

Matthew 28:19–20 (NKJV)

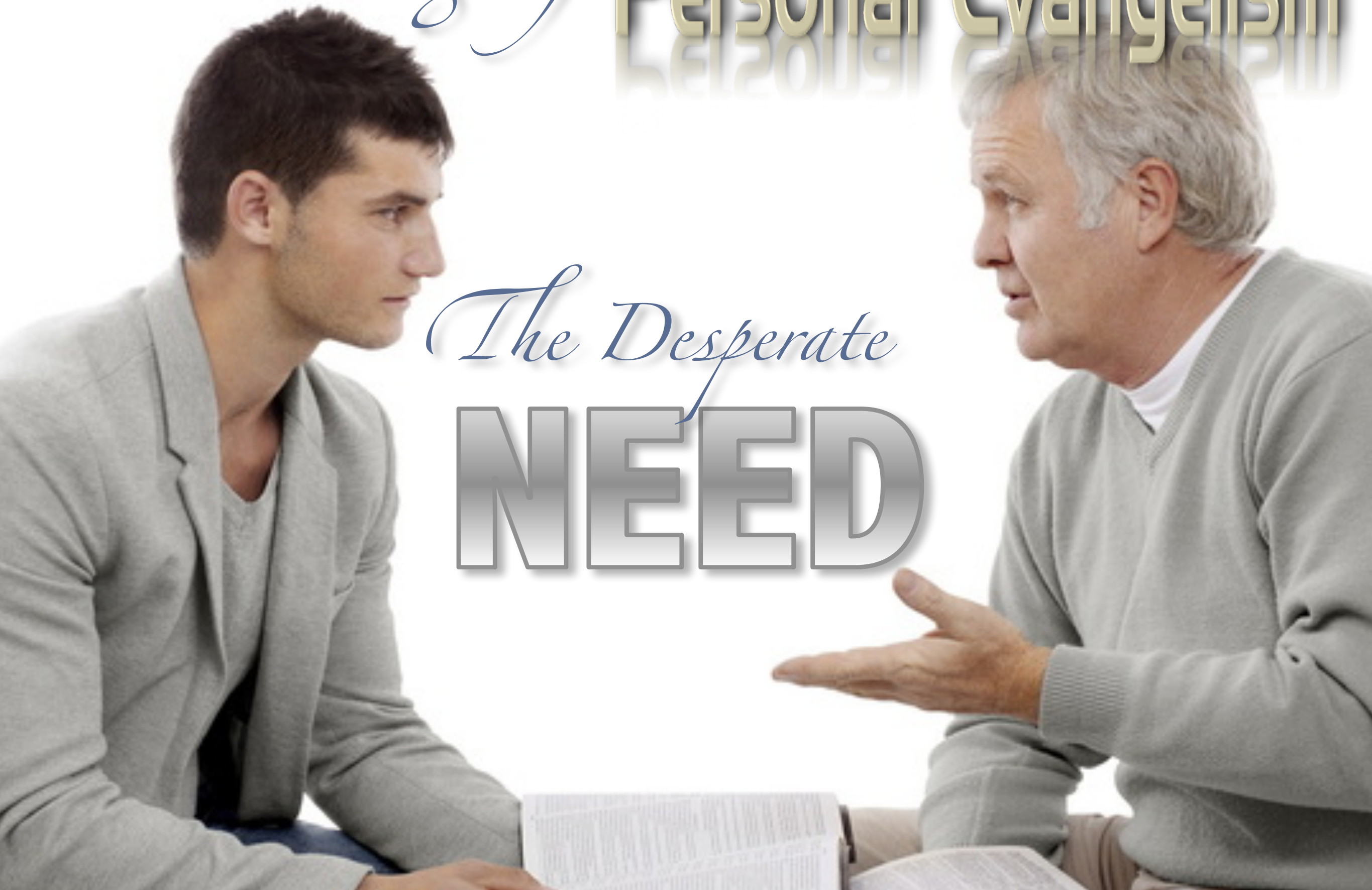
¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

GO

AND MAKE DISCIPLES



The Challenge of Personal Evangelism



The Desperate
NEED

THE LOST & FOUND SHEEP, COIN & SON

CONTRASTING THE ATTITUDE OF THE PHARISEES & JESUS TOWARD SINNERS

Luke 15:1–2 (NKJV)

¹ Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. ² And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, “This Man receives sinners and eats with them.”

“Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”



Jesus responds with a parabolic triptych . . .

THE LOST & FOUND SHEEP, COIN & SON

CONTRASTING THE ATTITUDE OF THE PHARISEES & JESUS TOWARD SINNERS

Jesus responds with a parabolic triptych . . .

"SHEEP"



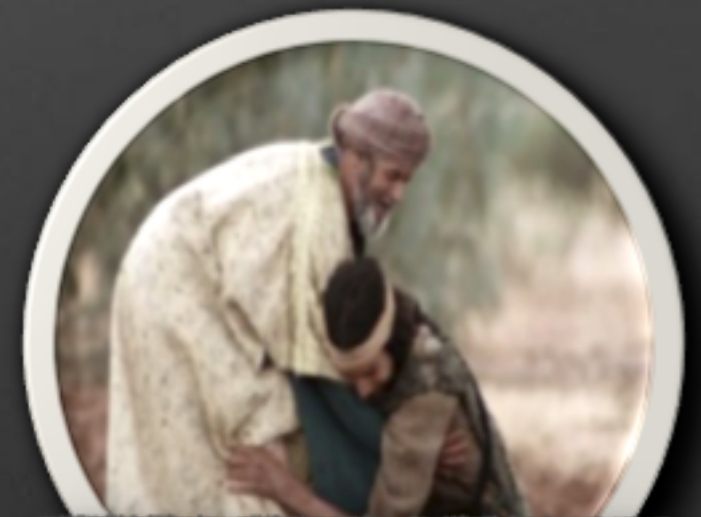
Luke 15:1-7

"COIN"



Luke 15:8-10

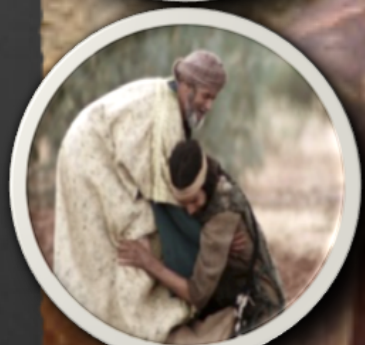
"SON"



Luke 15:11-32

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE LOST?

