

A large crowd of people, many wearing blue shirts, with their arms raised in a church service. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting an indoor setting like a sanctuary or auditorium. The text is overlaid on this background.

Zeal for Souls

1Cor. 9:16 - "For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!"

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 - Preach - Euangelizomai - Evangelize
- Threefold purpose of Christian existence:
 - Evangelism - The Great Commission is a command for every Christian
 - Edification - teaching and training young believers
 - Spiritual Growth - Growing toward perfection

Zeal for Souls

- True Christianity has been sidetracked:
 - Social Gospel - physical needs made a priority over spiritual
 - Gospel mixed with worldly sciences and non-relevant miscellanea (psychology, politics, astronomy, archeology, entertainment)
 - Word of God is not preached as authoritative because many do not believe it is God's Word, or believe it must be adjusted to fit the times.
 - Busy work; fishers of men have become keepers of the aquarium

Results In:

- No spiritual content

– Heb. 5:12-14 - “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

Results In:

- No spiritual concern
 - Acts 28:27 - “For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.”
- No spiritual commitment
 - Eph. 4:14 - “that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting”

The Need

- A fresh awareness of Hell
 - Matt. 13:41-42 - “The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”
 - Mark 9:44 - “Where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'”

The Need

- People are seldom moved from a comfort zone without a strong sense of urgency
- What kind of Christian understands what is at stake for the lost and takes no action?
 - Lazy, uncaring, cynical, or fearful?
- Are you aware that God will not accept “I was afraid” to excuse not reaching out to the lost?
 - Matt. 25:25-26 - “And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’ 26 But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant”

The Need

- A fresh awareness of our responsibility
 - Mark 16:15 - “And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”
 - Ez. 3:17-18 - “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: 18 When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.”



The Need

- To overcome our embarrassment of being Christians
 - Rom. 1:16 - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

The Method

- Be a student of scripture
 - Rom. 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
- Be focused in prayer
 - Acts 12:5 - “Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.”
- Plan a strategy; start small; goals in steps
- Start with what you know; you never will have all the answers; the prospect knows less about Christ than you do.

The Nevers

- Never concern yourself with the possibility of the Adversary's hindrance.
- Never allow your profession to dictate your usefulness for Christ.
- Never allow financial support to replace your personal involvement.
- Never think that the results depend on you.

Zeal For Souls

- 1Cor 3:5-8 - “Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.”
- Edgar Albert Guest: “A soul I must save, if I would save my own; For, heaven’s gates are closed, to him who comes alone.”