

# The Soul Winner's Manual for Florida Bible College

## INTRODUCTION

### OUTLINE BY RALPH "YANKEE" ARNOLD

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#### A Decision for Every Christian to Make

**Every life has a purpose**, and the purpose of every man is to find it. A man may live for money, power, or fame; but whatever he lives for constitutes his purpose for life. The question to ask is: "What does God say should be my purpose for living?"

Scripture states plainly the purpose for a Christian's life in Mark 8:35. *"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it, but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it."*

- **John 3:16 is a promise to "whosoever" is lost, that they may be saved.** John 3:16 promises that "whosoever" believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. This means that anyone who trusts Christ as Savior will have everlasting life. It is a lost person's choice whether he will trust Christ or not for salvation. The wise man will decide to trust Christ as his Savior.
- **Mark 8:35 is a promise to "whosoever" is saved, that they may serve Him.** Mark 8:35, clearly and plainly states the purpose for a Christian's life. "Whosoever", in Mark 8:35 refers to believers, those who know Christ as Savior. Mark 8:35 promises that *"Whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel's, shall save it."*

This means that ANY believer who will live for Christ and the gospel will save his life. Christ gives this scripture, not for salvation, but for discipleship. So, it is a believer's choice whether he will live for Christ and the gospel or...live for himself. It is a decision each believer MUST make.

What was the purpose of Christ's life? *"For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."* (Luke 19:10) Christ lived and died for the lost man.

**Live for the sake of the gospel:** It is good news for the lost man to know that he can have eternal life by trusting in Jesus Christ alone as his Savior. So to live for the gospel's sake is to live for the sake of the lost man.

#### Ro 12:1

¶ I beseech you therefore, brethren, **THAT YOU MIGHT WIN SOULS** by the mercies of God, **THAT YOU MIGHT WIN SOULS** that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, **THAT YOU MIGHT WIN SOULS** holy, **THAT YOU MIGHT WIN SOULS** acceptable unto God, **THAT YOU MIGHT WIN SOULS** which is your reasonable service. **THAT YOU MIGHT WIN SOULS**

2 And be not conformed to this world: **THAT YOU MIGHT WIN SOULS** but be ye transformed **THAT YOU MIGHT WIN SOULS** by the renewing of your mind, **THAT YOU MIGHT WIN SOULS** that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God **THAT YOU MIGHT WIN SOULS.**

A **flagpole** needs guide-wires to keep it from falling. The flag is the gospel. The guide-wires are all the areas of a Christian's life. Take away the flag and the flagpole and what purpose is there for the guide-wires? None!

**THINK - HOW DOES MY LIFE PROFIT THE LOST MAN?** Satan, the enemy of man's soul, will seek to sidetrack every Christian from this one main purpose. Notice II Tim. 2:26 and II Cor. 4:4. Satan **captures** the believers and **blinds** the lost.

Keep this in mind. A Christian's life is made up of many areas: Bible study, prayer, finances, family, work, and church. However, none of these areas are to be his main purpose for living, but to help him accomplish his purpose. These "guy-wires" will keep Christ and the gospel your purpose for living.

### WHY SHOULD I BE A SOUL WINNER?

#### (1) **BECAUSE OF REWARDS IN ETERNITY.**

When you lose your interest and desires in life for those of Jesus Christ - the salvation of lost souls and the training of soul-winners - you gain what will last for ETERNITY!! Anything else you live for - riches, power, and fame - will be lost as soon as you die.

King Solomon, a man who turned away from God and decided to live for himself, realized this when he wrote, *"Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labor that I had labored to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun."* (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

Paul, the apostle, lived his life for the sake of the lost man.

- *"Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved."* (I Corinthians 10:33). What was his conclusion?
- *"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is GAIN."* (Philippians 1:21).

Living for the Lord Jesus Christ brought Paul peace and satisfaction in this life and eternal rewards later in heaven. So what did riches of this world have to offer him? *"Lay up for yourself treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal."* (Matthew 6:19).

The souls Paul won to Christ would be his most precious treasure in heaven. *"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?"* (I Thessalonians 2:19, 20). Paul's life was "gain" because he "lost" it for Christ!

*"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."* (II Corinthians 5:10). "We" refers to Christians. Every Christian must appear before the judgment seat, not to determine salvation, but rewards.

### ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE UP ON A WASTED LIFE?

**"Only one life  
T'will soon be past,  
Only what's done  
For Christ will last."**

### WHY SHOULD I BE A SOUL WINNER?

#### (2) **BECAUSE OF THE NEED OF THE LOST.**

*"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me: yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel."* (I Corinthians 9:16). Preaching the gospel is a NECESSITY. Why? There is no other way for the lost to hear! *"How shall they hear without a preacher?"* (Romans 10:14). It is NECESSARY to preach the gospel!

The lost people in this world need Christians to shine the light and reveal the way to heaven. That light is the gospel. *"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ...should shine unto them"* (II Corinthians 4:4).

Phil. 2:15-16.

Satan, the god of this world seeks to hinder the shining of the light of the gospel. Thus he will seek to hinder those who are supposed to shine with the light - Christians! *"For God, Who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."* (II Corinthians 4:6). It is every Christians' responsibility to give this light to the lost man. Read Matt 5:16

In Luke 16, Christ speaks of two men, a rich man and a beggar named Lazarus, both died. What happened to the rich man? *"And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments"* (Luke 16:23). He was in conscious torment.

The place mentioned in Luke 16 is Sheol or Hades, the place of the departed dead. It was for both believers and non-believers. The rich man looked over and could see two believers, Lazarus and Abraham. He had two requests:

*"Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."* (Luke 16:24).

- His first request was for Lazarus to be sent to him. Request denied!!
- His second request was for Lazarus to be sent to his brothers. Request denied!!

*"I pray thee therefore, father, thou wouldst SEND HIM (Lazarus) to my father's house: for I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment."* (Luke 16:27,28). People in hell are more concerned about the salvation of their relatives than are most Christians! We are sent by Christ into the world for the same purpose the Father sent Christ into the world, *"As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world"*, John 17:18. Christ was sent to seek and to save the lost, and so are we.

The most important thing revealed at the judgment seat of Christ is - did we or do we not persuade men? *"Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men."* (II Corinthians 5:11). The fear of the Lord should motivate us to live for Him. The first moment in heaven will reveal to us what the lost will miss by not being there.

### **(3) BECAUSE OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST.**

*"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again."* (II Corinthians 5:14,15). Live for the one who loves you, and gave Himself a voluntary sacrifice for your sins. Paul was a voluntary "love slave" (servant) of Jesus Christ. He declares in Ephesians 4:1, that he is *"prisoner of the Lord"*. Paul speaks of being free and yet he is a prisoner of the Lord.

### **His love for the Lord made Paul a prisoner to the desires of the Lord.**

After Christ's resurrection the disciples had become disheartened, so they went fishing. John 21 tells of how Christ appeared to them again. He asked this question of Peter, *"Lovest thou me more than these?"* Do you love the Lord more than the things of the world? Christ then asked Peter, *"Lovest thou me?"* After Peter said yes, Christ said, *"Feed my sheep."*

Remember, Christ never asked Peter if he loved the sheep. You can't love the sheep without loving God, and if you love God, you will love THE SHEEP. There are lost sheep to win (I Peter 2:25) and saved sheep

to train (I Peter 5:2-4). Christ wants you to serve Him because of your love for Him, the Shepherd. Whether or not you feed the sheep depends on whether or not you love the Lord. If you love Him, then you'll feed the sheep. *"If you love me, keep my commandments"* (John 14:15).

**Love commands.** A wife may love her husband. That love will command her. Her husband will not have to put up signs around the house. "Thou shalt do my dishes", "Thou shalt take out my trash", and "Thou shalt fix my dinners". Her love for him will motivate her to do all those things and much more.

Your love for Christ will command you. You will not just tell them the gospel message; you will do much more - you will impart your life and soul in order to reach them! God's love is shed abroad in our hearts (Romans 5:5), it doesn't have to be your love, it only need to be a channel of God's love. The message that God gives eternal life free proves God loves him. Let God love the lost man through you by what you tell them!

No one can force you to truly serve the Lord. You do not belong to yourself; you have been bought and paid for by the Lord. Your trouble comes when as a slave to the Lord you try to break away. Satan will use you then.

