

Intro.

- A. Reading the Bible (virtually at any opening) soon impresses you w/ importance God places on teaching.
1. The concept of **teaching** can be found explicitly at least 235 times, & **learning** some 63 times. of men
 2. **Mk. 1:16-17** Jesus told 2 fishermen who were casting nets in S. of Galilee He would make them *fishers*
- B. How many are **teachers** (school, Bible school, at home--children, spouse, trainers at work, by example)
1. How many times have you been part of [or overheard] conversa.: *What kind of word do you do?*
 - a. Business men talk re: *their company*: working conditions, products, business deals, benefits.
 - b. Ever wanted to be able to answer about your work for the Lord?
 2. Imagine how the conversation might go.
 - a. Nearly everyone in world has heard of your company, at one time or another.
 - b. Phenomenal growth: began over seas, grown world-wide, in most nations.
 - c. It's a volunteer organization, with over 1-million "employees"
 - d. Product offered = **absolutely free**, yet company grosses over a billion \$\$ @ year.
 - e. Security of the retirement plan is unparalleled. **== THE N. T. CHURCH !**
 3. If you explained that you were a teacher (making these claims), a person would never believe you!
- C. What's your concept of **Personal Evangelism?**

Discuss.**I. THE CORRECT CONCEPT OF EVANGELISM.**

- A. There is a corporate (congregational) responsibility.
1. **Eph. 1-3** explains much of the doctrinal scheme of the church, including God's plan for it to make known to the world the wisdom of God, (c. **3:10**).
 2. The church has as its central task the work of evangelizing the world. (**Mk. 16:15**)
- B. There is an individual responsibility.
1. Jesus came to seek & save the lost, **Lk. 19:10**
 2. In Ephesus Paul had taught publically, & from house to house, **Ac. 20:20** (20/20 vision)


II. THE CORRECT CONCEPT OF SIN.

- A. Need to comprehend just how big & ugly sin really is.
1. Many have squeezed **sin** out of their vocabulary, toning down language to make sin sound respectable !
 - a. Last Friday, a popular radio talk-show host sarcastically commented re: *how good and how normal these young people are who are doing the school shootings, what good homes they come from*, as well as other criminals, regardless how horrible a crime they may perpetrate. They are still "good people" who just simply made a mistake.
 - b. Fornicating men are no longer whoremongers, they = just men who need more zest in their lives.
 - c. Homosexuals & lesbians are not *genetically different* & people who have *just chosen an alternate lifestyle*. **Rom. 1:20-32** says they = *w/o excuse.....vile..... & worthy of death*.
 - d. A newly married man recently told his bride that he wasn't sure that he could leave other women alone while he pulled his hitch in the U. S. army.
 2. *Perfumed preaching* has pretty well taken the stinch out of sin.
 - a. God describes sin as heinous & hellish, **Isa. 64:6**; & repulsive, **2Pet. 2:22**
 - b. Sin brought Christ f/ the Ivory Palaces (**2 Cor. 8:9**) to die that agonizing death on cross, **1 Pet. 2:24**
- B. Have to understand the consequences of sin.
1. ...in this life, sin hurts physically & mentally, it enslaves.
 - a. **Pro. 13:15** *...the way of the transgressor is hard*
 - b. **Psa. 51:3** *...my sin is ever before me*
 - c. **2 Pet. 2:22** Christians who become *entangled* again in sin => filthy & disgusting
 - d. **Pro. 5:22** *His own iniquities entrap the wicked himself, & he is caught in the cords of his sins.*
 2. ...in eternity --; **Rev. 14:11** *no rest*;

- a. **Mk. 8:36** *For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?*
- b. **Matt. 25:30**, *outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth...*
46 - everlasting punishment

III. CORRECT CONCEPT OF PERSONAL.

A. Just who is to become responsible as soul-winners?

- 1. On rare occasion, God has spoken directly to man, but not normally, (**Gen. 1:28** Adam; Noah **Gn. 6:13**; Abraham **Gen. 17:9**; Jacob **Gn. 35:11**; Moses **Ex. 3:14**; Solomon **2 Chr. 1:11** & Jonah **Jonah 4:9**.  **Even then, they were to spread the word of the Lord!!!**
- 2. During time law of Moses was in effect, God spoke thru the prophets, **Heb. 1:1-2**
- 3. In God's educational system, man is the connecting link. **c. Jn. 5:7**

B. Average member can & should be a soul-winner, **Ac. 8:4**

- 1. In Judgment (c. **2 Cor. 5:10**), we are not going to give account as a congregation, but as individuals !!!
 - a. Compared to Peter, his bro. Andrew = an obscure apostle, yet Andrew brought Peter to Christ. **Jn. 1:40**
 - b. Poem: **Soul Winning** (#23)
- 3. Each of us must prepare to *bear fruit*, (c. **Mt. 3:10 & 7:19** – *trees not bearing good fruit will be cut down & cast into the fire.*)
 - a. Starts w/ a consecrated life, **Ac. 1:1**(Luke spks. of his gospel record of *all that Jesus began both to do & to teach*) Example = a powerful teacher, **c. Mt. 5:13-16; 1 Pet. 3:2**
 - b. Productive when coupled w/ a working knowledge of God's word (**Rm. 1:16**). Have to know what seed you are sowing (c. **Lk. 8:11**).
- 3. Must be willing to **DO the work**.

Concl.

A. Question: **What are you fishing for?**

still in '88

- 1. 1932, teen boy - George Perry - caught 22lb. 4 oz. Bass (world record) in swampy S. Ga. Lake.
 - a. It was weighed, taken home & eaten by depression-starved family.
 - b. He caught it on a very primitive fishing rig.
- 2. 1988, Sandy DeFresco caught bass, 21 lb. 10 oz. (came w/ endorsements, interviews, contracts, lawyer She used some the latest technology in boats, rod & reel, baits, fish finders, water temp. gauges, etc.
- 3. Spiritual parallel: *What are we fishing for?*
 - a. Are we concerned re: #'s; Are we just looking for an occasional "outing" (day on lake) hoping for a trophy & bragging rights? Are we willing to use "*artificial baits*" to *lure (deceive)* the catch?
 - b. Or do we have a hunger for lost souls, & know that God is counting on us? Will the bait we choose be the powerful truth of holy word of God?

B. When is the last time you *went fishing?.....tried to teach?*

- 1. The church is responsible to share God's redeeming message – the good news—that Jesus died to save us.
- 2. Are you prepared to teach? If not, why not?