

This afternoon I want to give a message that reports on the conference I attended last week and with that to encourage you to live the kind of life our conference exhorted us to do.

The theme of this Annual Meeting of the FBFI was “Reclaiming the Great Commission”

Four passages are considered to articulate the Great Commission, a couple of them are mentioned more than the others:

Mt 28.19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Mk 16.15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Lk 24.46-48 and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ “You are witnesses of these things.

Ac 1.8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

So many things easily crowd out the Great Commission in our minds.

- We have to earn a living
- We often get negative responses
- We are easily distracted by various amusements
- We are focused on ourselves, not others

I will start by rehearsing the themes of the messages I heard last week, then make some comments on how we should live our own lives.

Proposition: Evangelism should be a “top of mind” item every time we meet someone in our community.

I. The themes of evangelism

A. Kevin Schaal: “Do the work of an evangelist – 2 Tim 4.5”

B. Jim Berg: “Equipping God’s people to disciple – 2 Tim 3.16-17”

C. Dennis Wilkening: “Creating a culture of evangelism – Mk 1.16-18”

Has been a pastor, incoming professor at Faith Baptist BC, emphasizes evangelism in everyday occurrences, “can I pray for you about something?”

D. Tim Potter: “The organic, spiritual lifestyle of the church – Titus”

Pastor in Ohio, director of ARCH ministries, emphasizes everyone in the church involved in discipleship

E. Jim Tillotson: “A lesson on evangelism – John 4”

Former pastor of Meadowlands in Edmonton, now president of Faith Baptist B C

F. Nathan Mestler: “I will build my church – Mt 16.18”

President, International Baptist B C, also a chaplain in the US military – message emphasized dependence on the Lord in evangelism

G. Josh Crockett: “Home evangelism – Mk 5.1-20”

Pastor, Morningside Baptist, Greenville, message emphasized using your home in evangelism

Also attended a workshop led by Dean Taylor, now on the faculty at Faith, former pastor of Calvary Baptist in Simpsonville, SC, also emphasizing using your home to evangelize

Most of these messages will eventually come out on the P&D podcast (some technical difficulties on one).

II. The lifestyle of evangelism

A. Sometimes “lifestyle evangelism” is criticized

1. The fear of man keeps our lips closed
2. We salve our conscience by “living the life” before others
3. But the gospel must come by hearing (seeing only goes so far)

B. The criticism misunderstands the point

1. You meet people almost every day

2. You have an opportunity to speak at most of these meetings
3. You should have a top of mind thought, “how can I turn this into an evangelistic conversation”
4. Keys to making your conversation evangelistic
 - a. Filling your talk with the Bible (know the word so well that you often refer to it or speak “Bible-ese”)
 - b. Asking for prayer requests

At a restaurant, tell the server, “In a moment we are going to pray, is there anything I could pray for you about?”

Or just in normal conversations, perhaps as a closer, “Hey, before we go, could I pray for you about anything?”
 - c. Asking open-ended questions about belief statements: “That’s interesting, how did you come to believe that?” or “What are your reasons for taking that view?”
5. Invite folks to tune into our live stream or check out our past videos
6. Invite them to come to church

Conclusion:

I know you do some of these things from time to time. I’d like to challenge you, though, to be more “on purpose” about it than you’ve been in the past.

I’d also encourage you to subscribe to the P&D podcast and listen as these and other messages come out. You will be challenged and blessed.