began in their up-bringing and is bearing fruit into adulthood. Note some statistics from a recent survey on religion among Gen Zers by American Survey Center. Approximately 34% are religiously unaffiliated with another 17% identifying as an “unchurched” Christian. Only about 40% attended worship or participated in a Bible class when growing up. Twenty-one percent read Scripture or religious stories with their family. Being a “religious” person simply was not part of the majority’s raising. So, we shouldn’t be startled by statistics showing a decline in religious practice in our country.

Still, this information causes many consternation. However, all of the news is not bad. There is great opportunity among this age group. They are curious about the teaching of Jesus and view him positively. According to the Barna Group, they believe he offers hope to people, can help people, and is trustworthy. About 75% of teens desire to know more about him. Of course, this does not equate to identifying as a Christian but the door is open and the church needs to be about teaching his word. But starting this conversation can be intimidating. What are some helpful suggestions in reaching Gen Z?

1. **Build Relationships-** We live in a disconnected society. Many soft skills such as conversation are lost on many young adults and teens. However, this should not discourage us. Seek to build relationships
2. **Begin Fundamentally-** You cannot assume they know anything about the Bible or Jesus, even those growing up in the “Bible belt.” You may have to start with proof the God of the Bible exists and progress from there. Knowledge of Christian concepts can no longer be assumed.
3. **Be Servant Minded-** Social issues matter much to both Gen Z and Millennials. Help them to see the church cares for its community and have them engage in serving with the church. Christ sought to serve all people and desired we walk in his steps (Mark 10:43-45; John 13:15). There are many other suggestions to consider. But these three things give you a starting point on reaching Gen Z. With the challenges there is great opportunity. The fields are white for harvest. The Lord needs workers.

## The Importance of Training Christians

Jerry Bates, Winona, MS

I am sure that all true Christians would love to see God's church grow worldwide. Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 2:4 that God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." There has been a tremendous interest in church growth in the last few decades. Multitudes of books have been written addressing this question and offering various solutions to the problem. While at least some of those books offer good suggestions, I propose that we go to the source to find the answer. Indeed, God gives instructions as to how His church should grow.

Ephesians 4 provides the key to church growth. That chapter begins with the seven "ones." Some people consider this the basis of unity; however, it explains why we should be united. All Christians belong to the same body and serve the same God. If we are united, the church is much more likely to grow.

In Ephesians 4:11, we find the distinct groups of leaders God has placed in the church. The apostles and prophets are the foundation upon which the church is built. All their guidance came from Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:22-23). We find that growth is the purpose of leadership.

The duty of the leaders in the church is to equip the saints for the work of ministry, and the edifying of the body (Eph. 4:12). To equip is a medical term and means to put a part of the human body into the right relationship with the other parts so that every part fits together properly. In the church, it means coordinating the various parts so that each is empowered to serve. It means placing each member in the best position for him to work and function properly for the good of the church. Every member uses his unique abilities for the good of the church and to edify the other Christians. Thus, we see that the primary function of leaders is not to do the work themselves but to train and equip Christians to do the work.

If that is done properly, all will come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God. True unity can only be found by everyone coming to a complete knowledge of Jesus and growing to maturity (Eph. 4:13). Once the church grows to maturity, it is no longer vulnerable to false teachings, as would be true of children (4:14). Spiritual infancy is manifested when there is jealousy and strife. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:2-3, "I

fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?" Notice that Paul observed that wherever envy, strife, and divisions can be found, they are symptoms of carnal and immature Christians.

Maturity is obtained by "speaking the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15). Obviously, one must also live the truth. Love motivates everything he does. Too often, we over-emphasize truth at the expense of love. We may present the truth in an arrogant or hateful way, and we justify it by saying that we are only speaking the truth. The other extreme is to water down the truth in the name of love. We can and must present the truth in such a way that others would be most likely to respond positively.

If maturity is gained, then each part of the church is totally under the control of the Head, Jesus. The church is united because each part is "joined and knit together by what every joint supplies" (Eph. 4:16). Spiritual nourishment comes from the Word and other Christians. There is no unimportant member, and each individual does his share. Every person has a role and function to perform. If every part does his share, the natural result is the growth of the body.

Here, we find the key to church growth, and it is quite simple. It is not necessary to have fancy organized programs, beautiful buildings, or charismatic and eloquent preachers. God declares growth will naturally occur if every member engages in the church's work. That is easy to declare and understand but much harder actually to accomplish. Getting the members actively involved in the church's work is often exceedingly difficult.

