

WINNING
SOULS
FOR
CHRIST

by
Charles
Elledge Hill

D E D I C A T I O N

TO OUR GRANDCHILDREN, DAVID STERLING KNOX, STACY
EMBER KNOX, DEREK MARTIN OVERSTREET , SHONDA
ROCHELLE OVERSTREET, AND NOLAN RYAN OVERSTREET,
WHO ARE OUR PRIDE AND JOY AND FOR WHOM WE WISH
MUCH HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS IN LIFE AND WHOM WE
EARNESTLY HOPE AND PRAY WILL BE FAITHFUL AND
USEFUL CITIZENS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS THIS
LITTLE WORK AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.

THE AUTHOR: CHARLES ELLEDGE HILL

P R E F A C E

Personal evangelism is nothing new. Jesus, the apostles, and early Christians personally taught others the gospel of Christ. Luke tells us that Jesus both did and taught (Acts 1:1). Christ came to seek and save the lost. All Christians must be teachers both by lip and life.

Christians must have a great and clear vision of the Lord's work and be able and willing to spread the wonderful message of salvation. A close study of the life of Christ and the work of the apostles will help us in knowing the what and the how of personal evangelism.

The thoughts expressed in this outline and the comments the writer will make as he teaches the lessons of PERSONAL EVANGELISM have been gleaned through the years from many sources, including his own personal experiences. He claims little, if any, originality. Much time and labor have gone into the preparation of this outline; however, I will consider such well spent if by this study some can be encouraged to really "get on fire" for the Lord and convert, restore, and strengthen souls.

Whatever good may result from this effort unto God be all the glory, honor, praise and thanksgiving.

Charles Elledge Hill

Fort Worth, Texas

GO WIN SOME SOUL

Go win some precious soul today,
That in the darkness long has trod;
Go win some soul to wisdom's way,
For every soul is dear to God.

Go help some soul to feel and know,
That Jesus died for sinful men,
Upon the cross in bitter woe,
Eternal life was offered them.

Perchance some soul is standing by,
And longs for words that you might say,
O, bring God's invitation nigh;
Go win some precious soul today.

Selected

THE POWER OF A VISIT

One day I rang a doorbell
In a casual sort of way,
'Twas not a formal visit
And there wasn't much to say.

I don't remember what I said--
It matters not, I guess--
I found a heart in hunger;
A soul in deep distress.

He said I came from heaven,
And I often wondered why;
He said I came to see him
When no other help was nigh.

It meant so little to me
To knock at a stranger's door,
But it meant heaven to him
And God's peace forevermore.

Selected

FOR OTHERS

Lord, help me to live from day to day
In such a self-forgetful way
That even when I kneel to pray
My prayers will be for others.
Help me in all the work I do
To ever be sincere and true,
And know that all I do for you
Must needs be done for others.

And when my work on earth is done,
And my new work in heaven's begun;
May I forget the crown I've won
While thinking still of others.
Others, Lord, yes others;
Let this my motto be.
Help me to live for others
That I may live like thee.

Selected

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that
winneth souls is wise." (Prov. 11:30)

"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the
firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the
stars forever and ever." (Dan. 12:3)

"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me
draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is
written in the prophets, And they shall all be taught of
God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned
of the Father, cometh unto me." (John 6:44-45)

I shall pass through this world but once.
Any good therefore that I can do or any
kindness that I can show to any human being,
let me do it now.

Let me not defer or neglect it,
for I shall not pass this way again.

