

Keys To Reaching The Lost

Text : **Romans 9: 1-5 , I Corinthians 15: 1-6**

S#1.

A. If you are a Christian, reaching the lost is your purpose in life.

S#2.

1. People of the world live for self.

- a. They seek personal happiness and pleasure.
- b. That's natural because their life is centered on this earth.

2. The Christian has committed his life to God ... Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

S#3.

- a. **I Cor. 6: 19b-20** ... you are not your own? **20** For you **have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.**

- b. **Gal. 2: 20** – I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, ...

S#4.

- * **THEREFORE :** *If Christ really does “lives in me”,
His priority and mine will be the same ... seek and save lost*

S#5.

B. Jesus left Heaven and came to earth specifically to save lost people from sin.

S#6.

1. The angel made His purpose clear.

S#7.

Matt. 1: 21 – She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

2. Jesus made His purpose in life clear.

S#8.

Luke 19: 10 – For the Son of Man has come to **seek and to save** that which was lost.

3. The Apostles made it clear why Jesus came to earth.

S#9.

I Tim. 1: 15 – It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came **into the world to save sinners**, among whom I am foremost of all.

- * **THEREFORE :** *One who follows Jesus seeks to save lost people.*

S#10.

C. Jesus commands ALL of His disciples to proclaim salvation to the lost.

S#11.

1. Christians have been given the same work the Jesus was given.

John 17: 18 – As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

2. This was important enough that Jesus commanded it to all His disciples.

S#12.

John 20: 21 – So Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”

3. Jesus directly commanded all of His disciple to spread the good news.

S#13.

Mark 16: 15 – And He said to them, “**Go into all the world** and preach the gospel to all creation.”

4. All that we are taught we are commanded to pass on to others. **S#14.**

II Tim. 2: 2 – The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

- * **THEREFORE :** *One who obeys Jesus teaches the gospel to lost people.* **S#15.**

- D. God requires more of American Christians than He requires of others.** **S#16.**

1. **Luke 12: 48b** – ... From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

2. Americans are more spiritually blessed than any nation on earth. **S#17.**

a. The gospel flows like water; one can hear it proclaimed everywhere.

b. Bibles are readily available and very cheap ... can be free.

c. We have access to the word on line 24x7.

d. We have many physical blessings : peace, food, transportation, houses **S#18.**

- * **THEREFORE :** *With these great blessings come greater responsibility to serve.*

Without question we have a great responsibility to teach the gospel to the lost, but how do we do it ? **S#19.**

This lesson will observe 5 keys to reaching the lost.

- I. The 1st Key : Make sure we have the right message.** **S#20.**

- A. Our message must be the gospel.**

1. **Mark 16: 15** ... Jesus commanded for us to preach gospel to every creature.

2. Only the gospel message has the power to save lost people.

Rom. 1: 16 – For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and ... **S#21.**

3. Anyone who preaches anything but the PURE gospel is to be curse by God. **S#22.**

Gal. 1: 8 – But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

- B. What is the gospel that Paul preached ?** **S#23.**

1. Paul did NOT preach “*The Five Steps To Salvation.*”

a. Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, Baptized

b. All of these are important, **BUT** they do NOT constitute the gospel.

c. These are done in response to the gospel.

2. This is the gospel that Paul preached.

I Cor. 15: 1-5 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached **S#24.** to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I **S#25.** preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the **S#26.** Scriptures, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

3. Our job is to communicate the message and let the power of the message work.

I Cor. 1: 21 – For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom **S#27.** did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

- C. **THEREFORE** ... *If we share the gospel, its power will save some.* **S#28.**

II. The 2nd Key : Make reaching lost people your heart's desire. **S#29.**

- A. By and large, we accomplish what we most strongly desire.

1. All who train people how to succeed teach them to prioritize.
 - * Prioritizing is #1 on Dale Carnegie's list of 7 management tips.
2. Our greatest accomplishments in life came as a result of prioritizing a goal.

- B. Jesus instructed us to put the advancement of HIS goal first in our life. **S#30.**

1. **Matt. 6: 33** – But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
2. Where is the kingdom in your list of priorities ?
 - a. What do we spend our ? (*time, money, mental energy*)
 - b. One clue is the attendance on Sunday evening and Wednesday evening.
 - * **Fact of life :** *No one seeks the minimum for his highest priority.*
 - c. If we can't be bothered to worship God, why would we reach out to lost people ?
3. The world tells us that we should put our family first.
 - a. **Matt. 10: 37-38** He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy **S#31.** of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸ And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.
 - b. What does our life teach our children about our values. *Do we evangelize them ?*
 - c. How often each day do you think about bringing someone to Christ ?

