

# **“Sharing Your Faith”**

## ***Sermon Outline Series***

### **Eternal Investments for God**

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- + May be used in part or its entirety to promote evangelism within a church and to promote the following website: [www.TheHopeWithin.org](http://www.TheHopeWithin.org)

#### **Pre-Sermon Series:**

- Pastor shares his testimony: [visit http://malarson.typepad.com/share\\_your\\_story/](http://malarson.typepad.com/share_your_story/)
- EI4G creates a webpage, free of charge, for pastor’s church and displays pastor’s story
- Pastor prints sermon outlines if desired
- EI4G sends pastor enough business-size cards listing TheHopeWithin.org to distribute to congregation: [visit http://malarson.typepad.com/daily\\_2\\_team/](http://malarson.typepad.com/daily_2_team/)

#### **Post-Sermon Series:**

- Mention TheHopeWithin.org in church bulletin
- Can use our resources with your current outreach programs

#### **Suggested Sermon Series Titles:**

*Choose one of the following or create your own...*

- Are You Ashamed of Your Faith?
- What is the Reason for the Hope Within You?

#### **Suggested Sermon Titles:**

*Use the following or create your own...*

- Sermon One: What is evangelism and why should we evangelize?
- Sermon Two: Why we don’t share our faith
- Sermon Three: What is the reason for the hope within you?
- Sermon Four: Simple ways to share your faith

## Sermon One: What is evangelism and why should we evangelize?

### **Bible Verses:**

“but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect”

*1 Peter 3:15*

”As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

*2 Timothy 4:5*

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”

*Matthew 28:28-20 (Great Commission)*

“And he said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.’”

*Mark 16:15*

### **Quotes:**

“The Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became Man for no other purpose.”

*C. S. Lewis*

“If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies. If they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees. Let no one GO there UNWARNED and UNPRAYED for.”

*C. H. Spurgeon*

“‘Not called!’ did you say? ‘Not heard the call,’ I think you should say. Put your ear down to the Bible, and hear Him bid you go and pull sinners out of the fire of sin. Put your ear down to the burdened, agonized heart of humanity, and listen to its pitiful wail for help. Go stand by the gates of hell, and hear the damned entreat you to go to their father’s house and bid their brothers and sisters and servants and masters not to come there. Then look Christ in the face - whose mercy you have professed to obey - and tell Him whether you will join heart and soul and body and circumstances in the march to publish His mercy to the world.”

*William Booth*

“The salvation of a single soul is more important than the production or preservation of all the epics and tragedies in the world.”

*C.S. Lewis*

“Witnessing is that deep-seated conviction that the greatest favor I can do for others is to introduce them to Jesus Christ.”

*Paul Little in his book "How to Give Away Your Faith"*

“Every man is a missionary, now and forever, for good or for evil, whether he intends or designs it or not. He may be a blot radiating his dark influence outward to the very circumference of society, or he may be a blessing spreading benediction over the length and breadth of the world. But a blank he cannot be: there are no moral blanks; there are no neutral characters.”

*Thomas Chalmers*

”You have nothing to do but save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work. It is not your business to preach so many times; but to save as many souls as you can. to bring as many sinners as you possibly can to repentance, and with all your power to build them up in that holiness, without which they cannot see the Lord”

*John Wesley in "The Twelve Rules"*

“Evangelism is not an option for the Christian life.”

*Luis Palau*

“This generation of Christians is responsible for this generation of souls on the earth!”

*Keith Green*

“Evangelization is a process of bringing the gospel to people where they are, not where you would like them to be... When the gospel reaches a people where they are, their response to the gospel is the church in a new place...”

*Vincent Donovan*

### **Suggested Ideas:**

- Evangelism is simply sharing your faith, not necessarily bringing someone all the way from non-believer to believer.
- Evangelism can be simple, cost-free and very effective when done properly.
- Discuss common misconceptions of what evangelism is and is not.
- Biblical reasons to share your faith. For a few examples [visit \[http://malarson.typepad.com/biblical\\\_reasons\\\_to\\\_share/\]\(http://malarson.typepad.com/biblical\_reasons\_to\_share/\)](http://malarson.typepad.com/biblical_reasons_to_share/)
- There is no greater gift than sharing Christ with others.
- Imagine if every Christian helped one person accept Christ per year.
- Your story can combat [www.BlasphemyChallenge.com](http://www.BlasphemyChallenge.com)

### **Other:**

- Evangelize - to preach the gospel to  
*Merriam-Webster Dictionary ([www.m-w.com](http://www.m-w.com))*

**Homework:**

- Think of two people that you know that don't know Christ and pray for them.

## Sermon Two: Why we don't share our faith

### **Bible Verses:**

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”  
*Acts 1:8*

### **Quotes:**

“Evangelism is just one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread.”  
*D.T. Niles*

“Someone asked ‘Will the heathen who have never heard the Gospel be saved?’ It is more a question with me whether we -- who have the Gospel and fail to give it to those who have not - can be saved.”  
*Charles Spurgeon*

“God uses people. God uses people to perform His work. He does not send angels. Angels weep over it, but God does not use angels to accomplish His purposes. He uses burdened broken-hearted weeping men and women.”  
*David Wilkerson*

“Too many Christians are no longer fishers of men but keepers of the aquarium.”  
*Paul Harvey*

“I never got away from Jesus and Him crucified in my preaching. I found that once these people were gripped by the great evangelical meaning of Christ's sacrifice on our behalf, I did not have to give them many instructions about changing their behavior.”  
*David Brainerd, the famous missionary to the American Indians*

“Being an extrovert isn't essential to evangelism - obedience and love are.”  
*Rebecca M. Pippert*

“He is not seeking a powerful people to represent HIM. Rather, He looks for all those who are weak, foolish, despised, and written off: and He inhabits them with His own strength.”  
*Graham Cooke*

### **Suggested Ideas:**

- We don't need all the answers to share Christ. Biblical people simply told others of how Christ had helped them... why don't we?
- We don't need to know everything about the faith. After all, you're a Christian and nobody explained every answer to you, right?