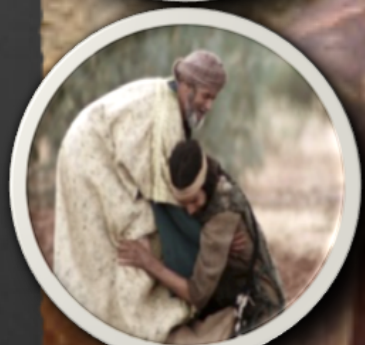
THE LOSTNESS OF THE LOST



- Sinners NEVER lose their VALUE – Mat. 16:26
- They lose their way -
- They lose their usefulness –
- They lose their relationship with God, His children & their blessedness -
- They lose their souls -

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE LOST?

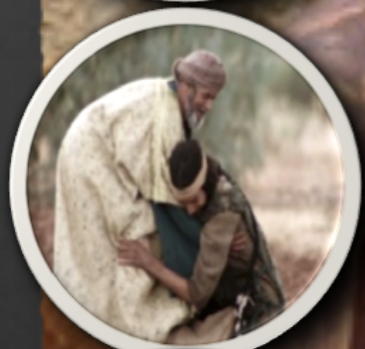
DO WE UNDERSTAND?



- The State of The Lost - Eph 2:12; 1 Thes 4:13
- The Value of The Lost – Mat 18:14; 1 Pet 1:18-21
- The Love God Has For The Lost – Jn 3:16; Rom 5:8-10; 2 Cor 5:19-21
- Our responsibility to the lost? – Rom 1:14,15; Jam 5:19,20; Mk 12:29-31

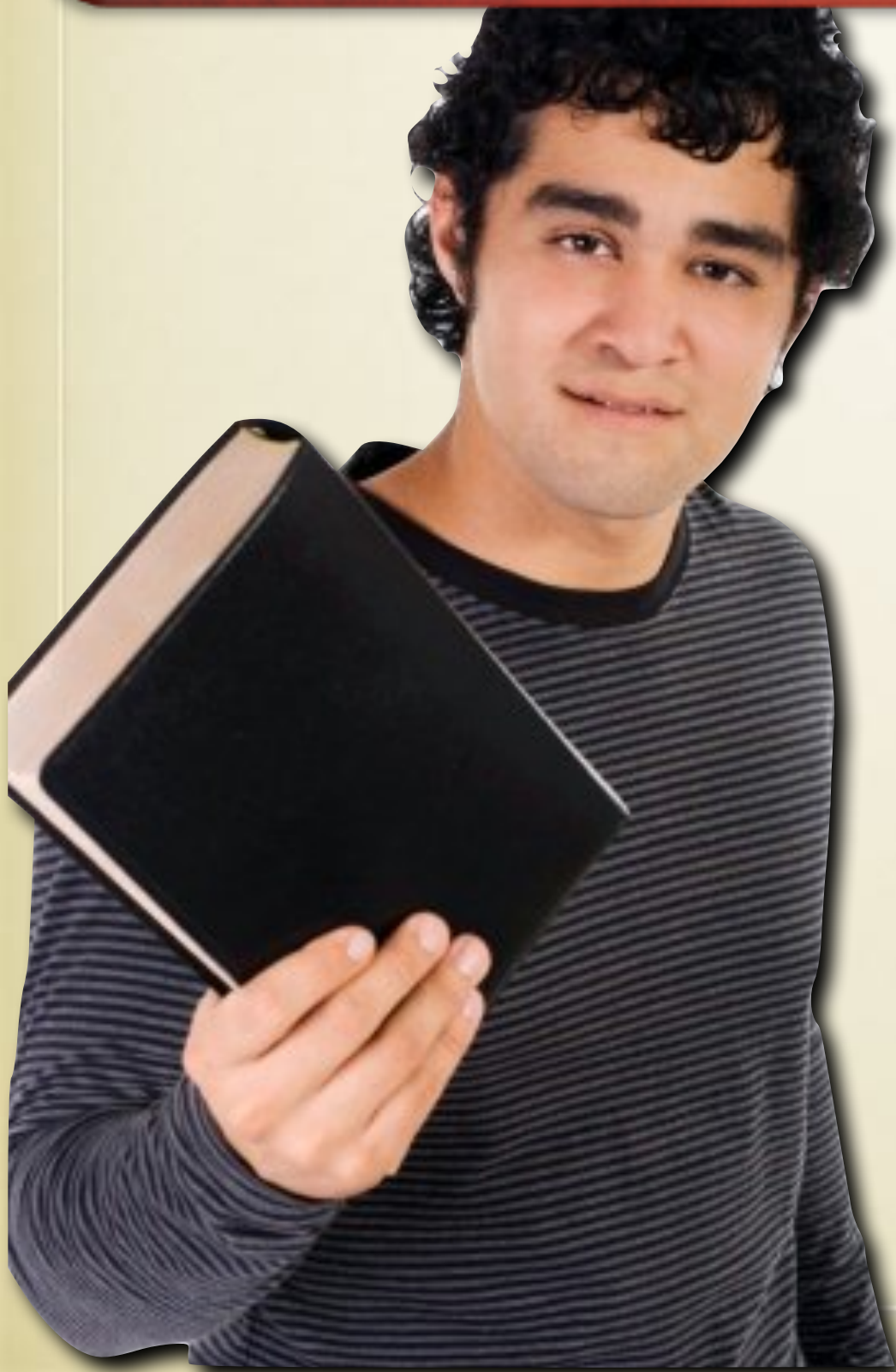
OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE LOST?

WHAT ARE WE DOING?



