Sermon Notes for February 9, 2014

Sharing the Hope
I Peter 3:13-16

Introduction

One of the great privileges we have as Christians is to share the gospel with another person.

“I tell you the truth, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Luke 15:10

It is the privilege and responsibility of every Christian to share the good news about Christ with those who don’t know Jesus.

I. Let your life be a witness for Christ. I Peter 3:13-15a

Do good. Live for Christ. Do what is right.

If you do good, the likelihood of suffering is much less. But even if you do suffer, you are blessed. Matthew 5:10-12

Don’t fear what they fear.

And in your heart, set apart Christ as Lord.

Make that inner commitment in your heart that you will live for Christ and honor him as Lord regardless of what the world around you does.

II. Let your words be a witness for Christ. I Peter 3:15b

“How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” Romans 10:14

There comes a time when we must use words.

“Always be prepared to give an answer for the hope you have.”

Answer is the word apologia. It means defense. Apologetics is our defense of the faith.

How would you answer these questions?

- If someone were to ask you why you are a Christian, what would you say?
- If they asked you why you believe the Bible is true, how would you answer?
- If they want to know Christ as their Savior and Lord, what would you tell them?
It is important to know what we believe so we can share the gospel with others.

- John 3:16
- Your Personal Testimony
- A Gospel Tract

III. Share the gospel with gentleness and respect. I Peter 3:15c

Gentleness means that we share the gospel with meekness and humility.

Meekness isn’t weakness. We can be bold and meek.

“The Christian is always to be a gentleman or gentle woman, even when opposed by unbelievers. Our apologetic “answer” is always to be given with love, never in degrading terms.” NIV Study Bible footnote on I Peter 3:15

“We left the Grammy’s early. I’ve many thoughts about the show tonight, most of which are probably better left inside my head. But I’ll say this: I’ve never been more honored to sing about Jesus and for Jesus. And I’ve never been more sure of the path I’ve chosen.” Natalie Grant

Conclusion

It’s not our job to convert anyone. That’s God’s work.

“Success in witnessing is simply sharing Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.” Bill Bright

Let your life be a witness for Christ.

Let your words be a witness for Christ.

Share the gospel with gentleness and respect.