There is something that everyone can do. One of our co-workers in India is actively training Christians to be more involved in evangelism. One thing he does is to encourage everyone to use literature, such as tracts. We have often heard him use this motto: Every Christian should spend ONE minute, EVERY day, to give ONE piece of literature to ONE person. That is one way of sowing the seed. God has declared that if we sow the seed, the Word of God, it will not return to Him void (Isaiah 55:11). Training Christians to serve is the only way to cause the church to grow.

## Personal Evangelism Cures Everything

### Rob Whitacre, Jacksonville, AL

I heard it while growing up, but somehow, it has been forgotten: “Personal evangelism is the cure for every problem we face.” I know this sounds too good to be true or perhaps overly simplistic, but I want to challenge everyone to give this serious consideration. By personal evangelism, I am not referring to “little talks about Jesus” or “religious conversations” with family or friends. I am talking about private, one-on-one, sit-down, organized Bible studies. Many church members today have never conducted or seen a personal bible study. Therefore, some might wonder how this approach might solve our problems.

#### **Personal Evangelism Cures Practical Problems**

These are petty issues that have absolutely no bearing on our eternal destiny. Disputes about pews, chairs, carpet, paint, landscaping, parking stripes, thermostats, building appearance, room sizes, worship times, sermon lengths, class topics, and work assignments fall into this category. Such conflicts result from brethren having too much time on their hands, thus allowing them to focus on trivial troubles instead of eternal endeavors. Those seeking and studying with prospects do not have the time or desire to worry about these minor matters. Souls are at stake, and those who engage in Bible studies know it and are laser-beam focused on it.

#### **Personal Evangelism Cures Personal Problems**

These difficulties revolve around personalities and “he said, she said” spats. They are self-centered tantrums that produce self-inflicted wounds to themselves and the local congregation. The attitude is usually “my way or the highway.” These are brethren who do not get along and will not work together. They choose to ignore one another instead of working together and remove themselves from the work of the Gospel. Personal evangelism looks outward, while these problems look inward. In contrast, an evangelist will bend like a young twig or stretch like a rubber band to build trust and make prospects feel comfortable. Personal workers become skilled in forming relationships through genuine care and love for others. Naturally, these attributes are carried into the local congregation and become powerful forces for unity. It appears the love of the Gospel is what motivated Paul to put aside his misgivings about Mark and later pen, “Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry” (2 Timothy 4:11). If we are busy fighting the devil in the

world, then we will not have time to fight each other in the church.

#### **Personal Evangelism Cures Principle Problems**

Religious error is the result of biblical ignorance (Matthew 22:29). False teaching on bible authority, the differences between the Old and New Testament, the supremacy of Christ, the organization of the church, worship, instrumental music, the frequency of the Lord’s supper, church organization, the oneness of the church, the contribution, sin, moral issues, faith, repentance, confession, baptism, and faithfulness are all cured when we teach the lost. The best way to cure error is with a healthy dose of truth. Personal bible study forces one to become a student of Truth. Evangelists must be able to answer the question, “why,” which requires digging into the Scriptures. Some Christians never move beyond their conversion to conviction. In other words, they do not know why they believe the different aspects of faith. This leaves room for planting seeds of religious error, allowing them to sprout and produce division.

#### **Personal Evangelism Cures the Purpose Problem**

Too many congregations have become program-oriented instead of purpose-driven. We have programs for everything except personal evangelism (golden oldies, silver wings, young adults, college singles, teens, youth, addiction recovery, divorce, marriage, depression, alcohol recovery, etc.). Brethren, we have lost our purpose. Jesus was the Master Evangelist. Soul winning was His mission (Luke 19:10), and evangelizing the world was His greatest and final commission (Matthew 28:18-20). When servants are not working, soldiers are not fighting, and families are not harmonizing, should we expect anything less than infighting, backbiting, bickering, and disunity? In contrast, Christians who are evangelizing are focused, determined, and unified.

We need to be training Christians to teach the lost (2 Timothy 2:2). It is the cure for practical, personal, and principle problems. In addition, it maintains our focus on the one thing Jesus commissioned for all disciples, given by Divine instruction and preserved by the pen of inspiration. “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:19-20).

