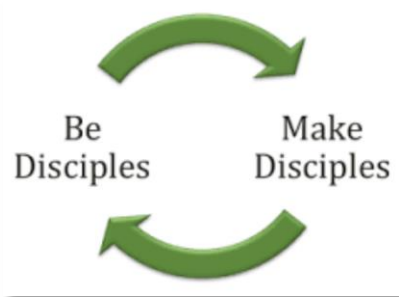


Evangelism, The Lifeblood of the Church



**LET'S GET
ENERGIZED
ABOUT
EVANGELISM!**

The church at Ephesus is an interesting congregation to study from the book of Revelation. From the outside, the congregation looks as though it is a spiritually healthy congregation. The church labored and endured. The church could not stomach those who were evil. False apostles tried to infiltrate the church, but the congregation put them to the test and exposed the false apostles for who they really were. The church worked for the Lord and they did not grow weary. Verses 2 and 3 from Revelation chapter 2 describes a pretty active church.

In the lists of all their activities, there seems to be something missing. Jesus said, even though you are doing all of these things, I still have something against you... you have lost your first love! What could this mean? There was never mention that the church was involved in saving souls. They were laboring, enduring, and testing false apostles but there is no indication of the church saving souls.



It is possible for congregations to be involved in good works, stand for the truth, and endure persecutions and temptations, but what if the church is not saving souls or making an effort to save souls? After finding salvation ourselves, it should be natural and instinctive for us to want to share this message with others. If we don't know how, we can certainly be taught how to do it. I'm afraid many congregations have lost their first love...the love of saving souls. Yes, we must labor, endure, and ward off false teachers, but we must also be evangelizing and teaching others the gospel. How is our love for lost souls? Have we lost that love and desire to teach the gospel? Have we lost the fervor to better ourselves so we can be prepared to teach others? We must quickly repent or the Lord will remove our candlestick.

-K.A. Pugh