C. The Apostle Paul taught us by word and deed that he cared for the lost. S#32.

Rom. 10: 1-2 Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. ² For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. (Cf. **Rom. 9**)

D. When is the last time you wept for the lost ?

1. Jesus wept in lament over the lost in the city of Jerusalem. S#33.

Luke 19: 41 – When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it,

2. Paul wept for people who had their minds centered on this earth.

Phil. 3: 18-19 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. S#34.

3. Even when faced with death, the early disciples would not be silenced.

- a. **Acts 4: 19-20** ... We must obey God; we cannot stop speaking.
- b. **II Cor. 11: 23-29** ... Paul suffered more than we can conceive.
- c. WHAT are we willing to suffer to reach the lost ? *Inconvenience, embarrassment*

III. The 3rd Key : Lead a godly and God-centered life. S#35.

A. We can't persuade someone in the world if we live just like they do.

1. Number one reason why Christians are silent. (*Followed closely by ignorance*)
2. The Christian will never be perfect, but it must be obvious that he seeks godliness.

B. The Christian who blatantly lives in sin, denies Christ / God in so doing. S#36.

1. **Tit. 1: 16** – They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

2. Faith changes one's life. S#37.

- a. **Rom. 12: 2** – And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

- b. **James 2: 18 (14-26)** ... Faith is made apparent through one's lifestyle.

C. The plan of God for His people is that they be a contrast to the world. S#38.

1. **Matt. 5: 16** – Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in Heaven.

* *The Christian's contrast to the world is like a light in a dark place.* S#39.

2. The world must be able to see the difference in the way we live. **S#40.**

Phil 2: 15 Do all things without grumbling or disputing; ¹⁵ so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

3. We must all make it our goal in life that people see Jesus in us. (*esp. our kids*)

IV. The 4th Key : Fervently pray every day for specific lost people. **S#41.**

A. We pray about that which is important to us.

1. When in trouble we cry out to God.
2. We pray for loved ones who are ill.
3. All parents pray daily for their kids.

B. What could be more important to pray for than for souls destined for Hell? **S#42.**

1. **Rom. 10: 1-2** Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. ² For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.
2. Prayer should be specific, consistent, persistent and for specific individuals.

C. Prayer should be the constant companion to our teaching. **S#43.**

1. The Apostle's example :
Eph. 1: 18-19a – I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

2. In a bible study one person prays while another person teaches.

3. Prayer opens doors and softens hearts. **S#44.**

Col. 4: 2-3 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; ³ praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ,

D. We should also be praying for others who are sharing the word. **S#45.**

Phil. 3: 1-2 Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you; ² and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith.

V. The 5th Key : Work the field where you find yourself.**S#46.****A. The command “go into all the world” does not require that we leave home.**

1. “Go” in the original language is a middle voice verb.
2. We do not have this verb tense in English so translation can be problematic.
3. For example, this phrase can rightly be translated “**as or while you go into ..**”

B. Remember the demoniac ? Jesus told him to stay home and serve there.**S#47.**

1. **Mark 5: 18-20** As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was imploring Him that he might accompany Him. ¹⁹ And He did not let him, but He said to him, “Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you.” ²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed. **S#48.**

2. Our brethren in acts 8 were teaching in Jerusalem and kept on teaching as they fled.
3. We used to sing the old song, “*Brighten The Corner Where You Are.*”

C. God has placed you exactly where he wants you ... serve Him there !**S#49.**

1. There are people you can influence that no one else can reach.
2. You are not here by accident. You are exactly where God wants you to be.
I Cor. 12: 18 – But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.

3. Before you became a Christian God had a work for you to do here. **S#50.**

Eph. 2: 10 – For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

CONCLUSION :**A. This is not rocket science. We have seen 5 keys to successfully reaching the lost.**

1. Make sure we are preaching the right message. **S#51.**
2. Winning lost souls must be our top priority. (*Jesus and the Apostles died for it.*)
3. Demonstrate the gospel in the way we live.
4. Pray for the lost and for open doors.
5. Work the field where we are.

B. The 2nd step is to turn off the TV, get out of that chair, and speak out. **S#52. S#53.**

INVITATION : The 1st step is to surrender yourself to Christ and let Him save you.

Lesson Text :**Romans 9: 1-5**

1 I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, **2** that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. **3** For I could wish that I myself were accursed, *separated* from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, **4** who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the *temple* service and the promises, **5** whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

I Corinthians 15: 1-6

1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, **2** by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. **3** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, **5** and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. **6** After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;