

IT'S NOT ANGELS WHO SPREAD THE GOSPEL

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Jesus told His followers in Matthew 28:19-20 to go out into the world and witness. He didn't send angels to spread the gospel, Jesus used believers in Him, the Church. Through the times since Jesus ascended there have been perhaps billions of people of every language becoming believers in Jesus Christ but it was not through some heavenly, divine, angelic beings but through ordinary people, just like you and me and others in Jesus' Church. The apostle Paul was one of those who helped spread the gospel and he testified of why he did it and his remarks can be applied today.

I. SADLY, THERE WILL BE SOME WHO WILL NEVER WITNESS

1. Any believer who fails to witness will be a loser, for he/she could have gained so much by having been a part of God's work in bringing the lost, unbelievers to Him through Jesus, His Son.
2. To not witness about Jesus is to lose the blessing of seeing someone come to Jesus in faith, and lose the joy of knowing that he/she had done for someone that which had been done in bringing him/herself to the Lord Jesus.
3. *"...Woe to me if I do not..."* said Paul and so should every Christian say.

II. THERE WILL BE SOME WHO WILL WITNESS, BUT NOT READILY

1. Who in the world would not want new people to come to their Church?
2. There are Christians who are forced into a witnessing situation and unwillingly they have to say something about their faith and the Lord Jesus.
3. Feeling obligated to witness is not the attitude God is looking for nor will He reward for.
4. Have YOU ever witnessed, told somebody how they could be saved? Did you do so willingly, or did you do it to keep from feeling guilty and obligated?

III. IT IS GOD'S PLAN FOR EVERY BELIEVER TO WITNESS READILY AND JOYFULLY

1. On earth, there are few things that can bring so much reward and joy as sharing the good news of Jesus with someone.
 - Everybody deserves to hear about Jesus and to have the opportunity to be saved.
2. Somebody witnessed to YOU in some way or other and now it is YOUR turn to witness to others.
 - Teachers, pastor, relatives, parents, friends, somebody shared Jesus with you in some form or other.

3. Remember who Jesus spent most of His time with and remember where Jesus spent a lot of time.
 - It was with the "lower" class of people and in places where the "upper" class of people didn't care to go.
4. Paul learned that to reach people for the Lord Jesus, he had to get to their level, whether up or down and there are many ways today Christians can reach out to others.
 - Direct witnessing
 - Lunches
 - Parties
 - Work
 - Entertainment/activities
 - Door to door

CONCLUSION:

1. If YOU are a Christian, a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, then you are expected to willingly, joyfully tell others of your faith and about Jesus.
2. There are many rewards the Christian witness will receive when he/she stands before God as well as while still here on earth witnessing.
3. There is some way YOU can witness to somebody, be willing to change your "method"...as Paul did by becoming all things to/for all people that he might win some.
4. God has nobody but YOU and other believers to spread the gospel message about His son, Jesus.
 - What will you do? Can God count on YOU?