**CHRISTCOMPANIONBIBLECHURCH**

 **Weekly Bible Study**

***Branch: Headquarters Date :17/01/2023***

 ***"YOU SHALL BE WITNESSES UNTO ME".* (Part3). Study3.**

 **TEXT**: Mark 1:16-22

**MEMORY VERSE**: James 5:20, Daniel 12:3

 Equipment for witnessing is one of the most important aspects emphasised by the Lord Jesus. As seen in the above passage, He told Peter and Andrew at first contact: ***"And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men."*** Mark 1:17 KJV. Jesus did not limit the conversion of sinners to himself alone. He saw it as a work to be jointly pursued by His converts as well! Throughout Christ ministry, His major preoccupation was to "MAKE THE DISCIPLES EFFECTIVE WITNESSES" of the gospel. The truth still remains, that the gospel will move fast as projected by the Lord when all members of the body of Christ:

*i. See witnessing as personal responsibility.*

*ii. Get necessary equipment to achieve result in winning and equipping others to win souls. These being our main burden as Companion's of Christ, we are to ensure everyone is well envisioned and equipped towards this noble task.*

**EQUIPPING EVERY MEMBER FOR WITNESSING. Romans 12:4-16.**

 No single cell in the body is idle! Every cell is fed to work and contributes towards the survival of the body. Therefore, it must be noted that everyone in the Church is important. Without the Jewish Maid in Namaan’s house taking witnessing seriously, the story of miraculous cleansing of leprosy as experienced by her master will not exist in the scripture at all! A woman boldly testified in our Camp ground prayer at Ayegbaju Ekiti recently that she won and brought five converts to her branch Church in 2022. She had not gone for any seminarian or theological training. Gratitude to God for her salvation and passion for the unsaved which was the compelling force behind her productive and exemplary witnessing feat. God is counting on you too in 2023.

**1. New converts are great resources in winning and bringing others to Christ. John1:40-49. This must be a constant emphasis in the Church. Jesus told Peter and Andrew: *"I will make you to become fishers of men"*.**

*i. New converts have broad and direct interface with unbelievers: As friends, siblings, parents, co-workers, former club members etc. Encouraging and equipping them to witness to these people will bring many souls to Christ.*

*ii. Visible transformation in the life of new converts create attractions and awareness among unbelievers. They are inquisitive and ready to hear the story behind their glorious changes. Act 9:17-22.*

**2. Every member of the Church irrespective of level of growth, maturity and experience has capacity. "Christ within" each heart is enough to be a successful witness. Luke 10:1,17.** In the above scripture, seventy members were saddled with the responsibilities of witnessing. Definitely, these were converts motivated by the Lord. They went everywhere to preach the gospel. Your neighborhood, office, school,shop, market and farm are the right places for you to witness. Make it your daily exercise.

**3. Continual intercession for salvation of souls in the congregation is a good way of emphasising the necessity of witnessing to members, as exemplified by Paul in Romans 10:1.**

*i. Make prayer for salvation of souls and establishment of converts as central nerves in every Church service.*

*ii. Let it be a personal and private burden of every member of the Church to pray for zeal for preaching: repentance, salvation and proper conversion of sinners. Ephesians 3:14-19.*

**4. Training on effective witnessing is very important. A local assembly can help in this dimension through:**

*i. Pairing new converts with matured brethren during outreach and follow up sessions.*

*ii. By providing literature books and journals on passionate evangelism.*

*iii. Periodic assessment of members’ performance with motive to encourage better output.*

**5. Convert's retention capability of the church assembly must be a serious concern in witnessing. This requires good enlightenment of everyone:**

*i. Offensive and careless manners of handling new converts must be researched into and avoided.*

*ii. The new converts must be fed, first with milk at early stage, not strong bones! Otherwise, they will give up the faith and run away from fellowship. Hebrew 5:14.*

*iii. Give good attention to new converts and new comers. Usually, they have many questions that needed answers to be able to stay with the new fold. We can learn from Boaz manners of handling Ruth, a convert from Moab! See Ruth 2:5-23.*

**6. Provide opportunities for practical participation for every saved member in your assembly. The saying: *"to be involved is to be committed"* is true.**

*i. Provide basic information to every convert through CCBC convert class manual.*

*ii. Provide opportunity for water baptism.*

*iii. Enlist them for workers training, and assign trained converts to their areas of gifting to enable every growing convert to serve in the body of Christ.*

**7. Like Christ, recognise and appreciate little efforts, progress and performance in soul winning of Church members. Luke 10:17-21.** Jesus rejoices over souls that turn from sin to righteousness, and much more over those instrumental for their redemption. Following the Masters examples is our wisdom. Amen.

 **HYMN: WILL THERE BE ANY STAR**

1. **I am thinking today of that beautiful land**

**I shall reach when the sun goeth down;**

**When thro’ wonderful grace by my saviuor I stand,**

**Will there be any stars in my crown?**

***Will there be any stars, any stars in my crown;***

***When at evening the sun goeth down?***

***When I wake with the blest, in the mansions of rest?***

***Will there be any stars in my crown?***

1. **In the strength of the Lord let me labour and pray;**

**Let me watch as a winner of souls;**

**That bright stars may be mine in the glorious day,**

**When His praise like the sea billows roll**

1. **O what joy will it be when His face I behold,**

**Living gems at His feet to lay down;**

**It would sweeten my bliss in the city of gold,**

**Should there be any stars in my crown?**