

WHY EVANGELISE?

(1) MOTIVES.

EVANGELISM AND GOD.

God is an Evangelist. Evangelism is God-centred.

- He conceived evangelism in eternity commissioned his Son. 1 Pet 1v18f. Gal. 4v4.
- He inspired prophets to foretell his coming and sacrifices to foreshadow.
- He sent his Son to die for sinners and his Spirit to convict and call: John 3v16; 16v8.

Dr. J.A. Stewart. 'Concern for world evangelisation is not something tacked on to a man's personal Christianity, which he may take or leave as he chooses; it is rooted... in the character of the God who has come to us in Christ Jesus. Thus it can never be the province of a few enthusiasts, a sideline or a speciality of those who happen to have a bent that way. It is the distinctive mark of being a Christian.

Evangelism is for the glory of God. Rom.1v5; 3 John 7; Ps. 119v136.

EVANGELISM AND CHRIST.

- He commanded it. Matt28 v19f. John 20v21. Stott, 'A dumb Christian is a disobedient Christian'.

EVANGELISM AND THE LOST.

Men are lost. They are without Christ, without hope, (Eph. 2v12) and without excuse, condemned by the general revelation of God in his creation and by the voice of their own conscience (Rom.1v18-20; 2v14-16). There is no other way.

EVANGELISM AND THE CHRISTIAN.

We need to have a sense of obligation and accountability to God. 2 Cor. 5v18; Acts 20v26-27; Rom. 1v14-15.

EVANGELISM AND THE GOSPEL.

We are sure what the gospel will do, of success in its proclamation. Rom. 1v16; Rev. 7v9f.

(2) METHODS.

REACHING OUT.

How did the Early Church endeavour to evangelise?

(1) PREACHING.

In the Synagogue (Acts 17v1-4) where in the Gentile world Paul would get a hearing. They worked on the 'God-fearing' fringe.

In the open-air (Acts 3v11-12; 17v 22).

In the market-place (Acts 17v17). On neutral ground.

The Lecture-hall (Acts 19v9)

A tent making ministry.

(2) HOUSEHOLD EVANGELISM

The use of the home was effective. (Acts 18v7; 18v26; 28v30-31).

(3) LITERATURE EVANGELISM.

The Gospels were evangelistic documents, Mark 1v1; John 20v30-31.

(4) PERSONAL EVANGELISM.

(Acts 8v1-4) 'The chief agents in the expansion of Christianity appear not to have been those who made it a profession, or made it a major part of their occupation, but men and women who carried on their livelihood in some purely secular fashion and spoke of their faith to those they met in this natural fashion' Latourette. See John 1v41, 45.