

## Converting the Lost

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by Wayne Goff

***“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word” - Acts 8:4***

When the first church on earth began in Acts 2, we read that every member “*continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine*” (v. 42). The effectiveness and thoroughness of this teaching is seen when the members were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria where they “*went everywhere preaching the word*” (8:4)! Persecution could not stop the spread of the Good News of Eternal Salvation because the members were **convinced, convicted and converted!** Compare that to the state of the Lord’s church in America where members are not only ***not spreading the Word***, they are not even meeting on ***Sunday nights any longer!*** How can you “*continue steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine*” when the elders of the church weaken the weekly teaching program by 1/4! Today’s indifference is doing what persecution in the first century could not – **stop the spread of the Gospel!** We are too well off materially and too satisfied with our little spirituality to really care.

### Gareth L. Reese’s Quote

“Until the love of Christ and the gospel of Christ so fills the heart of the average church member that he goes out to proclaim the Word - until he is so sold on the Gospel that he will do that, the Church will never reach the pinnacle of success that Christ intended for her to have. It is an obligation resting on every man who is a Christian to herald the Word, however he can. Some try to excuse themselves from this responsibility by saying ‘I can’t do anything,’ or ‘I don’t know what to say.’ One wonders how they would have become a Christian in the first place if everyone in the world had acted and spoken the way they are. They never would have heard the Word, and they never would have come to Christ, if all men took such an attitude. When a man makes such a statement as ‘I can’t’ or ‘What do I say?’ He is admitting his ignorance of the plan of salvation. And he is admitting his ignorance of how he himself became a Christian.” (***New Testament History: Acts***, College Press: Joplin, MO., p.317).

### Church Programs?

There is nothing wrong with the local church having an “evangelistic program” by which they send out preachers two by two, or whatever. We see Paul and Barnabas and Paul and Silas going out on their “missionary journeys.” There is nothing wrong with a local church having a radio program or a TV program to reach the lost. **But I can assure you that the most effective way to reach the lost is for every member of the local church to have the ability, the love and the opportunity to teach those with whom they have daily contact!** Personal interest and concern by those whom you know is most effective. Not everyone will be converted, but everyone will be reached. This is what happened in Judea and Samaria when the educated brethren were scattered, and that’s what can be done again today. Dear reader, be convinced sufficiently of the Truth that you at least introduce it to your friends, family, and neighbors.

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