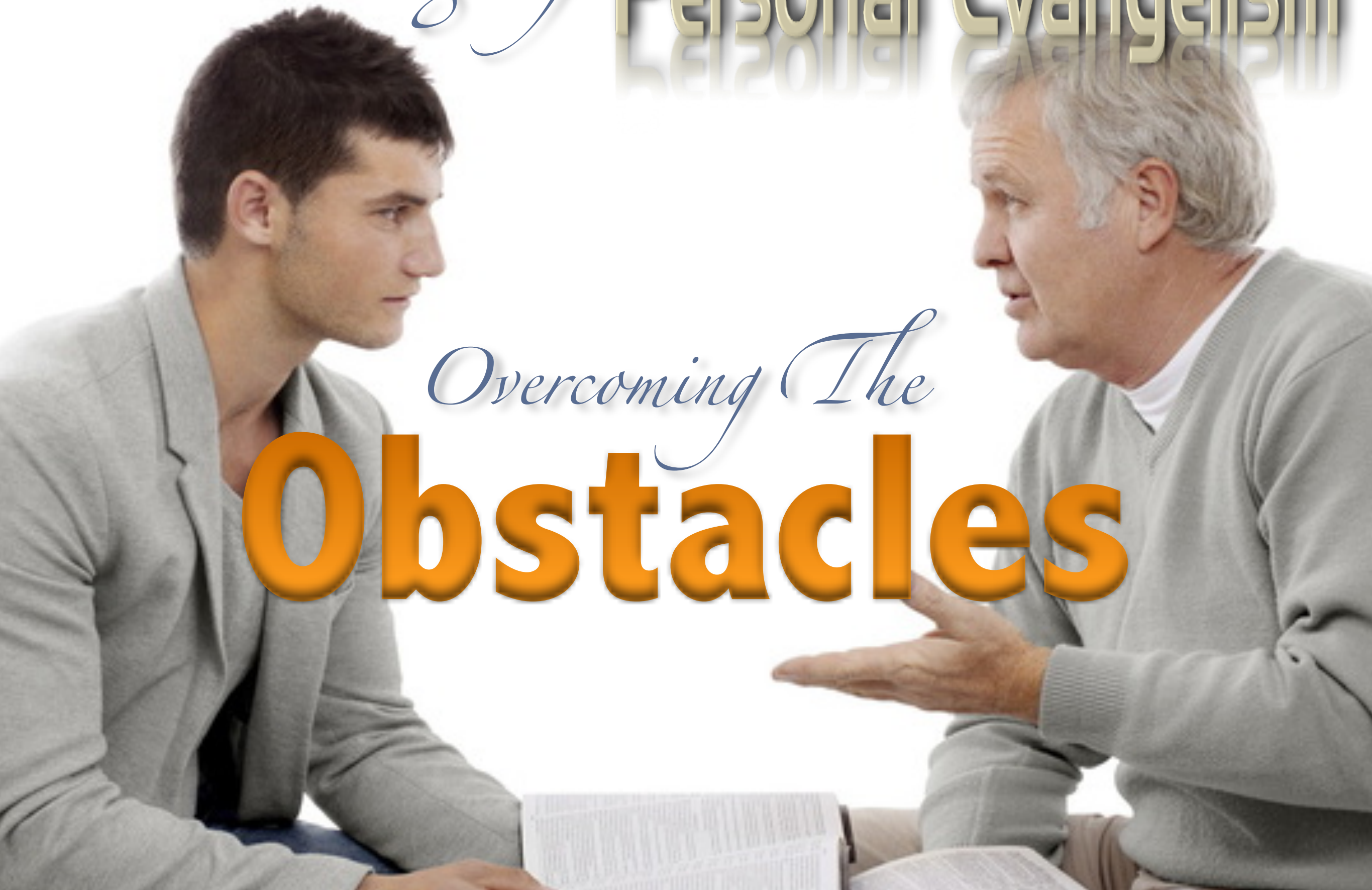
- Our ATTITUDE toward the LOST is manifested in what we do, not in what we say — Acts 8:4; Ro 9:1-5; 10:1; James 1:22; 2:14-26
 - Do we care enough?
 - Do we value the souls of others enough?
 - Do we truly desire to see the lost saved and the erring restored?

The Challenge of Personal Evangelism



- ~ THE GREATEST **NEED** – we all have – Rom 3:23; 1:16,17; Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12
- ~ The greatest **SERVICE** we can provide another – Mat. 28:19,20; Acts 8:4
- ~ Are We **willing** to do everything in our power to bring others to Jesus?

The Challenge of Personal Evangelism



Overcoming The **Obstacles**

Things Working Against Us

1. There was a time when a vast majority of the people in our lives could be changed by Scripture.
2. But in the 21st Century, it has become very difficult to get people to listen



Things Working Against Us

Secular / Worldly

Sec. Education

NO absolute truth

Culture of Toleration

Materialism

Wealth / Ease

Self-Centered Focus

Religion / Man Made

False Doctrine

Subjective Truth

Diversity / Confusion

Social In Focus

Wealth / Ease / Busy

Self-Centered Focus

Things Working Against Us

Millennials leaving church in droves, study finds

By **Daniel Burke**, CNN Religion Editor

Updated 4:14 PM ET, Thu May 14, 2015



“... In the meantime, almost every major branch of Christianity in the United States has lost a significant number of members, Pew found, mainly because millennials are leaving the fold. More than one-third of millennials now say they are unaffiliated with any faith, up 10 percentage points since 2007.

Things Working Against Us

Christianity faces sharp decline as Americans are becoming even less affiliated with religion

By Sarah Pulliam Bailey May 12, 2015

“The percentage of adults who describe themselves as Christians dropped by nearly eight percentage points in just seven years to about 71 percent, according to a [survey](#) conducted by the Pew Research Center. ...”

