

## **BONUS CONTENT 21 — Evangelism**

Greg Laurie says, "The primary way, God has chosen to reach people is through people."

You are listening to Reflections from Revelation Episode 21, as we talk about the subject of Evangelism.

Greg Laurie continues to say in his book **MAKING GOD KNOWN**: "I believe that God wants to use all believers to bring people to himself. We are told in **Proverbs 11:30**, "*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise.*" and **Daniel 12:3**, "*And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.*" God wants you to turn others to righteousness. God wants you to win souls."

**Amen! Today I want to encourage you to live in wisdom and follow God's plan and purpose for your life. He wants you and all of His followers to evangelize and make disciples!**

**Mark 16:15** And he (Jesus) said to them, "*Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.*"

**In our Revelation study, we have been seeing the severity of God's wrath and the seriousness of being left in your sin to face the wrath of God!**

- Be reminded that the book of Revelation is a prophetic book and God wrote it so that we (you and I) would read it and warn people.
- The application for us is to preach this truth to others so they would repent and turn to God.
- We have this book in the Bible, right here and right now, to help us walk in wisdom and warn others of the wrath of God and the severity of sin!

**The application right now in our Revelation study is that God wants to use us to preach His gospel.**

- We can take this prophetic book, and use it to declare today the good news of Jesus.
- We need to apply the book of Revelation for what God wants us to do right here and right now.
- His desire is for us to preach the gospel to all creation so that people are set free and forgiven and live in heaven with us for all eternity.
- He doesn't desire that people perish so He warns us over and over again!
- The seven-year tribulation in Revelation shows us that even though the end is near, God continues to provide time for people to repent.

**2 Peter 3:9-10** *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.*

**As Christians we don't neglect the fact that there is an end and a judgement leading to hell, but we can also proclaim the good news of repentance, forgiveness and heaven.**

**God's warnings not only come from His Word BUT from His People — The Church!**

- In studying **Revelation 11** this week, we saw that God sent TWO WITNESSES even in the midst of the chaos of the great tribulation.
- God continues to send people to share His good news of salvation even to the end of the age.
- Another way of saying it is: God always brings HOPE in chaos.

- In the midst of the brokenness and sin that is prevalent now (2020), God wants to bring hope and He wants to use us as His witnesses to the world at this time. He wants to bring hope through His church.
- This truth should dig deep into our soul with a passion in knowing God can use us and we can be His witnesses sent for this time, here and now.
- This truth not just for the time of Revelation and the two witnesses, but He always sends His witnesses to share hope in a broken world.

**This truth from God is not just for then but for us today...as God has sent us to be His witnesses and to Preach His good News. (Rom 10:15)**

**Theologians call this mission 'The Great Commission'...MATT 28:18-20** *18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

- God commissions us to go into all the world with the good news to make disciples, to love and walk and serve together.
- We are all in this together as disciples commissioned to make other disciples by abiding in Christ and bearing fruit and becoming witnesses to the good work He has done in and through us.
- We all are 'sinners saved by grace' sharing that grace we have found with others.

**Acts 1:8** *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

**This commission isn't just for the 2 witnesses or the 12 disciples BUT all Jesus followers!**

**"God can and will use you to bring others to his kingdom." -GL**

- Embrace that and pray that God will use you to bring others to faith.
- It is amazing to think that God wants to use us to help others that are lost!
- As we are going out into our world, we can herald the good news and bring hope!

**(JOHN 3:16)** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

**It is amazing how incredible God is that He didn't just leave us in our sin...BUT He became a man and lived a perfect life that you and I couldn't live. He became our full atonement on the cross, and three days later rose again.**

- Don't lose the awe at the wonderful work God has done because of His great love for us.
- The result that we would love Him, and love others as He does.

"The love of God knows no racial, economic, or even sinful boundaries." -GL

**God LOVES US ALL unconditionally and we ALL can be saved in Him!**

**John 6:37** *All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.*

- No one is outside of God's grace and everyone has the opportunity to be saved.
- He will cast no one out when we turn to Him in repentance and receive forgiveness.
- 'Whoever believes' includes everyone, and we are to bring that good news to everyone.

**And so this is the message...the good news we should be preaching: JESUS SAVES!**

"For many of us, it is the great omission instead of the great commission." -GL

### **Sadly many Christians don't engage in Evangelism: sharing their faith.**

- We don't have to 'know it all' to share our faith. That is a lie from the enemy.
- We are to be witnesses of what God has done and preach His word.
- Statistics indicate that many believers (95%) have never led a person to the Lord. I want to encourage you today to not be a part of this statistic.
- All of us are commissioned as disciples to make other disciples and we should be praying for those opportunities.
- AS WE STUDY REVELATION and see the reality of sin, death, and the wrath of God...we should desire to share our faith more and more.

