

## **Since We Heard: What the Book of Colossians Teaches Us About Evangelism**

*The book of Colossians details four foundational building blocks to evangelism:*

1. The Message in Evangelism
2. The Messenger for Evangelism
3. The Method of Evangelism
4. The Motivation behind Evangelism

### **The Context for Evangelism in Colossae**

#### **1. The Message in Evangelism**

- a. must be heard (1:5-6)
- b. is the word of truth (1:5-6)
- c. is a message of hope (1:5, 23)
- d. concerns unseen, future, heavenly realities (1:5)
- e. must come to unbelievers (1:6)
- f. produces obedience and knowledge in those who believe (1:6, 10)
- g. must be intelligible to those who hear (1:6)
- h. communicates the grace of God (1:6)
- i. must be learned and taught (1:7; 2:7)
- j. must be proclaimed (1:23, 28)

## 2. The Messenger for Evangelism

- a. offers hope to men (1:5, 23, 27; 2:13-15; 3:3-4)
- b. must open his mouth in order to be heard (1:5-7, 23, 28; 2:7; 4:4, 6)
- c. must be clear so that understanding is imparted to those who hear (1:6; 4:3-4)
- d. must assume the role of a teacher (1:7, 28; 2:7)
- e. is a slave of Christ together with other believers (1:7; 4:7, 12)
- f. must be characterized by faithfulness (1:7; 4:7-9)
- g. must serve for the glory of Christ and for the good of men (1:7, 28-2:1; 4:7-9, 12-13)
- h. must expect to labor and suffer (1:24, 29; 4:3, 12-13)
- i. must be devoted in prayer for converts (1:3, 9; 4:2-6, 12-13)
  - Thanking God (1:4-5)
  - That they would be filled with the knowledge of God's will (1:9)
  - Their spiritual wisdom and understanding (1:9)
  - That God's wisdom would make them walk in a manner worthy of the Lord (1:10)
  - That their walk would please the Lord in all respects (1:10)
  - That they would bear fruit in every good work (1:10)
  - That they would grow in the knowledge of God (1:10)
  - That they would be strengthened with all power according to God's glorious might (1:11)
  - That they would attain all steadfastness (1:11)
  - That they would attain all patience (1:11)
  - For joyful gratitude to the Father because of what He has accomplished in salvation (1:12-14)
  - That their hearts would be encouraged and knit together in love (2:2)
  - That they would attain the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding (2:2)
  - That they would be built up and established in the faith (2:7)
  - For opportunities to clearly speak the gospel (4:3-4)
  - That they would stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God (4:12)

### **3. The Method of Evangelism**

- a. with words (1:5-6; 4:4, 6)
- b. with clarity (1:6; 4:4)
- c. as instruction (1:7; 2:7)
- d. by proclamation (1:23, 28; 4:3)
- e. with thankfulness (1:12; 3:17)
- f. in Christ's name (3:17)
- g. prayerfully (4:2-4)
- h. without philosophical reasonings (2:3-4, 8, 16-23)

### **4. The Motivation behind Evangelism**

- a. Christ's supremacy (1:15-20; 2:3, 9-10, 17, 19)
- b. Christ's sufficiency (1:17-20; 28; 2:2-3, 9, 13, 16-17, 20-23)
- c. Christ's shackles (1:7; 3:22-24; 4:1, 7, 12)
- d. Christ's salvation (1:3, 6, 13-14, 21-22, 27-28; 2:5-7, 10-15; 3:1-3, 7, 13, 24)
- e. Christ's suffering (1:18, 20, 22, 24; 2:12-14, 20; 3:1)
- f. Coming wrath (3:5-6)

## Recommended Resources

### BOOKS

#### Evangelism

2. Bonar, Horatius. *Words to Winners of Souls*.
3. Boston, Thomas. *The Art of Man-Fishing: How to Reach the Lost*.
4. Carey, William. *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens*.
5. Packer, J. I. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*.
6. Dever, Mark. *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism*.

#### Apologetics

1. Van Til, Cornelius. *The Defense of the Faith*.
2. Pratt Jr., Richard L. *Every Thought Captive*.
3. Busenitz, Nathan. *Reasons We Believe: 50 Lines of Evidence That Confirms the Christian Faith*.

#### Prayer

1. Pink, Arthur. *The Sovereignty of God* (chapter 9, pdf version).
2. Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* (chapter 4).
3. Carson, D. A. *Praying with Paul: A Call to Spiritual Reformation*.

#### Biography

1. Carey, S. Pierce. *William Carey*.

### SERMONS

1. Smedly Yates - [“Missions: The Glory of God in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Manifested in the Church Around the World.”](#)
2. Scott Maxwell - [“Acts - The Triumph of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!”](#)
3. Jon Anderson - [“Persistence in Prayer”](#)
4. [2015 Ekklesia Conference sermons on the mission of the church](#)