#### Introduction

- 1. We must be committed to God as He demands our all (Mk. 12:28-31).
- 2. We must be committed to the church (Mt. 6:33).
- 3. We must be committed to our fellow man (Mt. 7:12).
- 4. Commitment is defined as "an agreement or pledge to do something in the future" or "the state or an instance of being obligated or emotionally impelled [to urge or drive forward; impart motion to]" (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary).
- 5. A pledge to keep (Mk. 16:15-16; cf. Mt. 28:18-20; Lk. 24:46-47).
  - a. A pledge that was kept (Col. 1:23).
  - b. The gospel means "good news" so to share the good news is the idea of evangelism (Mk. 1:1).
  - c. It is a tragedy if we neglect the pledge (Jdg. 2:10-13; 2 Th. 1:7-9).
- 6. It is obedience to the gospel that saves souls (1 Cor. 15:1-8; cf. Jm. 1:21).
  - a. We plant and water, but God gives the increase (1 Cor. 3:5-7).
  - b. We must preach the Word of God (Rm. 10:13-16; 1 Cor. 1:21-24).
    - i. The gospel is God's power to save (Rm. 1:16-17).

# I. Urgency is Needed

- 1. Time is short and eternity is long.
  - a. Teach us to number our days (Ps. 90:7-12).
  - b. Our life is a vapor (Jm. 4:14).
    - i. The wicked have fewer years (Pr. 10:27; cf. Pr. 27:1).
- 2. The message is urgent.
  - a. Now is the day of salvation (2 Cor. 6:2).
  - b. Knowing the terror of the Lord we persuade men (2 Cor. 5:10-11).
- 3. Jesus was urgent in His mission to seek and to save the lost (Lk. 19:10).
  - a. He preached the gospel everywhere He went (Mk. 1:14-15, 35-39).
  - b. He even went to difficult places to get the gospel out (Jn. 4:4, 9; cf. Lk. 9:51-53).
- 4. Paul was urgent in preaching the gospel (Ac. 9:17-22).
  - a. When Paul received the "Macedonian call" he did not delay (Ac. 16:6-10).

## **II. Opposition Must Not Deter Us From Our Mission**

- 1. Not everyone will accept the gospel (Ac. 28:23-24).
  - a. Let us not be weary in well doing (Gal. 6:9).
- 2. The church grew when opposed.
  - a. Saul persecuted the church, but they continued to preach (Ac. 8:3-4).
- 3. Paul published the Word of the Lord wherever he went (Ac. 13:49).
  - a. Persecution came but he kept going (Ac. 13:50-51).
  - b. The appropriate reaction to persecution for Christ is joy (Ac. 13:52).
  - c. Souls were saved in the very next city (Ac. 14:1).
  - d. Later, Paul was stoned but kept going and exhorted others to do the same (Ac. 14:19-22).

## **III. Our Repeated Practice**

- 1. Paul's manner (custom; repeated practice) was to preach (Ac. 17:1-4).
  - a. A daily task (<u>Lk. 9:23</u>, <u>19:47</u>; <u>Ac. 17:11</u>).
- 2. Some requirements for evangelism to be our repeated practice.
  - a. Complacency must be removed (Ac. 17:16-17).
  - b. Boldness and adaptability (Ac. 19:8-10).
  - c. No fear and persistence (Mt. 19:13-14).
- 3. The proper attitude makes a big difference.
  - a. We must preach the gospel (Ac. 4:18-20).
  - b. We are debtors to preach the gospel to others (Rm. 1:14-15).
- 4. An individual challenge.
  - a. Pass out at least three invitations to our upcoming lectureship.

### Conclusion

- 1. I must make sure my own soul is saved (Php. 2:12; Ac. 2:40; cf. Ac. 2:38 "every one of you").
- 2. A single soul is worth more than all the world therefore we must urgently get the gospel to the lost (Rm. 3:23, 6:23; Mt. 16:26).
- 3. When persecution comes due to evangelism we keep going and growing.
- 4. Evangelism must become our repeated practice.
- 5. Let us be committed to the church in the area of evangelism so we can help others hear "well done" (Mt. 25:21).