

VISITATION EVANGELISM

In Paul's farewell message to the Ephesian Elders, he declared that he had taught them "publicly, from house to house." This statement throws a flood of light upon the methods of evangelism used in the church in the first century. There was mass evangelism, educational evangelism, and visitation evangelism. All of these methods were regarded as essential, and as complimentary, each to the other.

Placing special emphasis upon any one of these methods should not be to the discredit or neglect of the others. Jesus stands as the supreme example in all three methods. He preached to the masses who listened eagerly to his wonderful words. He was the great teacher, instructing the people in the way of life. He searched out individuals, one by one, and called them to be his disciples. Levi was sitting at the receipt of custom when the Master called him. The conversation of Jesus with the Samaritan woman at the well resulted in her conversion.

Not all can preach to the masses. Not all have the gift of teaching; but all may witness for Christ as individuals. It is the privilege and responsibility of every Christian to bear witness to others concerning Jesus Christ and his saving power. This witness for Christ may be given to people wherever we find them, whether at home, on the highway, at the place of business, or recreation. Jesus called some of his disciples while they were at their fishing nets. While Philip rode on the highway in a chariot with the eunuch, he led him to Christ.

A significant phase of the great revival at Pentecost was the witnessing of the hundred and twenty to the people upon the streets. Following their baptism with the Holy Ghost, they left the upper room, and went to the streets of the city to give testimony to the people whom they met, concerning Christ and his great redemption. The personal witnessing of the one hundred and twenty disciples furnished the background for Peter's sermon. It was not Peter's sermon alone which resulted in three thousand conversions on the day of Pentecost; it was the sermon and the personal witness of the disciples in the power of the Holy Ghost that produced the remarkable results.

When Andrew became a disciple of Jesus, his first concern was to bring his brother to Jesus. Andrew placed on the priority list of his activity a personal visit to his own brother. "He first findeth his own brother, Simon, and sayeth unto him, we have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ, and he brought him to Jesus." It is a great mistake to allow any phase of God's work, however worthy, to crowd out the work of visitation evangelism. We have failed as Christians, in a very large measure, when we become so busily engaged in the work of the church that we fail to contact personally for Christ the woman at the well, the man at the receipt of custom, or an "own brother."

When Philip became a disciple of Jesus he set about immediately to bring another to Christ. "Philip findeth Nathaniel, and saith unto him: We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." The burden of the testimony of Philip was, that he himself had found the Christ. Although

Nathaniel was somewhat skeptical, the testimony of Philip was sufficient to attract his attention and turn his steps to the Saviour. It was through a personal visit that Paul was brought out of retirement in Tarsus to begin his great ministry at Antioch. It was Barnabas who sought him out. The story of the visit of Barnabas is described in the eleventh chapter of Acts: "Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch."

Christ sent his disciples, two and two, "into every city and place." There are no limitations as to place, for visitation evangelism. Christ knocks at the door of men's hearts in all manner of places, where multitudes will open the door to the Saviour, when they receive some word of encouragement, exhortation and instruction from one who has already received him. It was in connection with sending out his disciples, two and two that Jesus said: "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." Christ stands in urgent need of a multitude of labourers as visitation evangelists to carry his message "into every city and place." There has never been a great revival without visitation evangelists to bear the message of Christ from house to house, and from "receipt of custom" to "receipt of custom." Let us go, therefore, "into every city and place," with the message of our Lord. The harvest is ripe and there are multitudes all "go for them," some of them will be lost, and their blood will be required at our hands in the day of the great Assize.—Pentecostal Herald.

SATANIC ACTIVITY

By Leland Wilcox

The text of our lesson is found in Job 1st chapter, part of the 6th verse, "And Satan came also." Our main object in bringing this lesson to you at this time is that we as a people may realize that there is a real personal devil, and that he is the enemy of our God and of all righteousness. Ever since the creation of man he has ever sought to destroy the works of God and bring complete destruction upon the whole human race; and shall continue to do so until that day when time shall be no more.

In reading this entire chapter we see that Satan brought swift destruction upon the whole family of Job, including his entire property, and caused great affliction, sorrow and suffering upon this notable, God-fearing man. In turning back to our fore-parents in the Garden of Eden, we find that God had instructed them that they might eat of every tree in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In eating of the fruit of that tree they would surely die. Satan coming to them did say, "Thou shalt not surely die," thus calling God a liar, and he is doing the same today. While the word of God states "The wicked shall be turned into Hell with all the nations that forget God," many skeptics throw back into the face of God, that this is a lie.

We hear God speaking again through His word. Hebrews 12:14: "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, or the sanctification, without which no man shall see God."

Many anti-Holiness goat shepherds by their

wilful disobedience and unbelief in the truth do answer back in the face of Almighty God: "You're a liar." Immediately after the fall God demanded a sacrifice for sin which was to be a lamb without spot or blame, pointing to the time when the Lamb of God would come and take away the sin of the world. Right here we find Satan trying to do away with the blood sacrifice, by moving Cain to bring an offering of the fruit of the ground. Thank God the Blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, cleanses from all sin today!

Exodus 2-23: "And the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage and they cried and their cry came up unto God by reason of the cruel slavery in Egypt."

This Egyptian bondage was a type of the slavery of sin, and, although the devil did his worst to hold them, in answer to prayer God raised up Moses to be their deliverer. And although King Pharaoh, being influenced and led by Satan, tried to defeat the plan of God, out of Egypt they came, and as they crossed the Red Sea, they beheld their enemies drowned on the shores.

We find again that the devil was right on hand to keep the children of Israel from going into the Promised Land, which is a type of Holiness or the Sanctified life. Although many because of unbelief bleached their bones in the wilderness, the obedient and faithful entered into the Promised Land. We do thank God that in the face of Holiness opposers of this awful age, many people are still being wholly sanctified today. All glory be to God!

Daniel prayed unto his God with his window opened towards Heaven, three times a day. The old devil did not like this and Daniel was thrown into the den of lions. When Satan could not prevent Daniel from praying, his next move was to keep Daniel from being answered.

Daniel 10:2: "In those days I, Daniel was mourning three whole days."

Daniel prayed three more days, at the end of which time the angel appeared unto him telling him that his prayers were answered. Perhaps if we did more praying like this many of our loved ones would be safe in the fold of the shepherd.

John the Baptist stood on the bank of the river Jordan crying: "Repent ye for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Many were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. Satan of course put in the heart of the Pharisees and others to be baptized without repentance, and this sort of thing is going on today. People are being baptized, enrolled as church members, they fill the choir and pews, all without God. God give us more men like this same Baptist who would lift up his voice like a trumpet and cry out, "Ye generation of vipers, how shall ye escape the damnation of Hell?"

Soon after this we find this same faithful messenger standing in open rebuke before King Herod for having his brother Philip's wife and saying, "It is not lawful for thee to have her." The truth still holds good today. John lost his head but he received a crown of life.

It is very evident that Satan put forth every possible effort to destroy our Lord Jesus Christ, from the time He lay in Bethlehem's manger and during His entire ministry, until that day when he hung on Calvary's cruel cross, carrying with Him the burden and