Henry Drummond

PERSONAL WORK

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. Terms defined:
 - 1. Personal - an individual giving individual attention.
 - 2. Work - labor, sincere effort. This is the catch. There is no substitute. There is no short-cut.
- B. Aim: To learn the needed qualifications, attitudes, methods, and techniques that will enable us to do the best possible work as winners of souls.
- C. The need for personal work:
 - 1. "In a survey of thirty-six congregations, it took an average of nineteen members to convert one. One survey showed that ninety-five percent of all religious people never win a soul to Christ." (Christian Bible Teacher, January, 1963, p.9. An article entitled "Personal Work - No. 1" by Clayton Pepper.)
 - 2. In a survey of the memberships and conversions of twenty congregations in Texas, it was revealed it took an average of fourteen to convert one soul. (Mid McKnight in an outline on "Organized Personal Work," p. 1.)
 - 3. We are not winning the number of people to Christ that we should when we consider the plea and position held by the Lord's church. There must be a cause for this failure. We must find the remedy.
 - a. Cause of failure:
 - (1) In the methods used.
 - (a) Depending upon the pulpit to do all the job.
 - (b) Depending upon the preacher to do all the personal work.
 - (c) Lack of freshness in the presentation of the message.
 - (2) Spiritual complacency and laziness.
 - (3) Lack of trained workers.

b. Remedy:

- (1) Re-study our methods.
- (2) Increase our efforts.
- (3) Improve our means of teaching and persuading people.
- (4) Inspire people to be workers.
- (5) Train workers.

II. THE CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY IS DEFINITELY PERSONAL IN ITS NATURE:

- A. In the parable of the talents, Matt. 25:14-30, did not each servant assume certain responsibility by virtue of the talent or talents received? See Mk. 13:34. Does not responsibility mount with increased ability, or talents, and increased opportunity? (Lk. 12:47-48) As seen in the case of the one talent man, what is the penalty for failure to meet responsibility?
- B. Paul recognized his responsibility (Rom. 1:14; I Cor. 9:16).
- C. In the parable of the slighted invitation, the servant was told to "Go out into the highways and hedges, and constrain them to come in, that my house may be filled" (Luke 14:23).
- D. The church is pictured as a body having many members (Rom. 12:4-5; I Cor. 12:12). Each member must fill his task and mission (I Cor. 12:12-28).
- E. We must show the excellencies of God (I Peter 2:9:).
- F. Christians are commanded to give an answer concerning their hope (I Peter 3:15).

III. WAYS OF FULFILLING OUR PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY:

- A. Teaching and preaching publicly and privately (Rom. 1:15; Acts 20:20, 24, 27; Acts 5:42).
- B. Sending others and holding up their hands.
 1. Philippians (Phil. 1:3-5; 4:15, 16).
 2. Necessity of sending (Rom. 10:15).
- C. Influence of righteous lives and faithful service.
 1. Our lives are letters read by others (II Cor. 3:2,3).

