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Introducing People to Jesus Christ



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Graham F. Watts, Sr.

VISION: To hear the midnight cry, "The bridegroom comes, go out to meet Him" (Matthew 25:6) and become like Him when I see Him as He is (1 John 3:2).

MISSION: Purify myself even as Christ is pure (1 John 3:3) to be glad, to rejoice, give honor to Christ and be ready for the marriage of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7).

VALUES: Follow the Lamb wherever He goes (Revelation 14:4), be without fault before God (Revelation 14:5), be perfect even as my Father in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:48), wear the Lamb's fine, clean and white linen (Revelation 19:8) do righteously (1 John 3:10) and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8).

OVERALL AIM: Studies presented here unveil Bible knowledge to inquiring minds to prompt the following inquiries: "Are our feet on the rock of ages? Are we one with Christ as He is one with the Father" (John 10:30 in Evangelism, {Ev} 199.1)? Am I crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20)?

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26 **PURPOSE/REASON FOR/WHY**

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28 This study focuses on proactive witnessing.

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30 **OBJECTIVES/WHAT WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH/THESIS**

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32 At the end of this study, the Christian reader accepts the role and
33 responsibility to be El-Shaddai's witness (Isaiah 43:10 & 12).

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36 **SIGNIFICANCE: SO WHAT**

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38 Jesus' wish for Christians is: "...You will receive power when the Holy
39 Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses, telling people
40 about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria and to
41 the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8, NLT).

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43 **BACKGROUND CONTEXT**

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45 What is witnessing? Witnessing is sharing! If the sharing is a
46 narrative, then the message transmits either in writing, by voice,
47 drama, art or some combination (Matthew 28:19-20). Alternatively, if
48 sharing is exemplary, then the message transmits by lifestyle
49 choices: behaviors (1 Corinthians 15:58 & Acts 15:12). The question
50 that follows from this line of reasoning asks: "Sharing what
51 message"? The central message about Jesus Christ is: "...Christ died
52 for our sins..." (1 Corinthians 15:3; Isaiah 53:8-10; Matthew 1:21-23 &
53 Isaiah 7:14) and "...God raised [Him] from the dead..." (Acts 4:10 &
54 Galatians 1:1); seated Him at His own right hand (Hebrews 1:3 & Acts
55 2:33); and "...exalted [Him]... to be a Prince and a Savior... to give
56 repentance to Israel [Galatians 3:26-29 & Matthew 1:1-16] and
57 forgiveness of sins" (Acts 5:31). And all who accept (Romans 3:21-
58 22), believe (Acts 16:30-32), baptize into (Galatians 3:27 & Romans
59 6:3) and obey Christ (Acts 5:32 & Revelation 3:18); "...God... gives
60 victory over sin and death..." (1 Corinthians 15:57, NLT & Jude 24) and
61 Jesus confesses their names before His Father (Revelation 3:5).

62 Jehovah's witnesses herald this message: "God sent... His Son into the
 63 world... that the world through Him might be saved [and have life]...
 64 through Him" (John 3:17 & 1 John 4:9). "...This Good News about Jesus
 65 Christ... is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes..."
 66 (Romans 1:16, NLT) and this message must reverberate through time.
 67 The church in Thessalonica during the time of Paul, Silas and Timothy
 68 echoed the Good News. "The word of the Lord... [rang] out from [them]
 69 to people everywhere, even beyond Macedonia and Achaia, [so] wherever
 70 [Paul and his companions went, they found] people telling... about [the
 71 Thessalonians'] faith in God" (1 Thessalonians 1:1 & 8, NLT). This
 72 background provided the impetus for the study question that follows.

73

74 **STUDY QUESTION**

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76 How should Christians witness about Jesus Christ?

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78 **ANSWER SOURCE: HOLY BIBLE**

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80 **1. Christians witness about Jesus Christ to announce God's unfailing**

81 **love for humanity!** Not everyone knows and understands that
 82 "...although [Jesus Christ] co-existed with God (Genesis 1:26; John
 83 1:1-3), [He] did not regard equality with God as a thing to be
 84 grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant,
 85 and being made in the likeness of men, ...He humbled Himself by
 86 becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross"
 87 (Philippians 2:6-9, NASB). "...[The Godhead loves humanity] ...with an
 88 everlasting love [and] with loving kindness, ...draws [people]"
 89 (Jeremiah 31:3). It was for that purpose that Jesus Christ came:
 90 to reveal the love of God toward earth people (John 3:16, Luke
 91 4:18)! By the first Adam (Genesis 2:7-8, 16-17 & 3:1-6), "...sin
 92 entered into the world and death, [which followed] sin... passed upon
 93 all [Adam's descendants]..." (Romans 5:12). However, "...as by one
 94 man's disobedience, many were made sinners, so by the obedience of

95 one shall many be made righteous" (Romans 5:19). "...[Christ] became
 96 obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:8)
 97 and "there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's
 98 friends" (John 15:13, NLT).

