

# THE WHOLE CHURCH MUST GO WITH THE GOSPEL

## Acts 8:1-4

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### INTRODUCTION

- A. How do you measure the growth of an individual?
  - 1. Physically – height and weight.
  - 2. Mentally – the knowledge we have (grades in school).
  - 3. Socially – ability to interact with others.
- B. Measuring the Growth of the Church.
  - 1. Maturing in faith.
  - 2. Also, when people are baptized into Christ and added to His body (numerically).
  - 3. They must be taught the gospel.
  - 4. Greatest opportunities occur among friends and family, NOT with the preacher.
  - 5. It must come from everyone.
- C. Example of the New Testament Church.
  - 1. Persecution of the church – Christians scattered.
  - 2. As they scattered, they preached the good news, Acts 8:1, 4.
  - 3. The “who” is in reference to Christians scattered.
- D. But how does this happen?

### I. WE MUST BELIEVE...

- A. ... That it is everybody's responsibility to teach.
  - 1. Commanded to teach.
    - a. Matthew 28:19-20
    - b. John 15:2
    - c. 1 Peter 2:9 – proclaim the excellencies...
  - 2. Do we really believe this?
  - 3. We lean on the preacher or elders to do the job.
  - 4. We love our excuses, our free time, our comfort zone, with no intention of giving them up.
- B. Are you ready to accept this truth and believe it?

### II. WE MUST REPENT...

- A. ... For Not Evangelizing.
  - 1. Many of us have been going to church for 40 to 50 years.
  - 2. We need to repent, decide to do differently, and change our ways.
  - 3. To say, “I’m not an evangelist” is an excuse.
  - 4. Not everyone may be an evangelist, but we all must evangelize.
  - 5. When was the last time:
    - a. you spoke to someone (other than family) about Christ? the church?
    - b. When was the last time you invited someone (other than F & F Day, VBS, or the gospel meeting) to worship?
- B. Are you ready to repent [change]?

### III. WE MUST PRAY...

- A. Our Need to Pray.

1. Ephesians 6:18-19
    - a. We must pray for courage.
    - b. We must pray for opportunity.
    - c. We must pray for vision to take advantage of the moment.
  2. We must pray every day – open our eyes to the harvest, Matthew 9:36-38.
  3. When was the last time you prayed for the opportunity to teach...
- B. Are you ready to put forth this effort to pray?

#### **IV. WE MUST PREPARE.**

- A. Prepare to Evangelize.
1. We must understand the gospel.
    - a. Its fullness of blessing.
    - b. Its demands.
    - c. 2 Timothy 2:15, not ashamed...handling accurately.
  2. We must understand those around us.
  3. We must have a plan, a method to know what to say, 1 Peter 3:15.
- B. Are you ready to prepare yourself?

#### **V. WE MUST PRACTICE...**

- A. What we practice.
1. We must practice our faith.
  2. We must give [show] the example.
  3. We must show the presence of God and the character of Christ in our lives.
    - a. Ephesians 5:1
    - b. 1 Peter 2:21
    - c. Phil. 2:5
  4. Who wants to hear from a hypocrite?
  5. We must show in our life what we truly believe, Matthew 5:16.
- B. Are you ready to conduct yourself according to Christ?

#### **CLOSING**

- A. Fruit reproduces the plant.
1. Jesus said it must die in order to sprout, John 12:24.
  2. We must die to ourselves in order that the gospel will grow in others, Gal. 2:20.
  3. Example without teaching is not enough.
    - a. No one was ever saved by example alone.
    - b. They must all be taught about God, Romans 10:17.
- B. Are you ready to speak?