- Don't want to do it alone. Your church supports you, the Christian ministry EI4G supports you, other churches in the area support you, etc. This is a collective effort in which your story, no matter how simple or amazing, is unique and *extremely* powerful.
- Not our "job" to evangelize. Doesn't God call us to share through the Great Commission? He also mentions in 1 Peter 3:15 that we should give a reason for the hope that lives within us.
- Story: Imagine a group of firefighters polishing their fire engine outside a burning building. They are so consumed with what they are doing that they are oblivious to the cries of help from terrified people who are trapped at a top floor window. Obviously, there's nothing wrong with cleaning their fire engine, but not while people are trapped in a burning building! *It's the same with those that need to hear the Gospel. There is nothing wrong with studying the Bible, doing church activities and the like, but there are people out there that don't believe in Christ – and their fate is worse than those trapped inside a burning building.*

**Other:**

- "only two percent of believers in America regularly share their faith in Christ with others"  
*Bill Bright in "The Coming Revival" (NewLife Publications, p. 65)*

**Homework:**

- Pray for Christ to show you the importance of evangelism and to provide you with courage to share.

## **Sermon Three: What is the reason for the hope within you?**

### **Bible Verses:**

“but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect”

*1 Peter 3:15*

### **Quotes:**

*Feel free to add your own.*

### **Suggested Ideas:**

- Most of us know the Gospel, but for it to sink in and to remind ourselves I encourage you to write down your story/your testimony.
- If you were to write a thank you card to God, what would it say?
- Most meaningful presentation of the Gospel is how it worked in your life.
- Your story is unique and God wants you to share it.
- What areas has God helped you – be specific (drug abuse, marital troubles, financial difficulties, etc.).
- Facts tell, stories sell.

### **Other:**

*Feel free to add your own.*

### **Homework:**

- Pick one area God has helped you and type a few hundred words (about ½ a page or more). Then submit your story to EI4G by sending an e-mail to [info@EI4G.org](mailto:info@EI4G.org). Do you have to do this? No, of course not. But it sure would prove you are not ashamed of your faith. Even if you don't have EI4G publish it, it will serve as a reminder to you of how God has impacted your life.

## Sermon Four: Simple ways to share your faith

### **Bible Verses:**

“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*

“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

*2 Corinthians 5:18-20*

“For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?’ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

*Romans 10:13-17*

“and said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.’”

*Luke 24:46-48*

### **Quotes:**

“Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us daily.”

*Sally Koch*

“When it comes to community ministry, we finally put our program where our mouth is. Instead of expecting the community to come to church, we decided to take the church to the community.”

*Mark Krenz*

“Jesus . . . wants us to see that the neighbor next door or the people sitting next to us on a plane or in a classroom are not interruptions to our schedule. They are there by divine appointment. Jesus wants us to see their needs, their loneliness, their longings, and he wants to give us the courage to reach out to them”

*Rebecca Manley Pippert, Draper's*



“Evangelism occurs, he said, when Christians are so ignited by their contact with Christ that they in turn set other fires. It is easy to determine when something is aflame. It ignites other material. Any fire that does not spread will eventually go out. A church without evangelism is a contradiction in terms, just as fire that does not burn is a contradiction.”

*Elton Trueblood, the Quaker scholar*

**Suggested Ideas:**

- Pastor shares personal testimony.
- Plug your church’s existing programs.
- Mention how your existing church ministries can use [TheHopeWithin.org](http://TheHopeWithin.org) to help increase your effectiveness.
- Way to encompass entire Body, congregation, etc.
- Encourage the congregation that if they tell their story once then many, many people could come to Christ because of it.

**Other:**

*Feel free to add your own.*

**Homework:**

- Pass out one card to one of the two people you know that aren’t Christians or e-mail one person

## **Additional Notable Quotes:**

“People who don't believe in missions have not read the New Testament. Right from the beginning Jesus said the field is the world. The early church took Him at His word and went East, West, North and South.”

*J. Howard Edington*

“As long as there are millions destitute of the Word of God and knowledge of Jesus Christ, it will be impossible for me to devote time and energy to those who have both.”

*J. L. Ewen*

“The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become.”

*Henry Martyn*

“If we are devoted to the cause of humanity, we shall soon be crushed and broken-hearted, for we shall often meet with more ingratitude from men than we would from a dog; but if our motive is love to God, no ingratitude can hinder us from serving our fellow men.”

*Oswald Chambers*

“I would rather win souls than be the greatest king or emperor on earth, I would rather win souls than be the greatest poet, or novelist, or literary man who ever walked the earth. My one ambition in life is to save as many as possible. Oh, it is the only thing worth doing, to save souls and men and women, we can all do it.”

*RA Torrey*