

World Needs - cont.

We don't need to "preach the man, not the plan" as some say. We need to preach the man and the plan (Acts 8:35-36). We don't need to prop up the gospel with recreation or social activities (John 6:27). We don't need to "accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative" as some say (2 Timothy 4:2). We don't need to put an emphasis on oratory (1 Corinthians 2:1-5). And we don't need a community church or house church appeal as some say (Ephesians 4:4-6).

What the World Needs Now

Brethren, what the world needs - the gospel - the world may not want. But we still must give it to them. (Sometimes I don't want medicine, but I take it because it helps me.). What the world needs, the world needs now. Let's not wait too late to give it to them when there is no time for them to obey it.

Yes, we make an impact on the world with our example (2 Corinthians 3:2-3). We also make an impact with our words (Colossians 4:6). But we must also make an impact with our Bible (Acts 8:4). What the world needs now, is the gospel!

- Chris Reeves -

- Word of the Week -

- Called -

"Called" or "calling" (Gr. klesis) refers to God calling people with the gospel to be Christians. It means a summons or invitation and then a vocation. After we accept God's invitation, we need to live by his vocation. Let us live faithfully to make our "calling and election sure" (2 Peter 1:10).

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

The year I was born, Jackie De Shannon sang the song “What the World Needs Now” - music by Burt Backarack and words by Hal David. In this song she said “What the world needs now, is love sweet love...” I certainly agree with this sentiment if it’s the right kind of love. But, I would say that there is something more fundamental than love that the world needs. Actually, what the world needs now is the saving gospel of Jesus Christ.

The World Needs the Gospel

The reason the world needs the gospel is because the world is in sin. Sin is a worldwide problem and there is a worldwide need for forgiveness (Romans 6:23). Paul wrote: “for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

Fortunately, the worldwide sin problem has been met with a worldwide remedy. Jesus died for the sins of all mankind (1 Timothy 2:4). Paul wrote: “For to this end we labor and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of them that believe” (1 Timothy 4:10).

To let the world know about their

sin problem and its remedy, God revealed his gospel, or good news, to let all men know how to be saved. God draws and calls all men to be saved with the gospel. Jesus said: “No man can come to me, except the Father that sent me draw him: and I will raise him up in the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall all be taught of God. Every one that hath heard from the Father, and hath learned, cometh unto me” (John 6:44-45).

Then, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles to preach the gospel. This message would convict the world of sin. Jesus said: “And he, when he is come, will convict the world in respect of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they believe not on me” (John 16:8-9).

Lastly, Jesus sent his apostles to preach this gospel to the whole world and give them an opportunity to obey with repentance and baptism. Jesus said: “Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Mt. 28:19; see also Mark 16:15-16).

Today, we continue to preach the gospel to the lost. In our preaching, we :

- We must speak it [the gospel] only and nothing else, like our opinions, traditions, or church counsels (Romans 1:14-15; 1 Corinthians 9:16).
- We must speak it plainly so the audience can fully understand it (Acts 4:29).
- We must speak all of it - the whole counsel of God - and not just the part that people want to hear (Acts 20:20, 27).
- We must speak it to all and not be selective or prejudiced toward certain ones (Mark 16:15-16).
- We must speak it in love and never in hate or anger (Ephesians 4:15).
- We must speak it continually and not just when it is convenient to do so (2 Timothy 4:2).

The World Needs an Uncompromised Gospel

Today, we simply need to preach and teach an unadulterated and uncompromised gospel. We don’t need a so-called “friendship evangelism”, we need gospel preaching (Acts 2:37-41).