

The Five T's of Stewardship

Truth **1 Peter 3:15-16**

We have a treasure more valuable than gold, more precious than diamonds, more needed than a cure for cancer - We have the Truth about Salvation.

This treasure is the truth that God can forgive and transform our soul

And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul? Matthew 16:26

Does the Bible really call the gospel message truth? Look at John

John 1:14, 17; 3:21; 4:23-24; 5:33; 8:32; 44-46; 14:6.

Spirit of Truth - Holy Spirit - **John 14:7; 15:26 and 16:17**

Sanctify them - **John 17:17, 19**

Purpose for Christ - **John 18:37**

Our job is to guard the truth and proclaim the truth.

We have a message to share - the truth. **1 Peter 3:15-16**

I. A personal message. **But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.**

The word is sanctify - set aside to be only for God

A. We can only share what we know personally

Be sure your relationship with God is up-to-date

Be sure you believe what you tell others

B. Realize it is the message that is power not our words

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: ...

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power...

We are always the second witness - the Spirit is the first.

II. A prepared message **Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone**

A. The message is to be ready always and for everyone

It should be a part of our lives - a learned skill

B. The word answer is "apologia" a verbal defense

A reasonable statement of why you believe

1. Should include a personal testimony

Jesus told others - Tell what God has done for you

Paul recorded his testimony several times **Acts 9, 22 and 26**

2. Should contain a clear path to salvation

Know the scriptures on new birth and forgiveness

III. A positive message **-who asks you to give the reason for the hope**

A. We share with others not because we are perfect but because it is the truth

The word reason is "logos" the word.

Jesus is the hope we have - not religion or our righteousness

Christ in you the hope of glory - **Colossians 1:27**

B. We share with those who ask

Those who see a difference in your life

Those who seek your counsel

IV. A proper attitude **-But do this with gentleness and respect**

A. With gentleness - toward men

Christ never demanded and neither should we

We should present with the fruit of the Spirit

B. With reverence - toward God

Our message is holy and powerful

Our Lord is with us - let it show

V. A practical message

"keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

"Show me your redeemed life and I'll believe in your redeemer" - Voltaire

A. With a clear conscience

Toward all men - Paul **Acts 23:1, 1 Timothy 1:5**

B. With good behavior

Often our actions do speak louder than our words

Let your light shine and they will see your God **Matthew 5:16**

What do we do with this treasure - the truth?

We are called upon to be heroes pulling others from the fire.

We need to be sure it is a fire - believe the gospel

We need to care deeply for those caught

We need to listen attentively to their cries

We need to find the right paths to them

We need to continue until they are all safe

We need to make the way out clear

Write down the names of those you are called to pull from the fire.
