

Southeast Sower

December 2018

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The Southeast Church Of Christ Meets At:

- 35 Walnut Ct.
Mogadore OH 44260
- Phone: 330.628.7432

Services:

SUNDAY:

- 10AM Bible Study
- 10:50AM Worship
- 6PM Worship

WEDNESDAY

- 7:30PM Worship

God's Plan of Salvation

- Hear Rom. 10:17
- Believe Heb. 11:6
- Repent Acts 2:38
- Confess Matt. 10:32
- Be Baptized Mark 16:16
- Stay Faithful Rev.2:10

Communication Is Key

This phrase, "Communication is the key," one I am sure most of us have heard throughout our lives. Coaches speak to their players on the importance of communication, students are told to communicate with their teachers when struggling with material, husbands and wives are to communicate to build a strong and healthy marriage relationship. Communication is a key to success in every aspect in life when, and only when, we effectively communicate with others.

We communicate with other individuals on a daily basis and for the majority of our time each day. However, we do not effectively communicate all the time. Ineffective communication will not lead to success. Ineffective communication will only lead to confusion and frustration. James wrote that we need to be "slow to speak" (James 1:19). If we respond too quickly we run the risk of being ineffective, or stating something other than what we actually meant to say. The Scriptures have a lot to say regarding our speech...how we communicate. We are instructed to "season" our speech with salt, meaning we need to be careful and give thoughtful answers. (Proverbs 15:1-2, Ecclesiastes 5:2-4, 1 Peter 4:11, Colossians 4:6).

Communication is not the key to a home in heaven; it is a key to receiving such a reward though. The apostles in Matthew 28:18-20 were instructed to "go into all the world preaching and teaching..." This commandment made by Jesus to His apostles is one we should follow. We should take time to teach those who are outside of the body of Christ. We should always proclaim the hope Christ offers and proclaim our faith to all. As we do so, we must do so with caution. I do not say we should be afraid or apprehensive to share the Gospel with any. We need to choose our words carefully, speak according to the scriptures and be wise. A quick response to a biblical or spiritual question will not be effective in most cases. When we are asked, we need to listen and understand the question being asked and think of an appropriate, scripturally correct response. James, in the same verse mentioned earlier 1:19, also says that we need to be "quick to hear."

When we read of Jesus speaking in any occasion we see wisdom in His speech and understand the connection He makes to those He spoke to. Although Jesus is part of the Godhead and has an understanding far beyond what we will ever have, we should still do our best to speak like Christ. One way we can do this is by making a connection with the individual(s) we are speaking with. No one will truly listen to someone who they feel does not understand them and the way they live. How would you respond to a billionaire discuss money issues? There would be an obvious disconnect. So, forming a connection is important to effectively

James 1:19

"So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of a man does not produce the righteousness of God."

2ND Timothy 4:2

"Now an angel of the lord came to Phillip, saying, 'Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' ...So he arose and went. Behold a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch...was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet...So Phillip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah and said, 'do you understand what you are reading?'"

I Corinthians 9:19,22b

"For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more...I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."

communicating the Gospel with another individual.

Secondly, we need meet the individual at the point they are at in obeying the Gospel. Not everyone needs to start in Genesis, at the beginning. If we followed a strict guideline in how we initially begin conversations with others on spiritual matters we would struggle to help anyone obey the Gospel. It would come off as not caring or understanding the individual and their situation. The way to overcome this is to study and know what God's word says. Then, when we meet and talk with others, spend more time listening than talking. Listening is not waiting for your turn to talk, it is being tuned into what the other person is saying and then speaking once you understand where they are coming from.

Phillip met the Ethiopian eunuch where he was studying and told him of the need to obey the Gospel. Paul became "all things to all men" meaning he did what he could, without sinning, to connect with any individual and help spread the Gospel. Communication is necessary for everyone and communicating the gospel message is a duty of every Christian. It is an important task and so we must make sure to do so with patience to give a thoughtful response and be as effective as we can be...not everyone will give you another chance to meet with them and share the Gospel.

-Jordon Smith

THE WORLD'S BIBLE

Christ has no hands but our hands to do His work today; He has no feet but our feet to lead men in His way.

He has no tongues but our tongues to tell men how He died; He has no help but our help to bring them to His side.

We are the only Bible the careless world will read; we are the sinners Gospel, we are the scoffer's creed.

We are the Lord's last message, given in deed and word; what if the type is crooked? What if the print is blurred? What if our hands are busy with work other than His? What if our feet are walking where sin's allurements is?

What if our tongues are speaking of things His lips would spurn? How can we hope to help Him and hasten His return??

-Annie Johnson Flint