

PERSONAL EVANGELISM #13 - DEALING WITH THE CLOSED-MINDED

PSALMS 119:17-24

A closed mind may be opened, not with human reasoning or carefully constructed arguments, but with the Word of God.

I. "THE BIBLE HAS TOO MANY CONTRADICTIONS"

- A. Ask for them to show one to you - they probably can't!
- B. Grow in (1) grace and (2) knowledge 2 PETER 3:16-18
 - 1. Remember that lost people act like it (grace)
 - 2. Learn to trust God's Word (knowledge)
 - 3. These WREST the Scriptures to their destruction
- C. Lost people cannot understand the Bible 1 COR. 2:14
 - 1. It seems similar to speaking another language
 - 2. I can speak a few words but do not THINK in it

II. "THERE ARE TOO MANY HYPOCRITES IN CHURCHES"

- A. Sometimes sadly true - but that's no excuse ROM. 14:12
 - 1. People rob banks too / never right to do wrong
 - 2. All have sinned and come short - UNIVERSAL
 - 3. Don't join a perfect church, you'll mess it up!
- B. Keep your priorities straight with the lost MATT 6:33
- C. Keep your testimony - you never know who's watching!

III. "I WILL ACCEPT CHRIST SOME OTHER TIME"

- A. Maybe no other chance ISA. 55:6 / PROV. 27:1 & 29:1
 - 1. What about the OTHER thief on the cross?
 - 2. He met Jesus for the first time that day too!
- B. Are you ready? JAMES 4:13-14 / MATT. 25:10-13

IV. "THERE IS SOMEONE I CANNOT FORGIVE"

- A. Cannot have forgiveness without giving it MATT. 6:15
- B. The story of the unforgiving servant MATT. 18:32-35

V. "I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT JESUS CHRIST"

- A. Turn away a telegram? Urgent warning? HEB. 12:25
- B. One at the door warning of danger? Children in road?
- C. Disregard Gospel = hatred of knowledge PROV. 1:29-33

CONCLUSION: Clever arguments never convince, but the Word of God can do more than convince, it will CONVICT. Let God work!