
Series: Looking Series: Looking Toward the Harvest
The Urgency of Evangelism

Romans 1:14-25 (NIV)

I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish.¹⁵ That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome.

¹⁶I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.¹⁷ For in the gospel righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.²⁵ They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen.

1. When we see the opportunity, there is an eagerness to share the gospel.

v. 15 "That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome."

- While we may focus on a target group, we must be ready to share with anyone.
- We must keep our eyes open for the opportunities that come our way.
- An eagerness to share comes when we are prepared to share.

2. When we know the power of God, there is a boldness to share the gospel.

v. 16 "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."

Philippians 1:20 (NLT)

For I live in eager expectation and hope that I will never do anything that causes me shame, but that I will always be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past, and that my life will always honor Christ, whether I live or I die.

- Regardless of the urgency of sharing, we cannot do it on our own.
- Salvation comes as a result of the power of God.
- When we know that the results are not in our hands, we can be bold.

3. When we understand the consequences, there is an urgency to share the gospel.

2 Corinthians 6:2 (NLT)

For God says, "At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you." Indeed, God is ready to help you right now. Today is the day of salvation.

Sharing the Good News is Urgent Because:

- The wrath of God is real.

v. 18 "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness..."

- Those who reject God are without excuse.

v. 20 "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

- Man's attempt to find God will always fall short.

v. 21 "For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened."

- Eventually God no longer beckons them.

v. 24 "Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts..."

The clock is ticking and we never know when the opportunity will be taken away to share the gospel with someone we meet.