The Washington Post

- 1. Millennials are growing even less affiliated with religion as they get older - (Born 1981 to 1989) in 2007 - 25% — in 2014 - 34%**
- 2. There are more religiously unaffiliated Americans than Catholic Americans (20.8%), or mainline Protestant Americans. (14.7%)**
- 3. Those who are unaffiliated are becoming more secular**

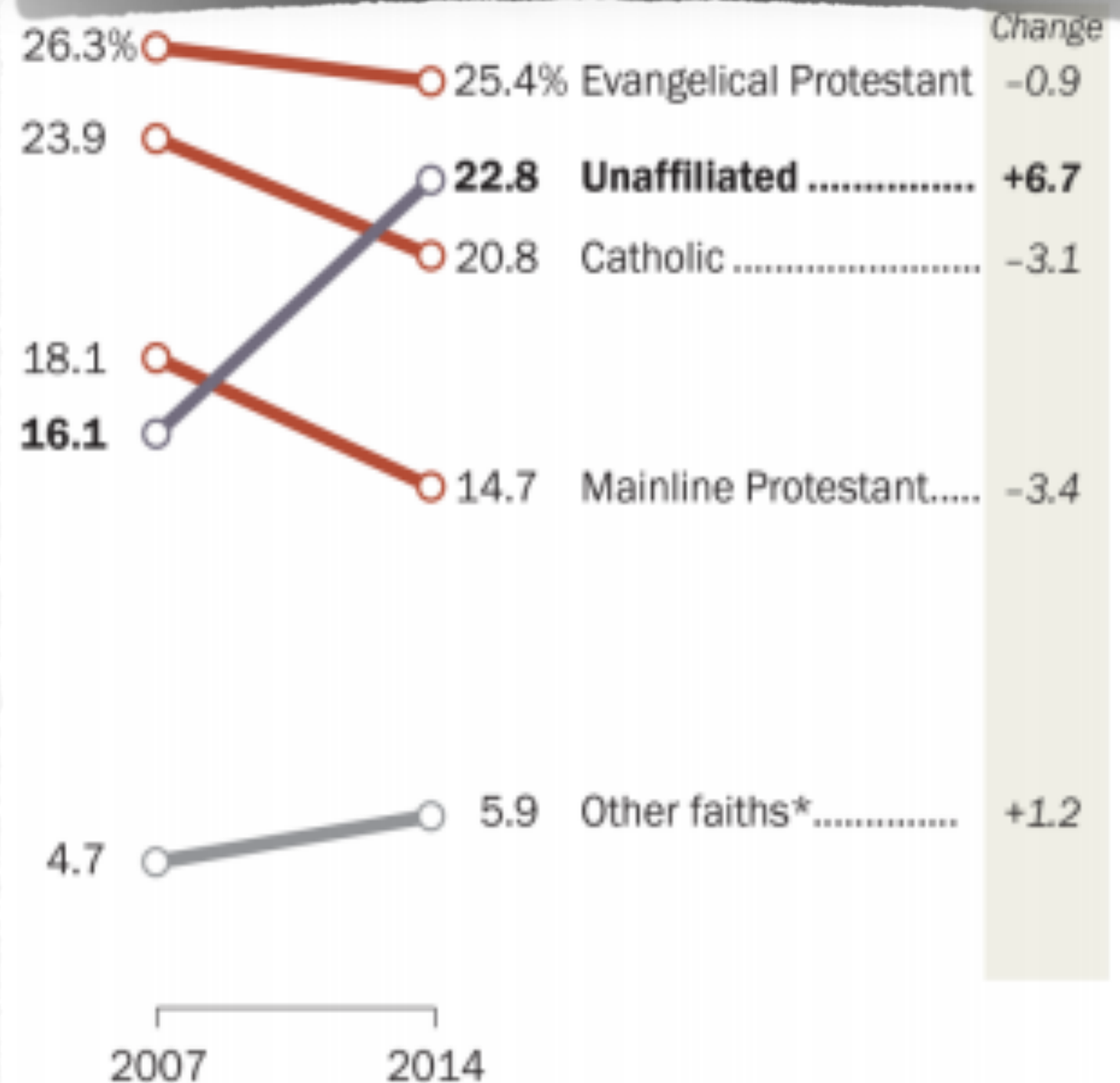
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Things Working Against Us



“Bible reading has become the religious equivalent of sound-bite journalism. When people read from the Bible they typically open it, read a brief passage without much regard for the context, and consider the primary thought or feeling that the passage provided.

If they are comfortable with it, they accept it; otherwise, they deem it interesting but irrelevant to their life, and move on.

There is shockingly little growth evident in people's understanding of the fundamental themes of the scriptures and amazingly little interest in deepening their knowledge and application of biblical principles . . .

