

Soul Winners

I. Introduction:

A. We know that what is commonly called “The Great Commission” was for the Apostles (**Matthew 28:16-20** and **Mark 16:14-20**).

1. We know they fulfilled that commission (**Romans 10:17-18**, **Romans 16:24-26**, **Colossians 1:5**, and **Colossians 1:23**).

2. We know that Jesus is not a stranger to anyone (**Hebrews 8:7-13**).

B. However, the problem of lost souls has not gone away (**Matthew 7:13-23**).

1. Obviously, those who have not obeyed the Gospel (**Acts 8:30-39** and **Romans 10:14**).

2. This is also true of those who have come to know the truth, have been added to the body, and have not lived it aright (**Galatians 6:1-2**, **James 5:19-20**, and **Jude 1:21-23**).

II. Body: He That Winneth Souls Is Wise (**Proverbs 11:30**).

A. The word translated “winneth” in **Proverbs 11:30** means: “To take (in the widest variety of applications): — accept, bring, buy, carry away, drawn, fetch, get, infold, x many, mingle, place, receive(-ing), reserve, seize, send for, take (away, -ing, up), use, win...” (Strong’s # 3947).

1. The idea of the meaning of that word is illustrated in various N.T. applications (**Luke 4:16-21**, **Acts 2:40-41**, and **Acts 26:13-20**).

2. A similar concept was used by Jesus when He talked with Peter, Andrew, James, and John (**Luke 5:1-10**).

3. The fruit of righteousness being a tree of life is about being a good example (**I Timothy 4:12**). *More on this later.

4. Real simple... Think of why we call those in sin “lost” (**Luke 15:24**, **Luke 19:10**, and **II Corinthians 4:3-6**). Thus, if we can win that which was lost we are wise!

B. The work of preachers/evangelists continues on today (**II Timothy 2:1-4**, **II Timothy 2:22-26**, **II Timothy 4:1-5**, **Titus 2:1**, and **Titus 2:15**).

1. Continuing the work, with limitations in authority and abilities of course, that the Apostles did (**I Corinthians 16:10**).

2. Preventive measures among the save (**I Corinthians 4:17** and **I Timothy 4:6-15**).

3. Even clean-up duties (**Titus 1:1-5**).

C. The role of all Christians in teaching the lost continues today (**Philippians 2:14-16**).

1. Being lights (**Proverbs 4:14-19** and **Matthew 5:14-16**).

2. A pattern for others to follow and teaching in various situations (**Titus 2:2-8**).

3. Reaching a point wherein you are capable of teaching others (**Hebrews 5:12-14**) within your own level of capabilities (**Matthew 25:14-15**).

4. In a context dealing with spiritual gifts (**Ephesians 4:7-16**), teachers with the local church were listed separately from apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors (**Ephesians 4:11**).

5. A caution is, a desire to teach and ability to do so are not the same thing (**I Timothy 1:3-7**).

D. Can we really sit back and watch people be lost (**Matthew 18:11-14**)?

1. Think about the principle of loving thy neighbor as thyself (**Romans 13:9-10** and **James 2:8**).

2. Would we be counted innocent if we have an opportunity (with a receptive person), and the ability to cease that opportunity, to help someone lost be saved and we do nothing (**Ezekiel 3:18-20**, **Ezekiel 33:8-9**, and **Acts 20:26-27**)?

3. At the same time, we cannot take "soul winning" upon ourselves as it such is entirely in our hands. The Gospel is what saves (**Romans 1:16-17**). If people are not seeking or are not receptive, we cannot do anything about that (**Luke 8:4-15** and **John 6:60-71**).

III. Conclusion: Remember, there were/are those that are soul losers (**Matthew 23:13** and **Luke 11:52**). Don't be one!