

GLEANINGS — November 15, A.D. 2015
Every Believer Is a Missionary, Part I

As believer in Jesus Christ, you already have a mission! God sends some of His servants on missions to far away lands. The missions of other servants are in their homeland.

Whichever kind of missionary you are (and there are no other choices), here are seven points to remember as you think about, pray for, and speak to your neighbors, acquaintances, friends and family members who are lost and on their way to hell unless they call on the Savior.

1. Like the Boy Scouts, Be Prepared! The apostle Peter put it this way: "...sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear..." (1 Peter 3:15).

Have you experienced conversing with a cultist who came to your door, and feeling unable to offer a good response him? Have you had a friend ask what the Bible says about some subject, and had nothing substantial to say? How can you be prepared to give a reasonable answer to someone who might ask you about your faith? Know what you believe and why you believe it! This comes about as you faithfully hear God's Word preached, and as you faithfully and prayerfully read, study, and meditate on it.

2. Mr. Otis Redding's pop oldie tune speaks of "sittin' on the dock of the bay, WASTIN' TIME." Time wasting is unacceptable for God's missionaries at home and abroad. Paul wrote, "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." (Ephesians 5:15,16). Circumspectly means deliberately, carefully. Redeeming the time means buying back. The Lord Jesus redeemed us, bought us back for God, with His precious blood. We are to buy back precious time from being wasted by using it in labors in the Kingdom of God.

Here's an example of how to do that. One Christian family determined to have a garage sale. What a great stewardship idea! This family also determined to take advantage of their garage sale by using it for the Gospel. One family member wrote a special tract, and had photocopies made. The cover of the tract had nothing on it except a very unusual question: "What Does the Bible Say About Garage Sales?" It was hoped that this question would intrigue people and cause them to pick up the tract.

When the tract was opened, the answer to the question appeared in big, bold letters: "Nothing!" The tract went on. "...However, the Bible does say quite a bit about buying and selling...Jesus said a great deal about financial matters..." From there the tract went further into a brief presentation of the Gospel. It explained that the most valuable "merchandise", salvation, is a FREE GIFT from God! Redeem the time.

3. Sadly, some believers have been so intimidated by the unbelieving world around them that they are ashamed to speak of their wonderful Savior. Let us remember our Lord's warning to His disciples: "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels" (Mark 8:38).

Proud unbelievers "glory in their shame" (Philippians 3:1) and mock what is glorious, the Gospel (Acts 17:32). Christians should be exactly opposite, "glorying in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:3), and despising the shame as did their Lord (cf. Hebrews 12:22)!

4. People of the world gossip about everything. Christians should "gossip" about the Gospel! In Deuteronomy 6:5-9 we are commanded to love the LORD with all the heart, soul, and strength, and to have the words of God's Law upon the heart.

to be continued...