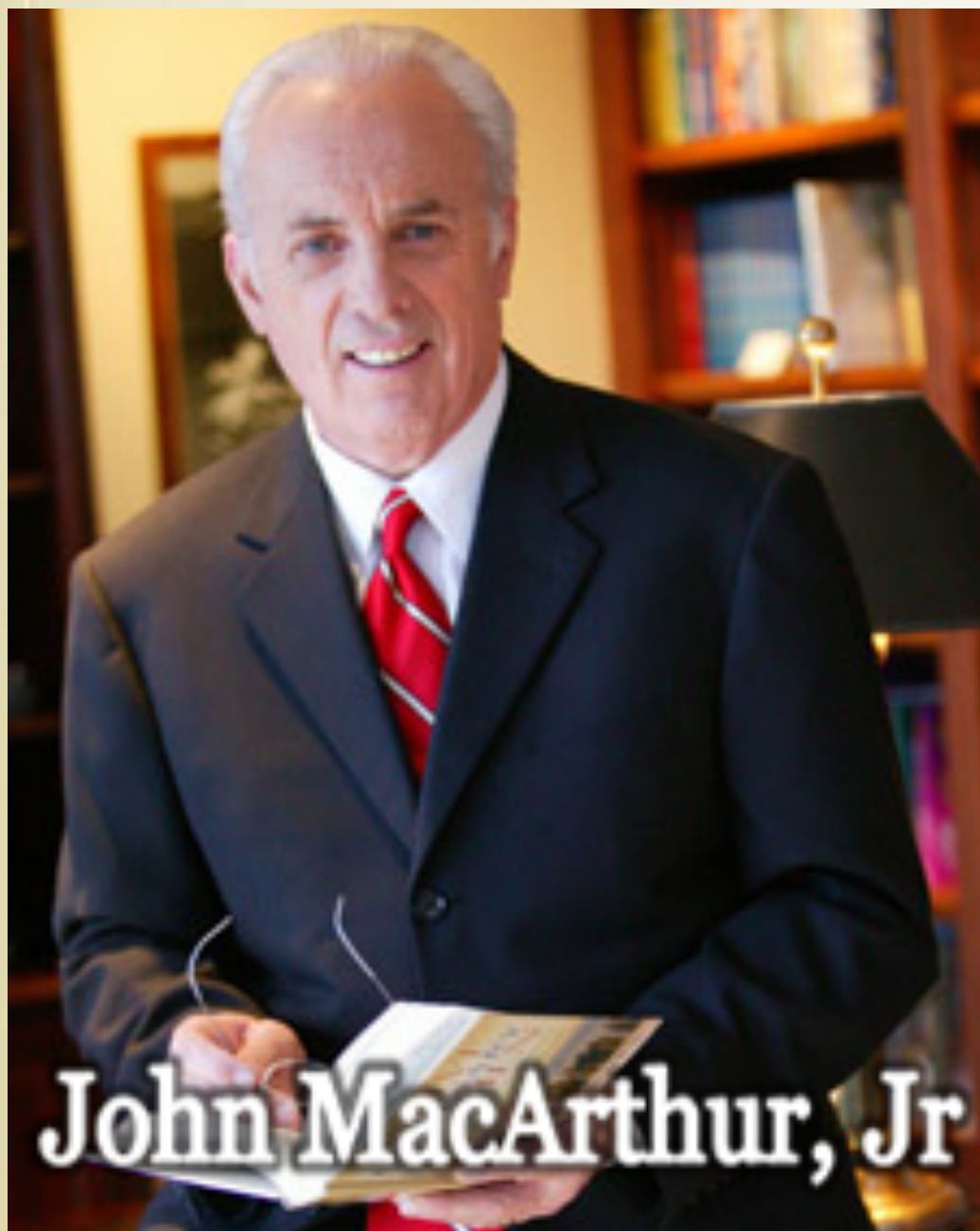
Things Working Against Us

- 1. A rejection of the reliability & absolute authority of the scriptures - (2 Tim 3:16,17; 2 Pet 1:19-21; Mat 24:35; Luke 21:33)**
- 2. A belief that truth is subjective & relative - (no moral absolutes / doctrine & theology inconsequential) - (Judg 21:25; Jer. 6:16-19)**
- 3. The emphasis of feelings & emotion over, & instead of, a "thus saith the Lord." - (Prov 14:12; Jer. 6:16; 10:23)**



Things Working Against Us

2 Tim 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power.



John MacArthur, Jr

“We have a society filled with people who want what they want when they want it. They are into their own lifestyle, recreation, and entertainment. They want comfort, happiness, and success. When churches appeal to those selfish desires, they only fuel fires that hinder true godliness.”

(Ashamed of The Gospel, When The Church Becomes Like The World, pg 85)

Things Working Against Us

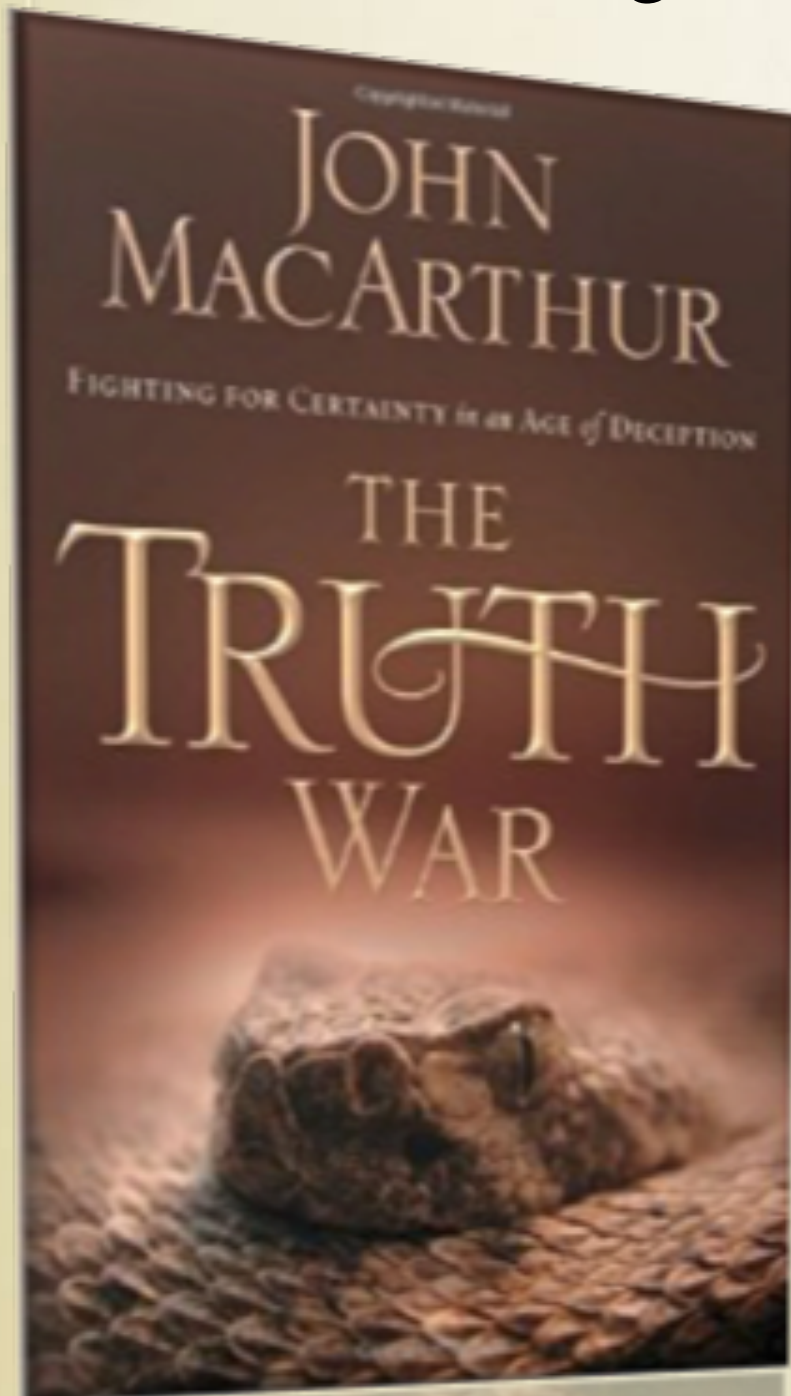
- Attendance / worship is a menu option
- everyone expects to go to heaven
- Balance scale salvation
 - Salvation by works: good outweighs bad
- Doing the absolute minimum to be saved
- very content with their religious traditions
- very closed minded
- no desire or need to search - TOO BUSY!!!!