### **Who will make a better taskmaster, the Lord who loves you or Satan who wishes to destroy you?**

Everyone's problem is a love problem. You will not serve the Lord if you do not love him. Why should you love the Lord? *"We love him, because he first loved us"* (I John 4:19). Jesus love compelled him to sacrifice himself to suffer the anguish and reproach of the cross. Because of this, Paul could declare that he was a love-slave of Jesus Christ, *"separated unto the gospel of God"* (Romans 1:1). You should separate yourself unto the purpose God has for you - the gospel. It is a wise decision to live for the one who loves you.

#### **(4) BECAUSE OF THE COMMAND FROM ABOVE.**

*"And he said unto them, Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."* (Mark 16:17). Christ told his disciples to go-that's a command. Preaching the gospel is a command of God, not a leading. "I don't feel like witnessing; it is not what I want to do".

Paul says in I Corinthians 9:17, *"For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is still committed unto me."* Sometimes you may preach the gospel unwillingly. You know you have the "dispensation" (stewardship or responsibility) and so you do it just because you should. If God says to do it and you do it because he said to - that is a good enough motive!

Here are Paul's remarks over those who preach with **right motives**. (I Thess. 2:1-13)

Here are Paul's remarks over those who preached with **wrong motives**. (Phil. 1:12-18)

#### **Illustration:**

What if I ask my daughter to wash dishes and she says: "I really don't want to wash dishes; I'd rather go shopping, but praise your name, most holy righteous father, what is your perfect will for me?" I answer, "Do the dishes!"

"But I can't wash the dishes, my motives are wrong. I don't want to, so I won't enjoy it. But praise your name, father, what is your perfect will for me?" Soon I would put her in the "dish-washing business!"

**Soldiers** do not quit fighting just because they do not feel like fighting! Every Christian is a soldier in the Lord's army, battling for the souls of men. When you feel like it or when you don't, give out the good news of salvation. Don't base your action on feelings, but on what God says in Scripture. "I will preach the gospel because God tells me to." If you do it unwillingly, you still have results and feelings will often follow.

**Your joy should come from fulfilling your responsibility.**

***"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"*** (Mark 15:16). The disciples had walked with Christ three and one-half years before he sent them out. Yes, they had gone out locally, but not into the world... Christ had given them three and one-half years of Bible training first. There should not be one place they would not go, or one person they would not reach.

"Just a few people can't win the world!" But God has given us a plan. Matthew 28:19,20 gives us the plan. ***"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."***

If you only win people to the Lord, your complete responsibility has not been fulfilled. The Bible says, ***"Teaching them."*** Teaching whom? Teach those who know the Lord. What do you teach them? ***"... To observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."***

What was the command? Mark 16:15, ***"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."*** So you need to teach those you have won to the Lord to do the same as you. The Great Commission was given to the apostles and through them TO US! Is being a soul-winner a command? Yes, it is! WE ALL HAVE THE COMMAND.

Wasn't the Great Commission given before the church age? (The church is the Body of Christ - composed of all believers.) Yes, the command given in Matthew 28:19-20, was given by Christ before the church age, but when was it to begin?

***"And, behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."*** (Luke 24:49). TARRY YE mean you are commanded to go - but also commanded to wait.

There was a time for them to go, but the TIME WAS NOT YET. He told them WHEN to go. ***"And being assembled together with them, commanded them they should not depart from Jerusalem, but WAIT for the promise of the Father, which, saith He, ye have heard of Me."*** (Acts 1:4).

The ***"power from on high"*** they were to receive was the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5). The Holy Spirit indwells every Christian and gives him the power he needs to be a soul-winner. Every Christian has the ability to win souls. In most cases, it is not that a Christian can't win souls, but that he won't. ***"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*** (Acts 1:8). God says He has given us the power we need to accomplish the job He has commanded us to do.

**Pentecost** is the day the church was born. Pentecost is the day the command was **to begin**, *so the Great Commission was given to the church*. That's our job. HOW HAVE WE DONE?

Will you live for the sake of the lost man or will you live for yourself? Just as you had to DECIDE to trust Christ as your Savior, now you must DECIDE whether or not to live your life for the salvation of lost souls.

Remember the **rewards** for eternity, the **need** of the lost, the **love** of Christ, and the **command** from above as you consider this most important decision in your Christian life.

It is my prayer that these studies will give you knowledge that will help you become an effective servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, winning lost souls and then training them to reach others.

WIN THEM AND TRAIN THEM. There is no better purpose in life than the  
Gospel Driven Life!!!