99

100 **2. Christians witness about Jesus Christ to advertise redemption!**

101 "...[Christ] was wounded for our transgression, He was bruised for
 102 our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and
 103 with His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). "...It pleased the
 104 Lord to bruise Him. [God]... put [Christ] to grief... [by making] His
 105 soul and offering for sin..." (Isaiah 53:10) and "...[was] well pleased
 106 for His righteousness' sake..." (Isaiah 42:21). Therefore,
 107 Christians are to keep before all people that God has already made
 108 provisions to save them in His kingdom; that He desires their good,
 109 both in this life—as reflected by the intention: "...I wish above all
 110 things that you prosper and be in health..." (3 John 1:2)—and in the
 111 hereafter (John 14:1-3). No other message is as important as the
 112 message of redemption: "...Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6);
 113 "...while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8)
 114 "...that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves,
 115 but unto Him which died for them, and rose again" (2 Corinthians
 116 5:15)!

117

118 **3. Christians witness about Jesus Christ to bring joy to those who**

119 **accept redemptive love!** To know that Jesus "...Christ died for our
 120 sins..." (1 Corinthians 15:3) is to know "...that God was in Christ,
 121 reconciling the world unto Himself..." (2 Corinthians 5:19). Both
 122 in life and in death, Christ was carrying out the will of God.
 123 Hence, Jesus could say: "I must work the works of Him that sent
 124 me..." (John 9:4). "I have glorified You on the earth; I have
 125 finished the work which You have given Me to do" (John 17:4, NKJV):
 126 that work of "...doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of
 127 the devil..." (Acts 10:38). So witnessing about Jesus Christ to let

128 people know that God cares prolongs and extends the work of Christ
 129 on earth (John 14:12). This work is important because some of
 130 God's children, especially those who are suffering need a foretaste
 131 of the joy that awaits them as "...weeping... endures for a night, but
 132 joy [will] come in the morning" (Psalm 30:5) when God appears to
 133 gather His own unto Himself [1 Corinthians 15:51-53] and they shall
 134 live and reign with Christ (Revelation 20:4).

135
 136 **4. Christians witness about Jesus Christ to proclaim the sufficiency**
 137 **of God for human needs!** God hinted at this idea when He said: "...My
 138 people have done two evil things: they have abandoned me, the
 139 fountain of living water and they have dug for themselves cracked
 140 cisterns that can hold no water... (Jeremiah 2:13, NLT). But God
 141 calls out to them: "...Repent, and turn yourselves from all your
 142 transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin" (Ezekiel
 143 18:30). "Then if my people who are called by my name will humble
 144 themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked
 145 ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and
 146 restore their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14, NLT). God is still in the
 147 business of "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity,
 148 transgression and sin..." (Exodus 34:7). In fact, "blessed is s/he
 149 whose transgression is forgiven..." (Psalm 32:1); yet, "fools,
 150 because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities,
 151 are afflicted" (Psalm 107:17). "The wicked is snared by the
 152 transgression of [their] lips, but the just shall come out of
 153 trouble" (Proverbs 12:13). So the message about the sufficiency of
 154 God, as demonstrated through the life and teachings of Jesus
 155 Christ, must resonate throughout earth: that God "...wipes out...
 156 transgressions... and will not remember... [the] sins" (Isaiah 43:25,
 157 NASB) of all who "...repent and... baptize... in the name of Jesus
 158 Christ..." (Acts 2:38). "If the Son therefore shall make you free,
 159 you shall be free indeed" (John 8:36).

160

161 5. **Christians witness about Jesus Christ to present Him as the hope**
 162 **for humanity.** Paul had this to say about Jesus Christ: "We know
 163 that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not
 164 by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that
 165 we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not
 166 because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right
 167 with God by obeying the law" (Galatians 2:16, NLT) because "...Christ
 168 is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes"
 169 (Romans 10:4), which is also rendered: "...Christ has already
 170 accomplished the purpose for which the law was given. As a result,
 171 all who believe in Him are made right with God" (Romans 10:4, NLT).
 172 "[Because] the righteousness of the law [is]... fulfilled in us, who
 173 walk not after the flesh [Ephesians 2:2-3 & Galatians 5:19-21], but
 174 after the Spirit" (Romans 8:4 & Galatians 5:16 & 22-23), "...there is
 175 no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1,
 176 NLT). The path to heaven has already been paved with the
 177 righteousness of Jesus Christ, so no mortal need invent a
 178 substitute way to please God. All that is required of mortals is
 179 to submit to God's way and receive Christ's righteousness (Romans
 180 3:21-22; 10:3 & Isaiah 54:17)

