

2 Corinthians 5:20

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

We live in the age of the sophisticated witness, of the indifferent witness of the relaxed witness, if there is an actual witness at all. The thought of “begging” someone to come to Christ is seen as unsophisticated emotionalism. Should the Apostle Paul come in contact with the modern church he would be mildly rebuked for this showmanship simply because Christians today are so indifferent concerning decisions men make concerning Christ that they would have to play act in order to beg men to repent and come to Christ.

A typical encounter I had was with a church which had a English as a second language class. They proudly responded to my question concerning presenting the Gospel, “We only bring up the subject if they do.” These Christians not only are not burdened to lead people to Christ, they are offended at the prospect of any type of earnest appeal more or less begging people to repent and come to Christ.

If witnessing is being taught in a church today, Christians are taught to “tell their story and leave the results to God”, any emotion accompanying the witness, any earnest appeal, any begging would be considered manipulative. “We do not try to persuade men, we do not play mini-Holy Spirit, we just leave it to God.” These and other arguments concerning the dispassionate witness seem to be reasonable, but are they true to the Word of God, are they true to the ministry of God the Holy Spirit?

Is begging someone to receive Christ shallow emotionalism? Is trying to persuade someone to receive Christ manipulative? Is including emotion and persuasion playing “mini-Holy Spirit”? What is the expectation of God when it comes to our witness?

In the series of devotions below we will look at what God the Holy Spirit says and reveals to the Church when it comes to persuasive witnessing.

Rev. John S. Mahon
Director Grace Community International
05.16.2022

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Persuading Men With An Earnest Appeal

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Corinthians 5:20

How does this passage relate to the theme seeking to persuade or bring people to a decision?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life? In other words how can I be more persuasive and earnest in my witness?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Pslam 95:7 & 8; Hebrews 3:7 & 8

How does this passage relate to the theme seeking to persuade or bring people to a decision?

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 14:23

How does this passage relate to the theme seeking to persuade or bring people to a decision?

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JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: THEME: Persuading Men With An Earnest Appeal

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 2:40 & 41

How does this passage relate to the theme seeking to persuade or bring people to a decision?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 18:4

How does this passage relate to the theme seeking to persuade or bring people to a decision?

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How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life? In other words how can I be more persuasive and earnest in my witness?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 19:8

How does this passage relate to the theme seeking to persuade or bring people to a decision?

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JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: THEME: Persuading Men With An Earnest Appeal

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 26:26-29

How does this passage relate to the theme seeking to persuade or bring people to a decision?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 28:23 & 24

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

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JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: THEME: Persuading Men With An Earnest Appeal

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: 2 Corinthians 5:11 & 12

How does this passage relate to the theme seeking to persuade or bring people to a decision?

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: 2 Corinthians 6:1 & 2

How does this passage relate to the theme seeking to persuade or bring people to a decision?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life? In other words how can I be more persuasive and earnest in my witness?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: 1 Thessalonians 2:11 & 12

How does this passage relate to the theme seeking to persuade or bring people to a decision?

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QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: THEME: Persuading Men With An Earnest Appeal

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 3:18-20; Mark 1:14 & 15

How does this passage relate to the theme seeking to persuade or bring people to a decision?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life? In other words how can I be more persuasive and earnest in my witness?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 3:17-26

How does this passage relate to the theme seeking to persuade or bring people to a decision?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life? In other words how can I be more persuasive and earnest in my witness?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Revelation 22:17

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