

I Corinthians 9 15-27

1. THE CHALLENGE OF EVANGELISING IN AD55
2. THE CHALLENGE NOW
3. WHAT TIPS CAN WE SHARE ABOUT EVANGELISING TODAY?

Evangelising in AD 55

- ▶ Corinth was a key trading place –sexually promiscuous
- ▶ Temple of Aphrodite housed 2000 priestesses (prostitutes)
- ▶ Greek philosophy prevalent; Soul is eternal, body separate and SO

sin did not pollute the soul, & hence the cross and resurrection mean nothing

- ▶ Compare Christianity, Body is the temple of the Holy Spirit

Even Paul found evangelising hard

- ▶ After 3 challenging outreaches, Paul arrives alone in Corinth
- ▶ Expelled from the synagogue
- ▶ After 18 months the church is established-he leaves
- ▶ Problems arise- Challenge is...

Taking the gospel to the community (evangelism) but...

maintaining Holiness (keeping the world out of the church)!

- ▶ Division, sexual sin, litigation, idolatry, lack of reverence..

Evangelism is persistence & follow up

Paul writes 2 letters, badly received

Paul visits & is sent packing

Paul writes again & Church corrects and grows

What did Paul say?

- ▶ I have a right to be provided for..BUT
- ▶ I am COMPELLED by Jesus to preach the Good news
- ▶ I would rather die than receive payment

- ▶ Christian life involves freedom (in Christ) & Discipline...SO
- ▶ Find common ground with those you contact
- ▶ Avoid a know it all attitude
- ▶ Make others feel loved & accepted
- ▶ Be sensitive to their needs & concerns
- ▶ Look for opportunities to speak about Jesus

What did Paul say?

- ▶ Be disciplined like an athlete to win the prize...HOW?
- ▶ Prayer, Bible study, worship
- ▶ NOT watching from the grandstand or doing a couple of laps each morning
- ▶ TRAIN DILIGENTLY!

Backdrop today

- ▶ Gen Z (13-28) awakening (they expect us to be a bit weird!)
- ▶ Spiritually searching generation incl Eastern meditation & occult
- ▶ Wichtok has 64m people on this site
- ▶ Cherry picking from world religions (all religions lead to God)...

Elephant and the blind men argument

- ▶ Rise of Islam
- ▶ Your truth, my truth, absolute truth is an offence
- ▶ Identity crisis leading to gender dysphoria
- ▶ Mental health rise, reduced resilience

Lessons for evangelism today

- ▶ Jesus never forced himself on people
- ▶ He met with sinners, tax collectors & outcasts....ARE WE WILLING TO MOVE OUTSIDE OUR COMFORT ZONES?
- ▶ YOU HAVE TO BE WINSOME TO WIN SOME !
- ▶ Paul is saying do NOT compromise your Faith BUT meet people where they are

Lessons for evangelism today



Know your Identity (FIC course)

Practice your testimony

Practice the fruits of the Spirit....Joy,peace,patience,kindness,gentleness,generosity,self control,,,,

Understand other religions

Your obedience, God's power (no self condemnation)

Rekindle the fire you carried when you were born again

Be bold and persistent

How do we build the kingdom?

- ▶ We are all part of the body of Christ
- ▶ We each play a vital role, intercessor, evangelist, prophet....
- ▶ We start with acts of kindness reflecting the Father's love... at the bus queue, the supermarket, the delivery man

Questions

Tell someone your testimony... What difference has knowing Jesus made in your life?

Where can you share the good news?