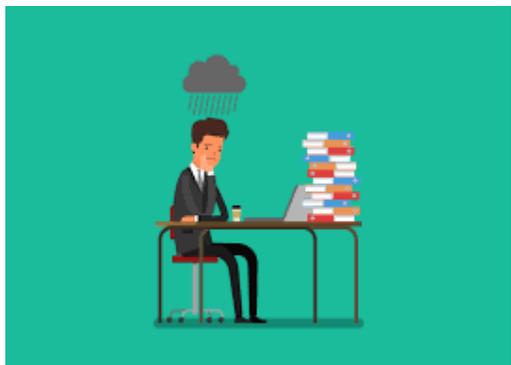


WHERE CHRISTIANS MEET
4050 80th Avenue North
PO Box 3118
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781
Phone 727 709-2799

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A recent ad in a religious journal caught my attention. It said, "FIND SEEKERS. SHARE JESUS." This ad was for a "teaching tool" that was said to be a "new, more cost effective" way to reach the lost. This "new, more cost effective" way involved a web site that enabled the user to go anywhere they want with the Gospel. All of this sounds great, but there seems to be a missing element in the process of reaching out to the lost with the Gospel. The work of "seeking" is something that is to be done by every Christian.

There are certainly people who are seeking Jesus. These seekers may be easier to reach with the Truth of God's word than those who are not seeking. But, are we not to seek those who are not seeking? When Jesus gave the Great Commission, He did not say "let the seekers come to you and then teach them." He said, "Go" into all the world. "Go" make disciples of all nations. In other words He is saying, "Go out and seek the lost. Don't wait for them to become a seeker of Jesus."

Our concept of evangelism consists many times of simply giving the lost an opportunity to "come to us" by offering worship services for them to attend. Please don't misunderstand what I am saying. Of course many have been converted by attending a worship service they were invited to by a member of the congregation. Certainly we are to invite the lost to worship with us where they can come to a knowledge of Jesus. But we may have a misconception about the "seeking" part of the equation.

Jesus said His mission on earth was to "Seek and save the lost." Jesus sought out those who were not interested in changing what they believed religiously. Jesus sought out those who were hostile toward the truth He taught. Jesus sought out those who were unbelievers. Yes, some were seeking, but the majority of converts to Jesus were those who did not at first believe in Him.

I read recently in a church newsletter that over the past few years 1,200 churches of Christ have closed their doors and the number of men, women and children in the pews has shrunk by 200,000. There is not only the problem of a lack of growth, there is the problem of a shrinking membership in many congregations throughout the nation. We can place the blame in any number of areas. We can blame society as a whole that may not be interested in spiritual things. We can blame the lack of morality in our society. We can blame the school systems that have removed even the mention of God. We can blame the rise in Muslimism, or on many others things. But the truth is we simply are not "seeking the lost" as Jesus did. Yes, we need to seek out those who are seeking. But the number of non-seekers today far outnumber those who are seeking. These are the ones we need to focus on. Is it easier to reach the seekers? Yes, but the non-seekers need to be saved also. Our society consists of people who are pushing homosexuality, same-sex marriages, living outside the bonds of matrimony, and many other things that many consider to be immoral. Since these people are not "seeking" should we just ignore them? Do we not believe that the "Gospel is the power of God to save those who are lost"?

Yes, by all means, let's "Share Jesus." But let's "Share Jesus" with everyone. With those who are seeking and those who are not seeking. Like Jesus, may we "go" into all the world, and "go" make disciples of all nations. Like Him, may we "seek" the lost so they might be saved. Will everyone be receptive to the Gospel? Of course not! But let's not sell the power of the Gospel short. Let's plant the seed and let God give the increase.