2. Christian influence compared by Christ to saving power of salt and light of world (Matt. 5:13-16; Phil. 2:12-15)

D. Defending and holding forth the word of truth (Phil. 1:27; 2:16; Jude 1:3).

IV. SOME NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES:

A. Christ taught people individually.

1. Nicodemus (Jn. 3:1-21).

2. Woman of Samaria (Jn. 4:7-42).

3. Zacchaeus (Luke 19:5-9).

B. Andrew immediately upon being called by the Savior found his own brother and brought him to Jesus (Jn. 1:40-42).

C. Philip carried the good news of his discovery of Christ to Nathaniel (Jn. 1:43-51).

D. Philip taught the Ethiopian (Acts 8:25-39).

V. OPPORTUNITIES ARE UNLIMITED BECAUSE THE WORLD IS THE FIELD:

A. "Go into all the world" (Mk. 16:15).

B. We must teach all nations (Matt. 28:19).

C. In the parable of the tares Jesus said that the field is the world (Matt. 13:38).

D. We must lift up our eyes and look on the fields because they are white unto harvest (Jn. 4:35).

VI. SOME REASONS WHY PERSONAL WORK IS VALUABLE:

A. Vast number of opportunities.

B. Multiplicity of teachers.

1. Jesus chose twelve and later seventy. He knew He could not personally teach everyone.

2. We put too much load on preachers today.

3. We must be "workers together" with the Lord.

C. Power of personal contact.

D. The lesson can be better fitted to the person's needs.

1. Teacher can know more about an individual's needs.
 2. Can say things to individual that can't be said from pulpit.
- E. It will remedy many sickly conditions in the church and stimulate a "hunger for righteousness."
 - F. It keeps a lot of talent from going to waste.
 - G. The Great Commission teaches it (Matt. 28:19, 20; Mk. 16:15, 16).
 - H. It grows out of the second great commandment (Matt. 22:39).
 - I. Golden rule requires it (Matt. 7:12).
 - J. Bible in general teaches it (Heb. 5:12; I Tim. 4:16; II Tim. 2:2).
 - K. The command to bear fruit teaches it (Jn. 15:1-8; Rom. 7:4).

VII. THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUL WINNING:

- A. He that winneth souls is wise (Prov. 11:30; Dan. 12:3).
- B. Why is a soul winner wise?
 1. He is working with the most valuable material (Matt. 16:26).
 2. Because each Christian is a part of the church and it is the mission of the church to save souls (Matt. 28:19-20).
 3. By winning souls we can save souls from eternal destruction (Ja. 5:19-20; Eze. 18:20; Rom. 6:23).
 4. Because "God would have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" (I Tim. 2:3-5). He becomes a worker for God (Ep. 3:20; Phil. 2:13).
 5. He frees himself from the blood of others (Eze. 33:7-9; I Tim. 4:16; Acts 20:26-27).
 6. He receives joy (Phil. 4:1; III Jn. 1:3).

VIII. QUALIFICATIONS OF ONE WHO MEETS HIS PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY:

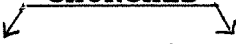

- A. He must always be aware of the following facts:

1. The person who does not know God is lost (II Thess. 1:8-9).
 2. The individual who has not obeyed the gospel is lost (II Thess. 8:8-9).
 3. Christians are to carry the gospel to the lost (I Cor. 3:5-9).
 4. The Gospel is God's power to save (Rom. 1:16).
 5. Laborers are needed for the harvest (Matt. 9:37-38).
- B. "Of good report."
1. Must have a good reputation backed by character.
 2. Basis of character is consistency. Must be consistent in faith and conduct, profession and action. Must live the gospel which he professes.
- C. "Full of the Spirit."
1. No man has a miraculous measure of the Spirit today.
 2. We can manifest the spirit of Christ in our lives and let our lives be productive of the fruits of the Spirit.
- D. "Wisdom" - common tact, discretion, sound judgment, skill in making a practical application of knowledge acquired.
- E. He must follow in footsteps of Christ (I Cor. 11:1).
- F. He must walk in love (Eph. 5:2).
- G. Must study the Bible (II Tim. 2:15).
- H. Five "C" principles of personal work:
1. Christ-centered.
 - a. Gal. 2:20; 3:27. Whole life centered in Christ.
 - b. If your religion does much for you, then you can do much for others. The only way we can be a light to the world is to reflect the light of Christ.
 2. Consecrated (Rom. 12:1-2).
 - a. Set apart, made holy unto the work of saving the souls of men.
 - b. Song - "Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord, by the power of grace divine. Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope and my will be lost in thine."

- c. I Peter 3:1-2.
- d. "We must go to God for a lost world before we can go to a lost world for God."
- 3. Conscious of a divine mission.
 - a. Great commission not given just to missionaries and preachers.
 - b. "Where others can go for money I can go for the Lord."
- 4. Compassion.
 - a. Mk. 8:2; Rom. 9:1-3; 10:1-2.
- 5. Constancy.
 - a. Coercion is not conversion.
 - b. Must persuade people.

IX. SOME SUGGESTIONS WHICH WILL AID THE INDIVIDUAL IN PERSONAL EVANGELISM:

- A. Remember that all men out of Christ are in one of two classes:

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. "CHURCHED"  | 2. "UNCHURCHED"  |
| Honest and dishonest | Sin-hardened and unapproached |
- B. Be kind yet firm. Never compromise the truth.
- C. Seek to make calls at an opportune time.
- D. Be considerate of the rights of others.
- E. Try to get the prospect to ask you questions.

