

Week 08
046/319

Transforming Daily
“... in the marketplace daily ...”
Acts 17:17

It was Paul's custom to go into the synagogues and teach and preach the Scriptures. He would go in and reason with those who were there. However, it was also Paul's custom to go into the marketplaces and do the same thing. He would go wherever the people were. Makes sense doesn't it? If his goal was to win people to Christ, he had to go where the people were.

Nothing has changed in 2,000 years. If the believer wants to win people to Christ, he or she must go where the people are. The people are in church, and that's a great place to be, but it isn't the only place to go to live out one's convictions. In fact, the church gathering is more for the believer to hear from God what it is they are to live out in the community. These days it would be smart to start in one's own living room then move to the neighborhood, the jobsite, classrooms, and general areas in the community one might frequent.

Dr. Jimmy Draper once said that if you are in front of the people during the week, it's a whole lot easier to face them on Sunday. What he meant very simply put was for the minister specifically and believers in general to be about the community ministering to both believers and nonbelievers alike. In doing so, the result might very well be further discipleship of believers and the evangelization of the lost.

One of the most significant dynamics of the church seems to be diminishing if not all together vanished. Believers today seem to be so caught up in themselves with all of their woes and whims that they have forgotten or choose to ignore the purpose for one's conversion in the first place. Salvation certainly secures the believer for heaven, but it is much more than that. First and foremost salvation is the means by which God uses to bring His children to worship Him. Then it is for the purpose, having been empowered by God through the Holy Spirit, for the believer to share forth His name to the nations (Matthew 28:18-20). Most Christians today bask in the going to heaven part, but balk at the going to share the gospel part.

What about you? Do you understand your position in Christ to be one as a witness (Acts 1:8)? Does your understanding call your attention to the need for soul winning? Are you a soul winner? In other words, do you share Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit and leave the results up to God? Do you do so at home, in your neighborhood, and in the market place daily?