## The Survival of Churches of Christ in America

### Rob Whitacre, Jacksonville, AL

The churches of Christ in America are on a steady decline. A recent projection from a Christian university revealed that we will lose 70% of our congregations and members by 2049. If you carry the numbers even further, by 2069, there will be almost no visible traces left of the Church in America. Those who seek RATIONALIZATION minimize our losses by pointing to similar declines among our denominational friends. Those who seek EXPLANATION (should we dare say excuses) cite increased distractions, entertainment, secularization, busyness, and muchness. While all of these things may be true, it does not change the numbers. The only way to address this crisis is by EVANGELIZATION! If churches of Christ are going to survive in America, we MUST return to our roots and once again train the saved to teach the lost.

Unfortunately, at least two generations have risen who know not evangelism. We have children who have grown up in homes and have never seen their parents conduct a personal Bible study. Remaining still is a generation that remembers a time when churches grew. Christians carried around a film projector in the trunk of their car and showed their family, friends, and neighbors the Jewell Miller Bible study series. We were the fastest growing religious body in America. We excelled at soul-winning! Those days can return if we train the saved. "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2). Here are four proven Biblical things we can do to help turn things around:

**1. Invite people into our HOME:** "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ" (Acts 5:42). Have we forgotten that our homes are a tool for bringing souls to Christ? The mat in front of too many Christian doors reads "Come Back Later" instead of "Welcome." Open homes equal open hearts. Our first-century brethren had open homes. They ate together, prayed together, and studied together (Acts 2:46; 20:20). We have found that over 90% of those we engage in Bible study from our home obey the Gospel.

**2. Extend Christian HOSPITALITY:** I fear this Christian attribute is almost lost in modern America. Hospitality is defined as "love of strangers." The Greek word is used in Hebrews 13:2, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." All Christians are commanded to display hospitality, and elders are to be proven in this qualification (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus

1:8). Our hospitality to others should never be the reason behind their Gospel obedience, but the lack thereof could be why they don't obey. Take someone out to eat, deliver a meal, cut their grass, send Compassion Cards (<https://www.handiworkbyhannah.com>), take them a new mover's basket, and extend another act of kindness. Jude 22 states, "And of some have compassion, making a difference."

**3. When you are with the lost, HEARKEN:** Everyone wants to be heard. James said, "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" (1:19). Spend a lot of time asking about their family, hobbies, past experiences, and things they enjoy. This is a time to find common ground and to develop friendship and trust. As you listen, take mental notes of things that may need to be emphasized during a study. Have they been divorced? Do they have any organized religious background? Do they have family who are devout in any particular religion?

**4. When the lost say things for which we disagree, HESITATE:** It is very IMPORTANT that you listen. This is not the time to refute, reprove, rebuke, or instruct, regardless of what is said. Refrain from expressing your political, cultural, and social views. Remember, you are building a relationship; not everyone believes, thinks, or lives like you. In addition, this is not the time to address tongue speaking, miracles, various millennial theories, Bible versions, or other errors that lead you away from the Cross. Remain focused! You want to take them to the battlefield of Golgotha and show them the Kingdom of God and the blood of Christ. If we truly respect the power of the Word, we must stop telling everyone what we think and how we FEEL and start SHOWING them the truth. The quicker we get someone into the Bible, the sooner God can begin working on their hearts.

Congregational training in evangelism is the key to winning souls and changing those heart wrenching projections about our future in the United States. We have hundreds of thousands of untrained soldiers in our pews. We serve an offensive God who has a winning strategy. If we can again learn to fight for God, He will fight for His people. Any failure is on us and not Him. If we don't act now, we will need other countries to send missionaries here to reestablish the Lord's Church in America in the not so distant future.

## God's Mission for God's Church

Gavin Bearden, Detroit, AL

God's "intent" (Ephesians 3:10) has always been that the Church will manifest His will. This plan was "purposed in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 3:11). Christ purchased the Church with His blood, and the book of Acts records the establishment of the Church and the Gospel's furtherance. "God's will is for all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). There are two primary missions of the Church. The first is to evangelize to the lost (Mark 16:15), and the second is to "be faithful unto death" (Revelation 2:10). God has given us this responsibility, and it must be taken seriously.

The one-talent man we read about in the Bible failed to fulfill the responsibility he was given. The Master called him "wicked and lazy" (Matthew 25:26). Then, he was cast "into the outer darkness" (Matthew 25:30). To avoid this fate, let us consider a few tips that will help the Church fulfill the responsibilities that God has commanded!