X. WHY SO LITTLE PERSONAL WORK IS DONE:

- A. I'm too busy.
 - 1. Too busy at what?
 - a. With clubs?
 - b. P.T.A. meetings?
 - c. Making money?
 - d. Watching T.V.?
 - e. Civic functions?
 - f. Running the government?
 - g. Engaging in recreation?
 - 2. We all live busy and complicated lives now days. Yet we have shorter working weeks and modern motivation.
 - 3. What if God had said He was too busy to give Christ for us?
 - 4. Really now, aren't we just trying to justify ourselves?
 - 5. Seek God's kingdom first (Matt. 6:33).

- B. I'm doing my part.
 - 1. What am I doing?
 - 2. We have the idea that worship is the work of the church.
 - 3. Consider: Matt. 7:21; Luke 6:46; Matt. 25:36.
- C. No one is interested.
 - 1. How do you know?
 - 2. Show them your product and why they should be interested in it.
 - 3. Interest begets interest.
- D. I've tried and failed.
 - 1. Do you admit you are a failure?
 - 2. "He only fails who does not try."
 - 3. "... have need of patience" (Heb. 10:35-36).
- E. I don't know enough about the Bible.
 - 1. If you know enough Bible to become a Christian, don't you know enough to teach another person?
 - 2. A quick and sure way to learn more Bible is to become a personal worker.
- F. No one to take the lead.
 - 1. Encourage some one to lead out in the work.
 - 2. If need be, why not be a leader of others yourself.
- G. I don't know how to do personal work.
 - 1. Get one who knows how to teach you.
 - 2. Go with an experienced person - maybe the preacher.
 - 3. No set of rules infallible.
 - 4. Did you know how to tell your wife you loved her?
 - 5. Have the desire to do personal work and you will do it.
 - 6. Common judgment is a must.

XI. SOME THINGS NOT TO DO:

- A. Don't be careless and make unwise statements.
- B. Don't begin with criticism.
 - 1. Such is usually unwise.
 - 2. Some may invite criticism. When you think more good can be done by criticizing, proceed with caution.
 - 3. Memorize Matt. 10:16; I Pet. 3:15; Prov. 25:11; Prov. 15:1.

- C. Don't act superior.
1. It is easy to be so egotistical that we leave the impression that we know more than anybody.
 2. Manifest a little of that knowledge in humility.
 3. Study these scriptures: II Cor. 8:2; Phil. 2:1-4; Rom. 12:3,16.
- D. Don't be dogmatic.
1. Apply teaching in Col. 4:5-6.
 2. Let us study together attitude.
 3. A dogmatic attitude will kill the effectiveness of what you say. Keep in mind the fact that one can have the truth and yet by his attitude close the door of opportunity for teaching others.
 4. By the tone of voice and careless wording of a statement you may say something you didn't mean.
- E. Don't be ashamed to admit you don't know the answer.
1. No one can answer every question. You will demand more respect by admitting you don't know the answer than by trying and giving an incorrect answer.
 2. It might give you a reason to visit the person again if you left a question unanswered.
- F. Don't try to answer everything the other person says.
1. It is very poor taste to be in the objective case and the kickitive mood.
 2. You need not reword everything said by another.
 3. The wise personal worker will find something upon which there is agreement and then work toward an agreement upon the things wherein there is difference. You will accomplish much more if you will deal with a few points at a time and make them clear than if you deal with many things in general.
 4. Things to keep in mind:
 - a. Why some statements are made and questions answered:
 - (1) To arouse resentment and prejudice.
 - (2) To find fault with something you say.
 - (3) To provoke anger.