"There is no excuse for not communicating the gospel well." -GL

### **God has commissioned us, empowered us by His Spirit and given us His Word!**

- I want to be like Paul who said in **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 also to the Greek.*

### **We need to be proactively sharing our faith and the gospel.**

- We need to be reminded of this as we drift and get comfortable in our own world.

"Jesus did not say the whole world should go to the church. But he did say the church should go to the whole world. We want to invade our world with the gospel." GL

### **So the question is HOW. How do we practically do this?**

I would recommend Greg Laurie's Book: **MAKING GOD KNOWN** (how to bring others to faith).

- Start with getting equipped, understanding the gospel and learning how to share.
- Ask whom to pray with and whom to pray for.

In this book you will find:

Chapter 1: First-Century Principles for Reaching the Twenty-first Century

Chapter 2: The Three W's of Evangelism

Chapter 3: The "What" of Evangelism: The Gospel

Chapter 4: Practical Effects of Salvation

Chapter 5: What's Your Story?

Chapter 6: Sharing the Gospel Effectively

Chapter 7: Prepared to Share: Five Questions Unbelievers Ask

Chapter 8: Making Disciples

- This book is a smaller one and is only 140 pages...but I wanted to mention it to help you start in this journey and be equipped for your calling to proclaim Jesus!
- I want us as a church to always engage in evangelism.
- The mission of Redemption Church is '**to pursue and proclaim Jesus**'.

### **I do understand that it can be difficult, scary, and even hard to share our faith.**

- In fact, Greg even says in this book about himself: "It is not always easy for me to share the gospel" GL
- This is the guy that has done dozens of crusades, and over 100,000 people made decisions for Christ through his ministry and church JUST THIS YEAR!
- We pray and ask God for His empowering as we don't do it in our own strength.

### **Just because we are commanded to evangelize, it DOESN'T MEAN it is easy and it does require work.**

- Paul encouraged Timothy to do the work of an evangelist. (**2 Tim 4:5**)
- Even though some may be more gifted and natural in this area, we all still need to be always working to share our faith with others.

"Evangelism is work. It can be difficult at times." -GL

- When talking about how the harvest is ripe, Jesus told us to pray for laborers.  
**Luke 10:2** *And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."*
- It does take work, prep, tact and laboring in prayer to share the gospel.

**The goal of evangelism is not to win an argument or brag about how many people you have shared the gospel with — it is to genuinely love people.**

- Let's not forget the greatest commandment: to love God and love people. (**Matt 22:37-40**)
- The most caring and loving thing we can do for people is to preach the gospel to them and let them know the good news of Jesus Christ!  
**Mark 8:36** *For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?*
- Though we do help in areas of social justice and practical needs, we need to be heralding the gospel and bringing the good news of the completed work of Jesus.
- We have the power and the authority to set people free in Jesus name and preach the gospel to set them free from the power of sin.
- The work of God doesn't stop with us just preaching the gospel but continues on with developing disciples!

"You can play a key role in a new believer's life." GL

**We shouldn't fight but LOVE PEOPLE with our words.**

"If we are going to reflect a heart of God, then we have to care about people. GL

- How we go about sharing the gospel matters and we don't want to be jerks just because something is true.
- Jesus came full of 'grace and truth'. (**John 1:14**)

**Col 4:6** *Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*

- Each person has their own questions, their own fears, their own life experiences...We need to listen, love, serve and be gracious to them and apply the gospel to their needs to give them hope.

"The idea is not to win the argument; it's to win the soul...Let's make sure it is the gospel they are offended by."-GL

**So as we go to do this work...we need to labor in prayer.**

- Ask God to do the work and to give us the opportunities to share in love.
- Ask God to give us wisdom as we our listening.
- Ask that people would have their hearts changed and receive the message and be born again.

And although many people are afraid of saying the wrong thing...I want to remind you **that the power is in the gospel!** (**Rom 1:16**)

**God wants to use your life as well to preach powerfully.**

- As a witness, we just testify to the things we have seen and heard. (not just the Pastor sharing)
- As you learn, continue to share that with others.
- This is so freeing because you can be yourself and testify to God's goodness and great saving work being completed in your own life.
- We can use our personal experience to help people come to faith as well.