181
 182 6. **Christian's witness about Jesus Christ to offer security clearance**
 183 **to the kingdom of God.** "...The way to have eternal life [is]-to
 184 know... the only true God and Jesus Christ..., [whom God] sent to
 185 earth" (John 17:3, NLT). Clearly, it is "...through the grace of the
 186 Lord, Jesus Christ we shall be saved.." (Acts 15:11); "[however,
 187 those who keep Jesus'] command to persevere, [He not only keeps
 188 them] from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world,
 189 to test those who dwell on the earth" (Revelation 3:10, NKJV), but
 190 also guarantee "...that no one may take [their] crown" (Revelation
 191 3:11, NKJV), which is "...reserved in heaven..." (1 Peter 1:4, NKJV).

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194 SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS: In this study, we examined proactive
195 witnessing. The question that focused the study asked: How should
196 Christians witness about Jesus Christ? We saw that Christians can
197 witness about Jesus Christ by emphasizing: 1) God's unfailing love
198 for humanity, 2) Advertising redemption, 3) Bringing joy to those who
199 accept redemptive love, 4) Proclaiming the sufficiency of God for
200 human needs, 5) Presenting Christ as the hope for humanity and 6)
201 Offering Christ as security clearance to the kingdom of God. Because
202 it is of little redeeming value to engage in Bible Study merely for
203 information, subsequent paragraphs follow that make a practical
204 application of the narrative.

205

206 **DISCUSSION: WHAT DO THESE THINGS MEAN?**

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208 Jesus said: "...As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even
209 so, must the Son of Man be lifted up" (John 3:14). "And I, If I am
210 lifted up, will draw all [people] unto me" (John 12:32). Today, we
211 are living in unprecedented times that call for lifting up Jesus
212 Christ in word and action. But amidst astounding scientific advances
213 in medicine, computer science and other disciplines, it is possible
214 to minimize and subordinate the great commission (Matthew 28:19-20).
215 But Christ spoke about signs of the time of the end in Matthew 24:3-
216 39. And newsfeed from major communication networks such as CNN, CBS
217 and NBC remind us that our planet is in peril: geologic, economic,
218 social, moral and spiritual. From cracks in fault lines beneath the
219 earth to rising unemployment, wars and threats of wars, violence,
220 including violence against women, human rights abuses and betrayals;
221 hardships have become ubiquitous (i.e., is everywhere). Admittedly,
222 a few people live in opulence in these turbulent times; while masses
223 struggle for survival and security needs as local, national and
224 international leaders are strained to maintain stability and equality
225 of opportunities for emerging populations. Once stable economies are
226 now teetering, precipitously on the brink of disaster as many look to

227 humanity for solutions to the crises that are upon us and other
 228 crises that are on the horizon. The enormity of our present
 229 challenges has caused some "people [to] be terrified at what they see
 230 coming upon the earth..." (Luke 21:26, NLT). Sometimes, this terror is
 231 expressed as suicidal ideation or successful completion of suicide
 232 attempts. Against this background, Christians must remember their
 233 calling to be Jehovah's witnesses.

234

235 **CONCLUSIONS: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

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237 Christians have a responsibility to help others understand God's
 238 redemptive plan. God planned that this world would serve as a
 239 temporary, residential community. So people have no abiding city on
 240 earth. As you may have noticed, no one gets out of this present life
 241 alive: all die. That assurance is couched in the following
 242 statement: "What man is he that lives and shall not see death? Shall
 243 he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave (Psalm 89:48)? This
 244 reality demonstrates that humanity needs a city that offers eternal
 245 life. This is exactly what Christ had in mind when He said: "In my
 246 Father's house are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you
 247 and if I go..., I will come again and receive you unto myself, that
 248 where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:2-3). In that heavenly
 249 abode, "...God shall wipe away all tears from the eyes [of its
 250 inhabitants]; ...there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor
 251 crying, neither shall there be any more pain..." (Revelation 21:4).
 252 This will happen despite the scoffers, who "...in the last days..., will
 253 say: 'What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again...'" (2
 254 Peter 3:3-4, NLT)?

255

256 Human life is a character development journey. On this journey, all
257 have opportunity to develop character after the divine likeness,
258 which you can read about in 2 Peter 1:5-8. You can also read about
259 those qualities that will exclude people from entering "...the gates...
260 [of] the city [of God]" in Revelation 21:8 & 27, Revelation 22:14-15
261 and Galatians 5:19-21. As you read about the traits of character
262 that God values, pay attention to the super trait: which is love.
263 The importance of love is underscored by the following reminders:

- 264 1. "Owe no man anything, but to love one another, for s/he that
265 loves another has fulfilled the law" (Romans 13:8).
- 266 2. "If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but
267 didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging
268 cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all
269 of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had
270 such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others,
271 I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and
272 even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't
273 love others, I would have gained nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:1-3,
274 NLT).