- b. Many times it is best to ignore such or else refuse to answer them. Sometimes you may answer by asking them a question like Christ did. (Matt. 21:23-46; Matt. 22:14-46).
 - 5. Study Proverbs 26:4-5.
 - 6. Be master of the situation. Be calm and considerate.
- G. Don't do all the talking.
 - 1. James 1:19. Learn to be a good listener.
 - 2. Let him express himself. Get his viewpoint. This will help you get at his problem.
 - 3. Take it easy and guide the conversation in such manner as to lead him out of error into truth.
- H. Don't use so many scriptures that he won't remember any.
 - 1. Use a few and drive home your point.
 - 2. Write them down for him.
 - 3. Let them read along with you.
- I. Never -
 - 1. Hurry in your visit.
 - 2. Stay too long.
 - 3. Talk about members of the church.
 - 4. Run the preacher down the country.
 - 5. Nag.
 - 6. Talk about yourself or your problems.

XII. DISPOSITIONS AND ATTITUDES MUST BE CONSIDERED:

- A. Our attitude.
 - 1. Have genuine love for humanity.
 - a. Be a worker not just out of the sense of duty nor because it is forced upon you, because you love.
 - b. The sick need the physician. We must put ourselves in the other fellow's place.
 - c. Our life must not be narrow nor self-centered.
 - d. If we have touchy dispositions and are hard to get along with, we will not be successful personal workers.
 - 2. Be happy - smile and let others know you are happy.
 - a. Phil 4 - be happy and delighted to be Christians.
 - b. Paul and Silas in prison (Acts 16).

3. People want what I have.
 - a. Have the greatest and most valuable message.
 - b. Others want the blessings enjoyed in Christ.
 - c. People are searching for the message we have.
 4. Realize the value of the soul.
 5. Realize that God will help us. Plant and water and God will give the increase (I Cor. 3:6).
 6. Prayerful attitude. (Eph. 6:18; Rom 10:1-3).
- B. A look at the attitudes and conditions of people whom we try to help.
1. The pessimist.
 - a. Chronic fault-finder.
 - b. Looks on dark side.
 2. The optimist.
 - a. Sees good in everybody and everything.
 - b. Optimism is good. But we must be aware of the fact that this kind of person is likely to think just about anything is fine in religion. He may not take what you say very seriously.
 3. Never read the Bible.
 4. Religion is a racket.
 5. I will live my life and you can live yours.
 6. Timid or fearful.
 - a. He may be ashamed to confess his belief or his objection.
 - b. May be afraid of ridicule from others, or afraid of failure in living the Christian life.
 7. Indifferent to spiritual matters.

XIII. HOW CAN I AROUSE INTEREST?

- A. Get the prospect ready to hear.
 1. In sowing or planting you first prepare the soil.
 2. We should do things to get people in a receptive frame of mind.
- B. Show an interest in their interests.
 1. Hunting.
 2. Fishing.
 3. Children, etc.

- C. Invite them to eat with you. (Luke 14:12-14).
- D. Help them in time of need. Show kindness.
- E. Engage in recreation with them.
- F. Association with them in work.

XIV. SOME SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW TO BEGIN CONVERSATIONS:

- A. Make it easy for him to mention the subject.
- B. Get him alone. This will make it more personal and avoid interferences.
- C. Say something about him or his family. (Rom. 1:8; I Cor. 1:4-5).

XV. THINGS THAT WILL HELP YOU CHANGE PEOPLE:

- A. Stress the things on which you agree. Examples - Paul before Agrippa (Acts 26), before people of Athens (Acts 17); Christ (Jn. 10:34-36).
 - 1. Many have failed because they begin by stressing differences.
 - 2. We must discuss differences, but use good timing and tact in doing so. Show difference between --
 - a. Truth and error.
 - b. Christian life and life of sin.
 - c. Church of Christ and denominations.
- B. Practice the golden rule. (Matt. 7:12).
- C. Never compromise the truth. People don't respect a jellyfish-type individual.
- D. Be genuinely sincere.
- E. Show advantage of change.
 - 1. Truth is better than error.
 - 2. Lord's promises are better than man's and the Lord will keep His promises.