"There is a lot of power in the simplicity of a changed life." -GL

**1 Peter 3:15** *but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,*

- People will see your life as you follow and honor Jesus and may ask you why your life looks different.
- God wants us prepared for people that come our way as He wants to give us these opportunities to share the gospel.
- We need to remain attentive and sensitive to the Spirit's leading and be looking for those opportunities.

### **Paul's example:**

- Paul would share his testimony over and over again in Acts...because our story is powerful!
- He was a brilliant man that could have argued well BUT he let his life do it graciously and he preached the Word of God with power!
- He shares with his words, but he matches the message with the man.

"I find it interesting how often the apostle Paul, a brilliant orator, a great communicator, and a wonderful intellect, would use his testimony to speak to people. We see in **Acts 24** that when he spoke before the Roman governor, he began with his story of how he came to faith. Then he went to the essential core message of the gospel." GL

- Preach the gospel, but also let others hear the testimony of our own personal experience in relation to God's word and work in our lives.
- Paul would tell us that our lives have power like this as well: We are living epistles that people are watching and reading.

### **As we share our story we always want to make sure that we are pointing people to Jesus.**

**2 Cor 4:5** *For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.*

### **THREE KEYS TO SHARING YOUR STORY:**

**Your life before Christ.** Don't glorify your past but mention how you were before Christ. Share how you never felt that you could become the person you are today.

**Your life change by Christ.** Summarize how you came into a relationship with Christ and be sure to mention the key elements of the gospel.

**Your new life in Christ.** Talk about how your life is noticeably different now that you are in Christ. Put into your own words the following benefits of being in Christ: EXAMPLES LIKE: peace (**Rom 5:1**), a purpose for living (**Jer 29:11**), and assurance that you are going to heaven. (**John 3:36**).

### **Declare Jesus as the HERO in your life story proclaiming Him as the crucified and risen Lord and the significance that this has made in your life!**

"We way over complicate this thing we call evangelism." GL

- It's all about JESUS...God wants us to proclaim Him and make disciples!

"There is not a one-size-fits-all approach to evangelism". GL

### **When sharing your faith, be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and His leading.**

**Gal 5:25** *If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.*

- Sometimes the conversation or evangelism might be situational. As we take time to hear a person's story, we should ask the Spirit to provide the wisdom, guidance and discernment for sharing the gospel with this specific individual.

"We must pray for discernment when we are sharing our faith" -GL

- Prayer and essential component in sharing the message of the gospel.

**Even though there may be multiple ways to share our faith, there is one message!**

**The essential gospel: Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day.**

**1 Cor 15:3-4** *3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,*

**There are so many ways to share this wonderful news and many passages we can use.**

- EXAMPLE: the Roman Road, 4 spiritual laws, 3 circles, testimonial, etc.. I was just hearing how ANDRE was sharing the gospel thru 1 Kings.
- **The methodology can change BUT the message is what is important and has power.**

**Don't be discouraged if people don't immediately respond and repent!**

- Oftentimes we think the response was based on us and the method, but it is the power of God and His Spirit that does the work.
- I always think of the Apostle Paul in **Acts 17...verse 32-34** *32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." 33 So Paul went out from their midst. 34 But some men joined him and believed,*
- We plant the seeds, but God does the work.

"The seeds you plant today may break ground tomorrow." GL

- We may get discouraged when people hear and don't respond and repent, yet this not about the effectiveness of our witness but instead the lack of response may be due to the condition of one's heart. As we saw in **Rev. 11** with the two great witnesses, the response was not repentance but instead the response was to kill these two messengers.
- The fact that hearts may be hardened doesn't change the fact that the gospel saves.
- It may take years of planting seeds for some of our friends and family to finally repent and be saved... but God has placed us in their lives for a reason.
- Keep on planting seeds and keep praying!

**1 Cor 3:6-8** *6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor.*

**Remember that God is the only one that can save and our role is to just proclaim Him.**

Whether a person gets saved in the moment or we just plant a seed, we need to remain faithful in pointing people to Christ and to keep sharing Jesus.

We are dealing with the supernatural moment and we must rely on God to work and save!

"Conversion is the work of God and God alone".GL

"Our job, if you will, is to proclaim the gospel faithfully, lovingly, accurately, clearly, and understandably, and then let the Lord do his work with His message in His way." GL

**GREG LAURIE WRITES What makes an effective presentation of the gospel.**

- It is clear, simple, and focused on the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.
- It is unapologetically biblical.
- It is truthful, yet lovingly shared.

**So let's be people that are sharing our faith and the gospel with other people.**

Let's continue to pursue and proclaim Jesus together! and encouraging one another to do so  
As we continue our study through Revelation, let's know that **God wants to use us as His witnesses to bring HOPE to people in this world!**