### Realizing the Importance of a Lost Soul

Jesus showed how important the soul is when he said, "For what shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8:36-37) The point of these two verses is to show that nothing in this life is worth more than the soul God has given man. Another word for man's soul is man's spirit. In Ecclesiastes 12:7, the writer penned these words concerning the spirit of man: "Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it." Furthermore, everyone will have to stand before God in judgment and give an account for their soul. (Hebrews 9:27)

Many have traded their souls for the things of this world. Jesus said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal;" (Matthew 6:19). The Church must help people understand that this world will pass away. The only thing that truly matters is to "fear God and keep his commandments" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). There is an old hymn titled 'You Never Mentioned Him To Me' by James Rowe. The chorus of this song goes as follows: "You never mentioned Him to me, you helped me not the light to see. You met me daily and knew I was astray, yet never mentioned Him to me." The Church should strive daily to mention the Gospel to every soul before it's too late.

### Realizing the Importance of Your Soul

The wealthy farmer was unprepared when God said: "Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?" (Luke 12:20) Our soul must always be ready for Christ's return

because His return will be "as a thief in the night" (1 Thessalonians 5:2). One must keep their soul "unspotted from the world" (James 1:27) to be ready for the Master's return. To be prepared for His return means that we must guard our soul against the "schemes of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11). "Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). Each member of the Church must resist Satan to keep their soul faithful unto God.

To resist Satan, our soul must abide in Christ and His word. John told Christians that abiding in Christ prepares them for His second coming: "And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming" (1 John 2:28). Abiding in Jesus is walking in the light (1 John 1:7). We know that by living according to Jesus' instructions, we have guarded our soul from the darkness of sin because in him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5).

### Realizing the Importance of Love

The greatest example of love ever recorded is the shedding of the blood of Christ to "forgive us of our sins" (Ephesians 1:7). "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). This gift of eternal life is truly a gift of love! The world should see the love of God manifested in His Church. Paul said: "If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:3). If we have not love in carrying out the mission of the Church, we have failed. John wrote: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13).

Because souls are important to God, they should also be important to His Church. Why would anyone want to be a part of a church that does not embody God's love? Never forget the Gospel's message of love can sound like hate if we do not have love behind our words. Finally, remember that "whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Colossians 3:17).

## Make Disciples: An Examination of Matthew 28:19

Ryan Gallagher, Hamilton, AL

The Great Commission, (Matthew 28:18-20), is easily one of the most recognizable passages in the New Testament for Christians. And yet, as familiarity can often breed contempt, we must remain vigilant in examining and understanding this charge issued by our Lord. In this brief synopsis, we will attempt to provide a basic word-for-word study of Matthew 28:19 to fully ascertain Jesus' instruction to his disciples.

While the first word in our English translations is "Go," the primary emphasis in this verse is focused on his imperative to "make disciples" (*mathēteuō*). The gospel accounts frequently refer to the disciples of Christ. Disciples are followers of someone or some type of thinking. So, for the Christian, "Discipleship involves not only a personal trust in Jesus but also a willingness to submit to his ethical standards" (Crain, 482). Jesus appears to be reinforcing a pattern of self-replication for his disciples. If they believe in him and desire to share in the rewards of his kingdom, they must also be willing to produce copies of themselves through "going," "baptizing," and "teaching."

A lot of ink has been spilled over the participle translated "go" (*poreuthentes*). Some have suggested that it be translated as "as you are going" or "while you are going." I do not believe this suggestion is offered to lessen the command of Jesus but to encourage daily evangelism wherever we are. Indeed, this is a part of our daily walk as "children of light" (Ephesians 5:8), and it is a way in which we can win others through our example (Philippians 1:27; 1 Peter 2:11; 3:1-2). However, if we remove the command to "go!" there can arise a sense of complacency to solely living a godly life and expecting our actions to do the speaking for us. Daniel Wallace warns that such a rendering could "turn the Great Commission into the Great Suggestion" (645).

