

## **YOUR OWN PRIVATE MISSION FIELD**

### **2 Corinthians 5:15**

**Introduction:** For some reason most Christians think that witnessing is for somebody other than themselves. They will support financially at times and frequently with prayer those who become missionaries. They remember the passage of scripture where Jesus said, "*...go ye into all the world...*" so witnessing has become identified with going a long way off somewhere.

#### **1. HAVE THOUGHTS ABOUT GOING TO A FOREIGN LAND TO WITNESS**

1. Some hear a stirring message by a missionary or see a video about missions in some foreign land and have a faint wish that they could be a missionary in some foreign land.
2. Some have even looked into what it would take to become a "foreign" missionary but that is as far as they ever went.

#### **2. EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS HIS/HER OWN PRIVATE WORLD TO WITNESS IN**

1. Every Christian has his/her home, job, school, friends.
2. Every Christian goes to the store, restaurants, Church, gas stations, bank, post office, beauty/barber shop, doctor's office and countless other public places.
3. Every Christian has people he/she is around more than anybody else and is in contact with.
  - Some of these people mean more than others and are influenced in one way or other by the frequent contact with the Christian.
  - Often a Christian friend is the only Christian that person knows or is ever around.
  - Jesus' great commission does not mean that every Christian is to go off to some foreign place.
  - Think, just how many people do YOU, personally, speak to every week?

#### **3. WHAT PLACE DOES JESUS HAVE IN ONE'S LIFE IF JESUS IS NEVER SHARED?**

1. If the Christian does not share Jesus in his/her own private world, then what place does Jesus really have in his/her life?
  - If the Christian does not share Jesus in his/her own private world, with friends, how then can that Christian say that he/she loves the Lord Jesus?
  - Christians don't have the slightest problem in talking about their children and grandchildren and other interests but remain silent about Jesus. So, who is loved more?

#### **4. CHRISTIAN, DO YOU REALLY CARE FOR JESUS?**

1. If a Christian really believed that he/she belonged to Jesus, then there is no reason/way to leave Him out of one's private life.
2. Christians feel that being faithful to Church services is the same as "witnessing." NOT SO!

## 5. SATAN IS VERY GOOD AT TWISTING GOD'S WORD

1. Satan has put into the minds of Christians that Jesus' great commission of "going into all the world..." is just that - foreign lands only.
2. Think for a moment about missionaries in a foreign land. What is so different about their lives from yours?
  - Only the place, the location. All the rest is very similar to where YOU are.
3. Most Christians have the idea that the pastor is to do all the witnessing, after all, that's what he's being paid to do.
  - Church members help the pastor be faithful to the great commission, but they are not.
4. Suppose you hire someone to stay at your side 24 hours a day to witness for you. In the end, who will Jesus reward? Who will be blessed?

## 6. WITNESSING IS FRIGHTENING TO MANY

1. For "some" reason Christians have no problem going about their lives talking, visiting, sharing with family, friends, even strangers things of interest to them but it is a frightful thing to even think of witnessing about Jesus to those very same people.
2. *2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19; James 4:4*
  - Christians, when silent about Jesus, are being friends with the world.
  - Christians, when witnessing about Jesus are being obedient to Jesus and their faith.
3. It is much easier to stand and quote one's favorite scripture verses, even pray aloud in a Church service, to even teach a class or serve on a committee than it is to step outside the Church and tell someone about Jesus.
4. Faith and Action are two entirely differently things.
  - Faith can be learned inside the Church building.
  - Action can be learned only by going outside the Church building and putting into practice what is learned inside the Church building.
  - There is a difference between "lecture" and "lab" work.
    - Like reading a book or watching a program on how to build up one's body, one has to actually do the exercises read about or watched.

## CONCLUSION:

1. Christian, the great commission starts at your house, your own private world.
2. Christian, the great commission is for EVERY Christian and every Christian has his/her own mission field.
3. If it's not hard to talk about one's family, etc., then talk about Jesus.