You **CANNOT** get a person **SAVED** until you first **CONVINCE** them they are **LOST!**

Things Working Against Us

2 Tim 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power.



“That the Bible puts a very high premium on truth is indisputable. But sadly, the church today has largely downplayed and abandoned truth, content to follow the spirit of the age.

That spirit is comprised of postmodernism, relativism, emotionalism and subjectivism. Truth cannot flourish in such poisoned soil.”

Truth Watch — by Bill Muehlenberg
(Review of “THE TRUTH WAR” by John MacArthur)

A young man with dark hair and a grey blazer is sitting on the left, looking towards the right. An older man with grey hair and a grey sweater is sitting on the right, looking towards the left. They are both looking at a newspaper that is open on the table in front of them. The background is plain white.

The Challenge of Personal Evangelism

Overcoming The **Obstacles**

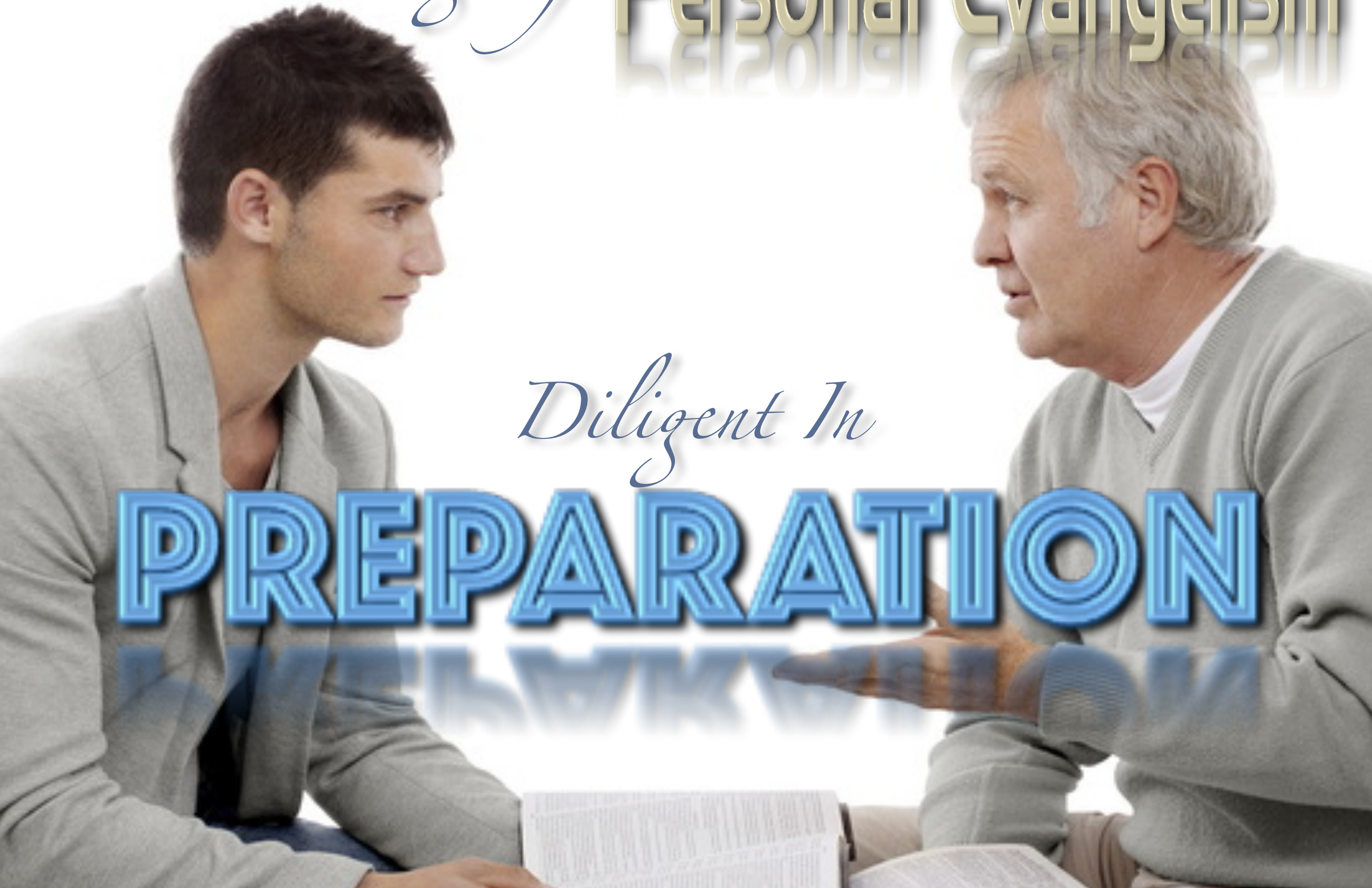
But - It HAS ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY!!

The Fields Are White!!!!