Grammatically, this participle often takes the mood of the main verb, which we already established is the imperative "make disciples." So, instead of "as you are going," it appears Jesus wanted his disciples to physically go, seek out, and make more disciples. Stylistically, Matthew uses this grammatical construction frequently, perhaps as a stylistic choice. For example, in Matthew 2:8, King Herod, in a frantic attempt to find and eliminate the threat to his throne, commanded the wise men, "Go (*poreuthentes*) and search (*exetasate*) diligently for the child." This construction is not only limited to Matthew but can also be found in other Gospels. "Go (*poreuthentes*) into all the world and proclaim (*kēruxate*)

the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15). In each of these instances, the participle assumes the mood of the main verb, and so we are left with an urgent command to "Go and make disciples!"

The new disciples are to come from "all nations," giving further credence to the fact that those seeking to fulfill this command must go to those who are culturally, religiously, and geographically dissimilar from themselves. Often the word translated as "nations" (*ethnē*) is rendered simply as "Gentiles." This understanding is rooted in the Jewish mindset of viewing the world. There were God's chosen people, and then there was everyone else. What is noticeable about Jesus' statement is what he does not say. He does not tell them to go and convert the Gentiles. He says they must go and make disciples of "all nations," which would naturally include the Jewish nation. So, his command is all-inclusive and will require a new submission to Jesus Christ by Jews and Gentiles alike.

Jesus provides further explanation as to how the disciple-making is to be accomplished. First, the new disciples are to be baptized "in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." Jesus set out the example of baptism for his early followers in (Matthew 3:13-17). Interestingly, in that account, Jesus is present in bodily form, the Father's voice is heard expressing his pleasure at the Son, and the Holy Spirit descends in the form of a dove. The authority by which the disciple-making baptism should be done is also by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Second, in (v. 20), we learn that the new disciples are to be taught "to observe all that I have commanded you." So, not only are they to commit themselves to the Lord through baptism, but they are to continue to learn "all" that was commanded. "All authority," "all nations," are to be taught "all things." This command of Jesus cannot be ignored by the faithful disciple, new or old, who wishes to please the Lord and looks to the time when Jesus will return at "the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

Crain, Sellers. *Matthew 14-28*. Searcy, AR: Resource Publications, 2011.

Merkle, Benjamin L. "Why the Great Commission Should Be Translated 'Go' and Not 'As You Go.'" *Southeastern Theological Review* 9.2 (2018): 21-32.

Wallace, Daniel B. *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics: An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

# PREACHING MATTERS.

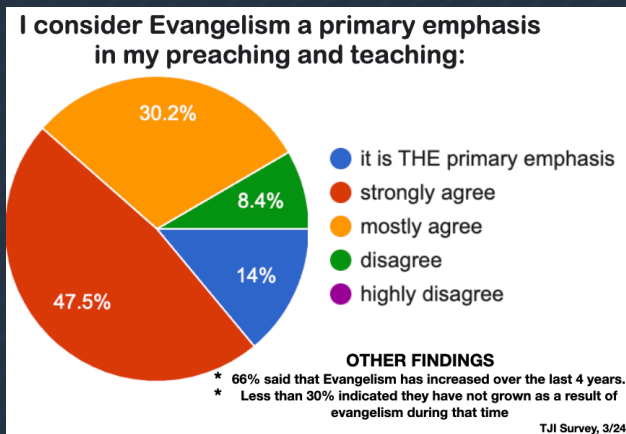


## EVANGELIZING A LOST WORLD!

Our dad, Jerry Jenkins had been preaching for nearly 40 years at the Roebuck Parkway congregation at the time. It was a gathering of a room packed with preachers. They had come to learn how the congregation there had averaged baptizing one person every seven days for those 40 years.

They were looking for a program, a work, a method. He simply addressed them with a question: "How many personal Bible studies do you have going on right now?"

We can talk strategy all day long, but it does simply come down to if we are studying the Gospel with others or not. So: "How many personal Bible studies do you have going on right now?"



"The gospel can be sum up in two words: JESUS and LOVE ... the love Jesus has (not had) for us (Rev. 1:5). Can that message still resonate in a world of rancor, war, and self-serving values? God thinks so (Rom. 1:16). Who am I to argue with that?!"

--Dan Winkler

## A Word of Encouragement ENGAGE

Violence, disaster, destitution, devastation, war, chaos, confusion, injustice, the wicked apparently defeating the righteous, and God's law being ignored by the masses. Sounds like bad times with a lot of bad news. Sounds a lot like today. However those words were spoken by God's man somewhere around 2500 years ago.

In a world that has lost its way, it is easy to become distracted from our mission. Perhaps it seems easier to weigh in on political and cultural issues than to engage in what we have been called to do. For some odd reason, many seem to enjoy discussing the bad news more than they do the Good News.