XVI. LAUNCHING OUT:

- A. Securing names.
 - 1. Personal friendships.
 - a. Relatives.
 - b. Acquaintances.
 - c. Acquaintances of members of one's family.

2. Making contacts.
 - a. Visitors at worship services.
 - b. Visitors at Bible classes.
 - c. Through friendships of mutual friends.
 - d. Parents of children who are allowed to attend Bible school.
 - e. Families of church members.
 - f. Friends of church members.
 - g. Families who have had a bereavement.
 - h. When people are given aid, physically or otherwise.
 - i. New comers to the community. Should have several "moving-van spotters" throughout the city.
 - j. When new babies arrive.
 - k. Church census.

XVII. FINAL THOUGHTS AND OBSERVATIONS:

- A. There is no easy nor royal road to success.
 1. Results will follow much study, hard work, and prayer.
 2. It costs to be a disciple of Christ (Luke 9:23, 57-63).
 3. Don't become discouraged and quit just because you can't win everybody.
- B. Things you will face:
 1. Insult, hate, hostilities.
 2. Excuses by the dozens.
 3. Self-righteousness.
 4. The "know-it-all" people.
 5. False friendships.
 6. Procrastination.
- C. Keep these scriptures in mind.
 1. Isa. 55:8-9; Matt. 7:13,14; Matt. 28:19-20; Matt. 10:28; Prov. 11:30; Dan. 12:3; James 5:19-20.

TYPES OF VISITING

I. SHUT-INS:

- A. Whom does this include?
 - 1. Those in hospitals, rest homes, "old folks" homes, poor homes and jails. Also the real old who are unable to go anywhere.
- B. Some suggestions in visiting these people.
 - 1. A group of singers may visit them and a short service be conducted.
 - 2. For the aged:
 - a. A little something to cheer them on their birthday, etc.
 - b. A bouquet of flowers.
 - 3. Flowers, cards, cheerful visits for those who are ill.
 - 4. Contact proper authorities and get permission to have a group visit. Songs may be sung in the halls or in some cases in rooms with the patients.
 - 5. Some things not to do in visiting the sick:
 - a. Don't call at an inconvenient time if you can avoid it.
 - b. Never ask, "What seems to be your trouble?" This is a personal matter and if the patient wants you to know they will volunteer that information.
 - c. Never give him your own favorite remedy or "sure cure". This is the doctor's job.
 - d. Never suggest a change of doctors. Let doctor care for his physical welfare, and you help him raise his morale and improve the spiritual welfare.
 - e. Make short visits and be very pleasant. Avoid talking of illnesses and operations or about others who have died with this disease.
 - 6. Visiting the jails.
 - a. Brief devotional and a short talk. Let the speaker not say, "I am glad to see so many here."
 - b. Distribute good tracts and testaments.
 - c. Learn what you can in a social visit with them. Where they live, How long will they be there. Encourage them to attend services when they do get out of jail.

II. LUKE-WARM MEMBERS:

- A. Elders should know who they are and solicit help from the membership in visiting them and encouraging them to come back to church.
 - 1. Some are discouraged.
 - 2. Others are overtaken in sin (Gal. 6:1-2; James 5:19-20).

III. WIDOWS AND ORPHANS:

- A. More than a social visit. May involve bringing food, clothing, caring for the sick, washing dishes, scrubbing floors, and ironing. See James 2:14-26; 1:26-27; Matt. 25:31-46.
- B. Take them into your home or help in other ways to care for them.

IV. VISIT OTHER FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS:

- A. It promotes good fellowship and love which are essential to work of the church.

V. VISIT NEW MEMBERS:

- A. Often they are lonely and feel left out and they appreciate visits. Make them feel at home and welcomed in the church.

