**Answering Questions:** 1 Peter 3:15, "And be ready to give an answer to every man who asks you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”  Below are some suggestions on how to answer an objector's questions.

1)  Question: "Do you believe that only members of the church of Christ are going to Heaven and everyone else is going to Hell?"

Response: "John, it doesn't matter what I believe, or what you believe, or what anyone else believes.  What really matters is what God says in the Bible.  Could I share with you what the Bible says we must do in order to go to Heaven?"

2)  Question: "Do you think my mother and father are in Hell?"

Response: "Knowing you, I am sure you had wonderful parents, but we are not their judge. God is.  You are not going to give an account for your parents, but for yourself.  Could I share with you what the Bible says we must do in order to go to Heaven?"

3)  Question: "What will happen to someone who has never heard of Christ or the Bible?"

Response: "John, the important question right now is, what is going to happen to you? You have a chance to know what God's will is.  Could I share with you what the Bible says we must do in order to go to Heaven?"

4)  Question: "What about all of those hypocrites in the church?"

Response: "Hypocrites get married, play golf, drive cars, rent houses, and run businesses.  Would you not do these things because hypocrites do them?  The hypocrite will be lost, but do you also want to be lost along with the hypocrite?" Consider this: if a hypocrite is standing between you and God, who is closer to God?

5)  Question: "Do you doubt my sincerity?"

Response: "No I believe you are sincere, but sincerity alone will not get us to Heaven."

**Lesson 9 Questions to ask about one's salvation**

(Below are some questions that you might want to ask the one you are studying with **before** you teach him anything about baptism)

1)  Have you been saved?

2)  How old were you when you were saved?

3)  Did you go forward in church when you were saved?

4)  Was it on Sunday morning, Sunday night, or Wednesday night when you went forward?

5)  Did you accept Jesus as your personal Savior when you went forward?

6)  Did you or the preacher say the "Sinner's Prayer" for you when you went forward?

7)  Were you saved and your sins forgiven when you went forward in church?

14

**Lesson 1 Why is Personal Evangelism important?**

To evangelize means to proclaim the good news of the gospel of Christ.  When Jesus gave the Great Commission to the eleven apostles, He said, "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, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20). Notice that the Great Commission has two parts: 1) “Make disciples,” and 2) “teach them to observe all things I have commanded you.” Christians today are also under the obligation to convert and teach others. In other words, there is much to learn about Christian service after obedience to the gospel.

Paul says in Romans 1:14, "I am a debtor both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians, both to the wise and to the unwise."  Christians today are also debtors to non-Christians because we have the good news that can save their souls.  This places us under obligation to share the gospel with the lost so they can be saved.  Someone loved us enough to teach us the truth. We must show the same love to those who are lost.

If people have not heard and learned the gospel they cannot obey it.  In 1 Peter 4:17 the question is asked, "What shall be the end of those who do not obey the gospel?"  The answer is given in 2 Thessalonians 1:8. The Lord will come "in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."  We do not want anyone to be lost. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:11, "Knowing the terror of the Lord we persuade men."  People are going to be lost forever if we don't teach them now!

The Lord doesn't want anyone to be lost.  We read in 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord...is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."  They can only come to repentance when they know what to do.  We also read in 1 Timothy 2:4, "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come to a knowledge of the truth."  Because of what the Lord has done for us, we have the obligation to teach others so they can learn the truth and be saved.  Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9:16, "Woe is to me if I preach not the gospel."  Christians are under obligation to tell the good news to others.

Jesus told His disciples, "Do you say there are still four months then comes the harvest?  Behold I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35).  Our Lord was speaking of the spiritual harvest of souls who would be lost in eternity if they are not harvested.  There is an urgency to teach the lost. In Matthew 9:37-38 Jesus says, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.  Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."  We must work in the Lord's harvest. If we do not, those we could have taught will be lost.

3