When Habakkuk complained to God so long ago, He questioned whether or not God was doing anything to fix the broken world. He accused God of not hearing him. He said in essence, "I have lodged by complaint, now I'll go sit and wait to see what God will do.

God explained to His preacher that He was at work in ways that Habakkuk could never understand. God's word to Habakkuk was basically, "Don't sit there and wait, get up and proclaim the message to everyone." Also, "Don't worry, I'll take care of the wicked in this world, you go out there and show people around you what it means to live a righteous life, by faith."

Brothers, It might always seem that it is easier to talk about what is wrong than to engage ourselves in doing what is right. As much as anyone alive, those of us who preach the Word should have a grasp of what the mission is all about. We may preach or teach about it often, but the question is, "Are we engaged?"

Hopefully, our church family will listen to what we say, but ultimately what we do is what they will follow. If we want to be a part of an evangelistic church, we must lead the way. I am reminded of the words of Luke in his opening statement to Theophilus in the book of Acts, when he said he had written to him about all that Jesus did and taught! If we desire to be like the Savior we will teach, yes, but we will also do.



# The Words of Truth

Sixth Avenue Church of Christ  
1501 Sixth Avenue  
Jasper, AL 35501

To unsubscribe contact us at  
[office@sixthavenuechurch.org](mailto:office@sixthavenuechurch.org).

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 2002  
Birmingham, AL

## Q & A WITH MARK POSEY

**QUESTION:** Does partaking of the Lord's Supper 52 times each year cause it to lose its meaning for Christians?

**ANSWER:** Some believe that observing the Lord's Supper every week reduces its importance. However, I disagree with this notion. Just like weekly attendance at church and regular worship do not diminish the value of these activities, weekly observance of the Lord's Supper does not lessen its significance. Similarly, giving offerings and praying every week does not devalue their benefits, nor does regular giving reduce the need for stewardship. Our spiritual lives rely on the benefits of our Lord's sacrifice on the cross, and we should cherish and honor this sacrifice through our weekly observance of the Lord's Supper. Thus, weekly recognition of the memorial helps us live appreciatively and faithfully (1 Cor. 11:26). Furthermore, the Bible teaches Christians to observe the Lord's Supper every Sunday. This is evidenced by the examples and commands in Acts 2:42, Acts 20:7, and 1 Corinthians 11:17-18. For example, the Christians in Troas gathered every Sunday to "break bread" (Acts 20:7), and the church in Corinth came together to eat the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:17-22). The Apostle Paul preached the message given to him by the Lord (1 Cor. 11:23) regarding the Lord's Supper in every church he visited (1 Cor. 4:17). The Lord directed the activities of both the Corinthian and Troas churches through the revealed Word. Therefore, following God's instructions (Acts 5:29) and observing the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week is imperative. The earliest historical evidence confirms weekly observance of the Lord's Supper. The Didache (ca.95 AD) indicates Christians assembled on the first day of each week to break bread (Didache 14:1). Justin Martyr (ca.150 AD) records how Christians gathered on Sunday and partook of the Lord's Supper (Apology I, 67). The Lord's Supper is a memorial (1 Cor. 11:23-25) of His death for our sins (Matt. 26:28). Christians today "proclaim the Lord's death till he comes" (1 Cor. 11:26) each "first day of the week" (Acts 20:7). Thus, it is of monumental importance and the weekly observance should strengthen our faith and practice.

Mark Posey  
[mark.nichols.posey@gmail.com](mailto:mark.nichols.posey@gmail.com)

The words of *Truth*

### The Words of Truth

*is a quarterly publication overseen by the elders of the Sixth Avenue Church of Christ in Jasper, Alabama. It is dedicated to the promotion and defense of New Testament Christianity.*

*Justin Guin, Editor*



### The Words of Truth

*is sent free to all upon request.*

*If you would like to submit an article you can send it to our editor at [jsbguin@gmail.com](mailto:jsbguin@gmail.com)*

### The Words of Truth

Sixth Avenue Church of Christ

1501 6th Avenue

Jasper, AL 35501

Phone: (205) 384-6446

Fax: (205) 302-0595

E-mail: [office@sixthavenuechurch.org](mailto:office@sixthavenuechurch.org)

[www.sixthavenuechurch.org](http://www.sixthavenuechurch.org)