VI. NON-CHRISTIANS:

- A. Get names of new families moved into community.
- B. Make friends with them. Invite them to visit you. Invite them to church services. Offer to come by for them if they don't have a way.
- C. Don't manifest "holier than thou attitude" unless you want to drive them completely away.

MINISTERING TO THE BEREAVED

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. "Health and sickness, joy and sorrow, life and death are strangely intermingled in the story of human lives. They are the threads, the warf, and the weft of which the web of life is woven."
- B. Man's Experiences:
 - 1. As man faces the changing scenes of this earth-life he often walks in the shadows of separation and death.
 - 2. At such times there is gracious work to be done in sympathizing with the sorrowing, bereaved ones and in teaching valuable lessons.
 - 3. Perhaps no sorrow is harder to bear than that which comes when we have to say good-bye to our loved ones. In such an hour one stands in need of God and friends.
 - 4. In the hour of bereavement a Christian can render one of the greatest services by helping those in the dark hour of bereavement. Our Lord taught us to, "weep with them that weep," and He wept as He stood with those who had given up their loved ones. Our Lord was touched when men sorrowed, and He entered into their sorrows with them and gave comfort. We must willingly follow our Master and render every possible service to those in sorrow.
- C. There is no possible way to lay down exact instructions as to how to comfort the bereaved because of varying circumstances and personalities. We may suggest a few points. We are often at a loss for words to express the deep feelings of our hearts when we stand with our friends and brethren in their bereavement, but we have learned that many times it is not what we say that helps them so much, but the fact that we are there. To feel the warm presence of a lovely friend in an hour of darkness is wonderful. To know that someone loves and cares when we sorrow is most encouraging. To know that in such moments we do not have to walk alone is very comforting. We often ask ourselves the question, what can I do to help the bereaved ones whom we love?

II. DISCUSSION:

A. Be with them.

1. Do what we can.
2. Give them your shoulder upon which to lean.

B. Give them Christ's touch.

1. There was glorious power in the touch of the Lord when He was with us. Everywhere He laid His blessed hands He left a blessing, and sorrowing, suffering ones received comfort and peace.
2. Today our hands are His hands for, "we are members of his body" and it is through earthen vessels that He chooses to heal the broken-hearted and comfort them that mourn.
3. We can give this world the Christ touch when we truly have the spirit of Christ and show tenderness, sympathy, patience, gentleness, and love.

C. Refresh their minds with God's word.

1. Refresh their minds with the shining promises of God.
2. There are many beautiful scriptures which will bring comfort. By reminding the bereaved of such scriptures we can keep their minds in touch with God.

D. Give them an interpretation of sorrow.

1. Of course, there will always be mysteries in sorrow for it is impossible for finite minds to know all about it, but we must teach people to be submissive.
2. Our Lord learned obedience by the things which He suffered (Heb. 5:8). And we know that the suffering of our Lord fitted Him for His great work of helping others.
3. It is true that those who can comfort most are those who have sorrowed most. In such moments of bereavement we learn what it means to give up a loved one and thus are better qualified to help others who sorrow.

E. Lead them to believe that Jesus cares.

1. Accomplish this by telling them the experiences of Jesus with those who sorrowed.
2. With Jesus there is a lamp to lighten the darkness of their way, a friend to guide and

to be with us not only in the valley of shadows but one who will shepherd us through the valley of sorrow.

F. Encourage them to live in a state of preparedness.

1. Remind them of the dangers of this life and show one how to prepare for the life after death. This is the greatest service one human being can render to another.
2. Learn that many times in sorrow hearts are especially open to tender suggestions, especially to true Christian friends who love and are willing to help.

G. Show them the clouds of mystery will some day be dispelled.

1. One bright day redeemed souls shall stand on the other side of death's dark river and be able to understand why it was best to cross over.
2. Suggest that this dark hour of sorrow shall pass and that every cloud has a silver lining.

H. Memorize verses of Scripture. Examples are Psa. 46:1; Psa. 23; Psa. 86:5; Psa. 27:1.