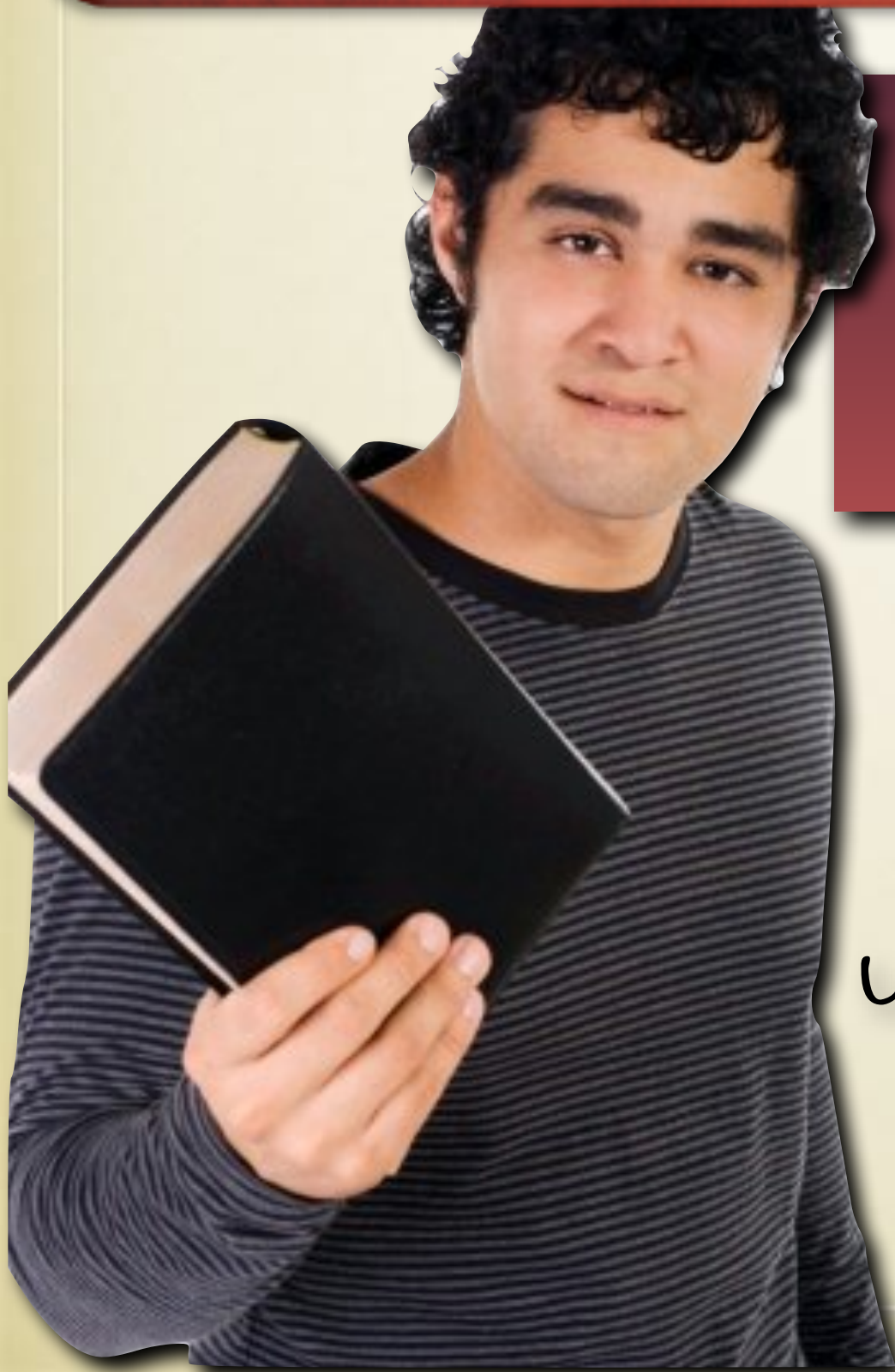
The Challenge of Personal Evangelism

Diligent In

PREPARATION



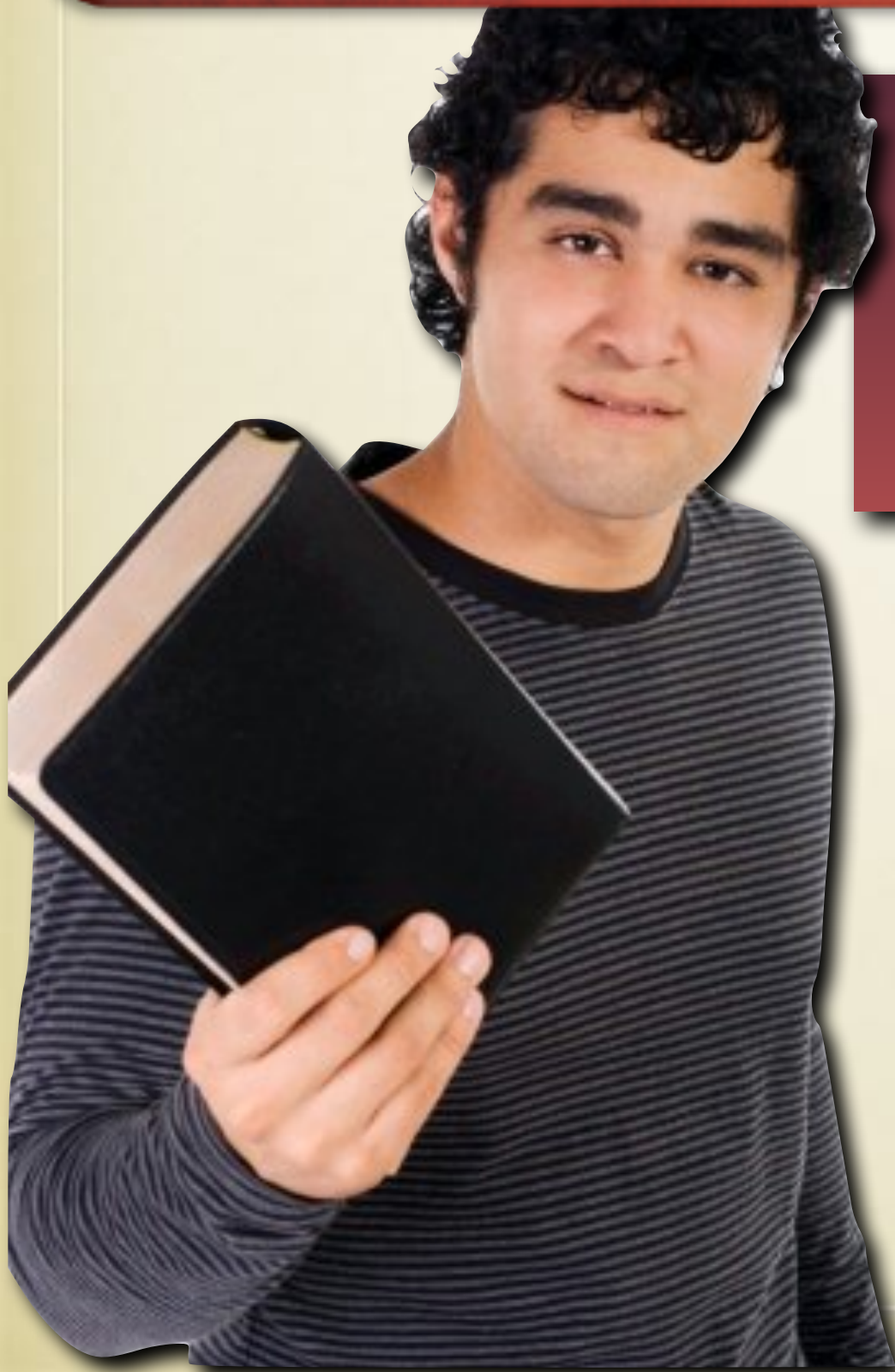
The Challenge of Personal Evangelism



**We can ONLY control
what we do - not how
others respond!**

1 Corinthians 3:6 (NKJV)
I planted, Apollos
watered, but God
gave the
increase.

The Challenge of Personal Evangelism



**Are we STRIVING to
maximize our influence
& our abilities?**

Matthew 5:13-16

Philippians 2:14-16

1 Thessalonians 1:6-10

Effective Personal Evangelism



**We MUST be
salty & shining -
Mat 5:13-16;
Phili 2:14-16**

Effective Personal Evangelism

1 THESSALONIANS 1:6-10 (NKJV)

⁶ And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. ⁸ For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.

Effective Personal Evangelism

1 THESSALONIANS 1:6-10 (NKJV)

⁹ For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Effective Personal Evangelism

1 Thessalonians 1:6–10 (NKJV)



True followers - 6
Tested & Joyful - 6
Living For Christ — 7
Teachers— 8
Devoted —9
Disciplined — 10

The Challenge of Personal Evangelism



Matthew 13

**We will not teach another
what we do not care about.**

**We cannot teach another
what they don't care about**

