

Reflections

**Where Are They
All Going?**



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Going to Portland recently I encountered considerable traffic on the freeway. Hundreds of cars jammed every lane as far as the eye could see. The rate of travel had been reduced to a mere crawl as the many people, evident in so many vehicles, were all headed north into Portland and beyond. I found myself beginning to wonder: Where might they all be going? I imagine that the bulk of them were going to their places of employment, schools, shopping, or to other “routine” destinations. Some were, perhaps, just passing through and found themselves trapped in a classic “rush hour” traffic jam. But the real question is: Where are they all going spiritually? How many, of the many, were followers of Christ? Were they on the narrow way or on the broad path? Were there lives hidden in Christ or were they captives of the Enemy? How many, of the many, might be suffering through illness or trouble without the comfort of a savior?

Jesus taught that the pathways through life have different destinations. *Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.* ¹⁴ *"Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.* (Matthew 7:13-14 NKJ) Isn't it interesting that, even with this knowledge, we all still tend to look for the paths of least resistance and that have the greatest potential for being comfortable and rewarding. We seem bent on the pursuit of happiness no matter how fleeting a target it may be. We seem to loathe the complications that come with paths through life that take us on a journey of difficulty, challenge, or even suffering. As I pondered these thoughts, it struck me that every car carried in it either a person who was safe in Christ or one that would face eternity without Him. Where are they all going indeed?

We who have accepted God's gift of eternal life in Christ, must remind ourselves that with this great gift comes a great commission. *Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.* ¹⁹ *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.* (Mat 28:18-20 NKJ) We have all been charged with the order to carry the message of salvation in Christ to the nations.

The call to carry the gospel to a lost world is inherent in our walk with Jesus. We call it evangelism and we often create programs of behavior and study to accomplish the mission, when for most who come to know Jesus it was an individual who's life and testimony indicated that there was something special in their lives that was missing in their own and when they asked what it might be, they shared the Gospel with them and invited them to accept the Lord as their savior.

Evangelism is ultimately about you and I carrying the love and message of Christ in our lives and being willing to share it with others. Being a disciple is to be one who follows his master in obedience and, as a result, leads others to follow the master also. What does it take then to be and evangelist? Jesus taught His disciples in this manner... *You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.* ¹⁵ *"Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.* ¹⁶ *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.* (Matthew 5:14-16 NKJ)

Walking in relationship with Jesus, obeying His Word and letting our light shine so that God's name is glorified in our life is at the heart of effective evangelism. It is important to remember that only the Holy Spirit can draw men to Christ, and only Jesus can save, but we must also remember that we are His hands, feet, and voice, on the earth and we must, therefore, serve others, carry our cross, and speak His Gospel to those around us. **Pastor Doug**