

*How PAUL
was
Successful in
Evangelism!*

2 Corinthians 6:4-10

INTRODUCTION...

1. Of the most successful workers in the Kingdom of God, the Apostle Paul is at the forefront!
2. Many NT churches were started with the help of Paul:
 - a. Asia Minor - Derbe, Lystra, Galatia, Troas, Ephesus
 - b. Greece & Macedonia - Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth

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 - a. Asia Minor - Derbe, Lystra, Galatia, Troas, Ephesus
 - b. Greece & Macedonia - Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth
3. The work Paul did was incredible...and we want to do the same!
4. What do we need to do to Grow the Kingdom of God?

INTRODUCTION...

5. In **2 Corinthians 6:4-10**, Paul gives us some insight into what it takes to be Successful in Evangelism!
6. We want to examine this passage to determine what we must do in order to be successful in our Lord's Work!
 - a. Look at the Context & Text!
 - b. Make some initial observations!
 - c. Examine some of the requirements!

I. Our Text: 2 Corinthians 6:4-10

A. The Context...

a. Second letter to Corinth by Paul from Macedonia

- 1-7 - Encourage & strengthen supporters, Paul's general defense!
- 8-9 – Collection for poor saints in Jerusalem
- 10-13 – Specific defense to Paul's accusers!

b. We are in the last part of the 1st section

c. Paul is describing his work

- 5:18 – “ministry of reconciliation.”
- 5:20 – “ambassadors for Christ”
- 6:4 – “ministers of God”
- Reminding them of what is involved in REAL spiritual work, which would stand in clear & sharp contrast to his accusers.

B. Our Text...

2 Corinthians 6:4-10

- ⁴ But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses,
- ⁵ in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings;
- ⁶ by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love,
- ⁷ by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,
- ⁸ by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true;
- ⁹ as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed;
- ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

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C. This Passage has 3 Parts

- Vs. 4-5.... “In”
- Vs. 6-7.... “By”
- Vs. 8-10... “As”

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D. Each is an essential element of successful evangelism

- Vs. 4-5.... Describes the Work Environment
- Vs. 6-7.... Describes the Requires Tools/Equipment/Character
- Vs. 8-10...Describes the Required Mindset

Verses 4-5

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Mindset

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E. Mental Preparation for Successful Evangelism

- We must...**Accept the Work Environment!**
- We must... **Possess the Proper Equipment/Character**
- We must... **Hold to the Required Mindset**

I. Our Text: 2 Corinthians 6:4-10

F. The Environment of Successful Evangelism...

1. Requires **HARD WORK!**
2. Requires **SACRIFICE!**
3. Will result in **CONFLICT!**
4. Will result in **HURT!**

G. We now want to examine the Elements of Successful Evangelism

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A. Successful Evangelism Requires Reliance on GOD!

1. Paul understood the importance of God's Help!

- Solid Faith in God, and His providence! – 1 Cor 3:5-9

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

- ⁵ Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?
- ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.
- ⁷ So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.
- ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.
- ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

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2. We must be God Centered to be Successful!

- a. Grow our Faith, Rely on Him – Phil 4:13, Eph 3:20-21
- b. Pray Continually for the work! - Numerous Examples!
- c. Be Thankful and rely on His Peace! - Phil 4:6-7

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B. Successful Evangelism Requires Focus on God's Word!

1. Paul understood the Necessity of Knowing the Word!

- Romans 1:16 - "it is the power of God to salvation"
- 2 Timothy 2:15 - "rightly dividing the word of truth."

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2. If we want Success in Teaching we must KNOW OUR BIBLE

- a. We must hunger and thirst after it! – Matt. 5:6
- b. Be Students of the Word! - Acts 17:11, 1 Tim 4:13,15-16
- c. Can't teach what we don't know! GROW – 2 Peter 1:5-11, 3:18

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C. Successful Evangelism requires PURITY!

1. Paul Understood Personal & Church Purity!!

- Pure: free from every fault, immaculate; without contamination
- Purity in Person - Vs 3
- Purity in the Church - 1 Corinthians 5, 1 Tim 5:3-6

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2. We must be Pure to be as Successful as Paul

- a. Keep ourselves Pure - 1 Thess 5:21-22, 1 Timothy 5:22
- b. Keep the Church Pure – Acts 15, 2 John 1:9-11, Gal 1:8-9

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D. Successful Evangelism requires **GOOD TEACHERS**

1. Paul understood that Evangelism is a “PEOPLE” Business

- Right Attitude - Patience, Kindness, Love...the fruit of the Spirit!
- Paul had these Attributes, and he was Successful! 1 Tim 1:3ff

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2. Fruitful Evangelism REQUIRES Godly Teaching
 - a. We must Strive to demonstrate Galatians 5:22-23
 - b. Each teaching opportunity is precious! Col 4:5-6

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E. Successful Evangelism requires **READY SOLDIERS!**

1. Paul Knew First hand that Successful Evangelism is Warfare!

- He had to Defend the Truth against False Teachers - Acts 15
- He Encouraged Readiness! - Eph 6:10-20

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2. To be Successful in Evangelism, our Garrison must be Ready!

- a. Are we properly equipped; operational for Duty? 2 Tim 3:16-17
- b. Do we know our Basic “Combat” Skills? - 1 Peter 3:15

III. Successful Evangelism requires...

A. Understanding and Accepting tough work conditions!

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- A. Understanding and Accepting tough work conditions!
- B. Developing an Acceptable Character (Equipment)!

1. Paul to Timothy

1 Tim 4:12ff - ¹² Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. ¹³ Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.¹⁵ Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.¹⁶ Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

2. We must LIVE to Teach!

- C. We need to **Prepare**, **Get to Work** and **Endure!!**

CONCLUSION...

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2. How was Paul able to be so Successful?
3. He had the proper Equipment or Character for the work!
4. He Knew the Elements for Successful Evangelism:
 - a. Reliance on God!
 - b. Focus on God's Word!
 - c. Purity - Individual & Church
 - d. Godly Teachers
 - e. Ready Soldiers