

“Let him know that he which converteth a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.” James 5:20

WINNING SOULS

by Craig Marlatt

There is no greater joy that I know of than that which comes from leading someone to Christ. It is not only a wonderful experience, but it also helps build your faith for more witnessing.

I think the most important part of my Christian growth happened to me when I was just a babe in Christ and the Holy Spirit led me to a fellowship full of people who witnessed a lot. That really helped me off to a good start to see that God could, and would, use me as a witness to Christ.

There’s much to be said about a formal education when it comes to ministry, but I would much rather have an uneducated soul winner in my fellowship than twenty men who could interpret Bible doctrine correctly if the fruit of their labors did not produce born again Spirit filled believers. I think that everyone who feels a call to full time ministry needs to learn how to lead someone else to the Lord before they ever get sent off to seminary, lest the seminary become a cemetery for them. Personal witnessing is rarely a required subject at Bible colleges, but it should be!

That’s the way our youth groups ought to be too. If we would teach our children to win and disciple someone in Christ we wouldn’t need to spend so much time entertaining and baby sitting them, wondering if our little daughters are off getting pregnant or our sons are in jail somewhere. Once they get a taste of the power of God to save a soul they’ll never want to go back to their old lukewarm lifestyles. It’s not that they don’t want to learn, but rather that no one has shown them how, or even told them that they could do such a thing.

Many youth ministers wind up baby-sitting for a bunch of kids who are forced by their parents to go to church youth meeting. That’s certainly better than having them hang out doing nothing or getting into trouble with drugs or some other questionable vices, but there’s still a better way! Teach them to win souls and you won’t have to baby-sit. If anything you’ll probably have to hold them back they’ll be so fired up for Jesus.

When you meet people in your everyday life, do you ever wonder about the condition of their soul before God? You should! Every person you meet every minute of the day has a soul, and they will spend eternity in heaven with Christ or else in hell separated from hope and love. When you begin to view people from the point of eternal life or death everything you do and say will change. People’s lives will take on a new meaning and purpose for you, and you will begin to see things in a way that is different from anything that you have ever experienced before.

They say that the average teenager watches several hours of TV every day, which can add up to thousands of hours in one lifetime. Yet I would venture to say that most Christians spend less than seconds per day sharing Christ with lost sinners. Time is the most precious commodity in life. If you could sell hours for ten dollars each, you probably could not store all of the money you would have. If we really care about our fellow man, doesn’t it stand to reason that we would spend some of our time giving him the Good News of God’s love and salvation? The time that it takes will be well worth it,

when you consider the value of a human soul. And James says that the results of witnessing are eternal: “save a soul from death . . . hide a multitude of sins”.

What greater joy and purpose in life can there be than this? If your Christian life is in a rut, share Jesus with someone. It will make a difference in their life, and it will make a difference in yours too!