**We cannot teach another
what we do not know.**

**We cannot teach another
what they do NOT want ...**

**We cannot teach another if
we do not follow Christ.**

**We cannot teach one who
is not willing follow Christ**

**Control What We Can / Plant & water
God will give the increase! - 1 Cor 3:6**

The Challenge of Personal Evangelism

Matthew 13

➤ All need the gospel – which is the only hope for the lost!

➤ If we are truly converted to Christ – we **WILL** naturally want to tell others!



The Challenge of Personal Evangelism

Matthew 13

**When Jesus
means
everything to
ME, I WILL TRY
to make Him
mean something
to someone else!**



The Challenge of Personal Evangelism

The Truth About Salvation

- * Luke 8:11; Rom. 10:13–17
- * John 8:24; Heb 11:6
- * Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30
- * Mat. 10:32,33; Rom 10:9
- * Acts 2:38; 1 Pet 3:21

Hear

1

2

Believe

3

Repent

4

Confess

Be Baptized

5

What must I do
to be **SAVED?**



The Challenge of Personal Evangelism

Charts by Don McClain

Preached July 29, 2018

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More Keynote, PPT & Audio Sermons: <http://w65stchurchofchrist.com>

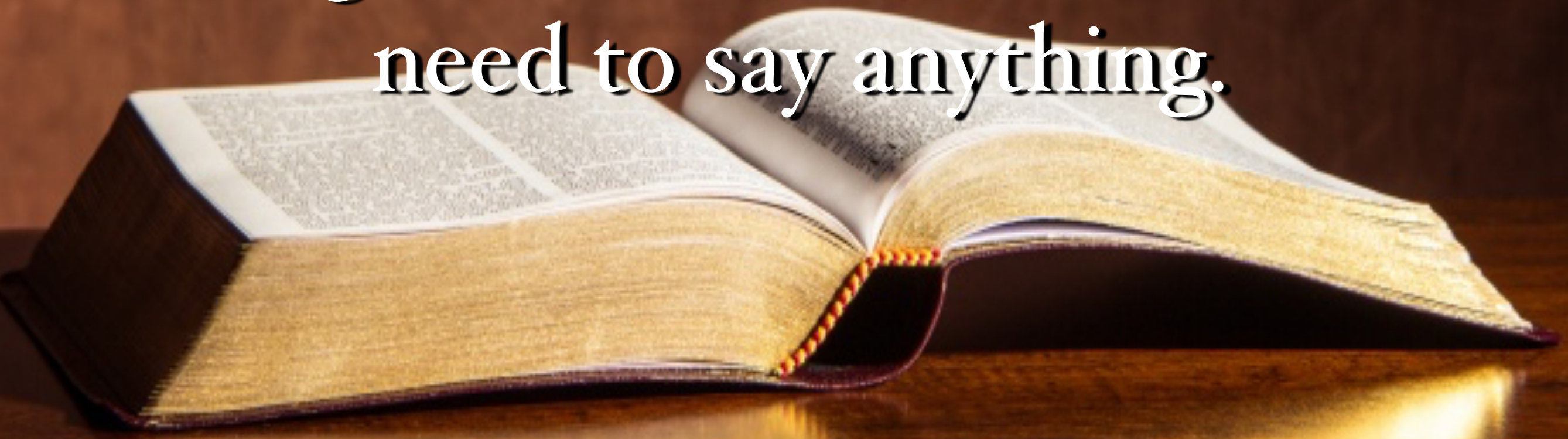
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