275 This love theme is repeated in Scripture to remind people that
276 perfection of love is the highest ideal of God for humanity. Thus,
277 we read: "The person who loves God is the one whom God recognizes" (1
278 Corinthians 8:3, NLT). "No man has seen God at any time. If we love
279 one another, God dwells in us and His love is perfected in us" (1
280 John 4:12). And when God's love is perfected in us, then we can
281 "...love one another, ...[and give evidence] that [our] love is born of
282 God, and [that we] know God" (1 John 4:7). The importance of love as
283 an essential character trait is summarized this way: "...Anyone who
284 does not love does not know God, for God is love" (1 John 4:8, NLT)
285 and to forever emphasize the practical dimension of love, Scripture
286 says: "...The whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love
287 your neighbor as yourself" (Galatians 5:14, NLT).

288

289 In the heavenly sanctuary, Christ intercedes for all who are
290 cooperating with Him in developing a character after the divine
291 likeness. Scripture says: "the sins of some are obvious, reaching
292 the place of judgment ahead of them; [while] the sins of others trail
293 behind them" (1 Timothy 5:24, TNIV). The place of judgment is where
294 "...[our] high priest... [sits]: on the right hand of the throne of the
295 Majesty in the heavens, [as] a minister of the sanctuary, and of the
296 true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man" (Hebrews 8:1-
297 2). Our heavenly high priest "...took our infirmities..." (Matthew 8:17)
298 to remind us that [He] can empathize with the struggles of humanity.
299 "...We have NOT an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling
300 of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet
301 without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). So, when Christ's ministry in the
302 heavenly sanctuary is over and He says: "He that is unjust, let him
303 be unjust still; ...he which is filthy, let him be filthy still; ...he
304 that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy,
305 let him be holy still" (Revelation 22:11); the destiny of all has
306 been forever determined and Christ makes ready His army to return to
307 earth to gather those who are ready to receive Him (Revelation 7:3;
308 Luke 21:27; Isaiah 25:9; Revelation 19:11-16). So while there is a
309 mediator in the heavenly sanctuary, Christians must copy Jesus'
310 example and be about God's business (Luke 2:49)—"...to seek and to save
311 that which was lost" (Luke 19:10)—carrying this Good News to "people
312 who are lawless and rebellious, who are ungodly and sinful, who
313 consider nothing sacred and defile what is holy, who kill their
314 father or mother or commit other murders; ...who are sexually immoral,
315 or who practice homosexuality, or are slave traders, liars, promise
316 breakers, or who do anything else that contradicts... wholesome
317 teaching" (1 Timothy 1:9-10, NLT). In this time spiritual darkness
318 that covers the earth (Isaiah 60:2), this work of mercy is essential
319 activity to help people "...defeat [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and
320 by the word of their testimony..., [and those who are] victorious, will
321 sit with [Christ] on [His] throne..." (Revelation 12:11 & 3:21, NLT).

323 **CALL TO ACTION: WHAT SHALL WE DO?**

324

325 Dear believers, you cannot keep the Good News about Jesus Christ in a
 326 safety deposit box and not share it with potential, kingdom
 327 candidates. "No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket.
 328 Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to
 329 everyone in the house" (Matthew 5:15, NLT). "You are the light of
 330 the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden" (Matthew
 331 5:14, NLT). So tell others about the "...city [of God] that has
 332 foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:10) and live
 333 as a citizen of the kingdom of God (Hebrews 11:16, NLT). This
 334 message must resonate throughout the length and breadth of the earth
 335 that "All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of...
 336 God and they will never have to leave it. And [Jesus] will write on
 337 them the name of... God and they will be citizens in the city of... God:
 338 the New Jerusalem that comes down from heaven, from... God..."
 339 (Revelation 3:12, NLT). Let us not let the people ask: "...who is this
 340 Son of man" (John 12:34)? But rather let us go and share "...Jesus of
 341 Nazareth; ...a man approved of God..." (Acts 2:22), through whom
 342 "...redemption overflows" (Psalm 130:7, NLT). "How great is the love
 343 the Father has given us so freely..." (1 John 3:1, NIRV)! "...We have
 344 received... the spirit which is of God that we might know the things
 345 that are freely given to us of God" (1 Corinthians 2:12). Then, let
 346 us "...turn the world upside down..." (Acts 17:6).