

# The Soul Winner's Manual

LECTURE 7 (PART 1 of 2) OUTLINE BY RALPH "YANKEE" ARNOLD

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## The Messenger's Testimony

1. The Bible says to **BE CAREFUL** to maintain good works. You can be sure that Satan will **"pull every trick"** to **get you** to ruin your testimony.

Titus 3:8, "This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that **they which have believed** in God might be careful to **maintain good works**. These things are good and profitable unto men".

2. Many times, when a Christian is sound doctrinally and determined to witness, Satan will "sneak around the back door" and ruin that Christian's testimony because he wasn't CAREFUL. Scripture says,
  - a. I Pet. 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may **DEVOUR**".
  - b. Eph. 6: 11, You will have to "Put on the whole armour of God, that **ye may be able to stand** against the wiles of the devil".

**We should do what is proper in every situation because people will use our poor testimony to criticize Christian work.** If people find that you lie, cheat, steal, speak in an uncouth manner, gossip, are inconsiderate of others, etc., you will not be liked, and you will do GREAT HARM to your ministry. People will look at your life and say, "If that is an example of Christianity, then I don't want it." This is so important! God warns us, II Cor. 6:3,

**"Giving no offense in any thing, that the MINISTRY be not blamed!"**

3. Some things might be perfectly harmless for you to do, except that some Christians would consider it a poor testimony for one reason or another. You should consider if this is something you should abstain from.
  - a. I Thess. 5:22, The Lord cautions us to "Abstain from all appearance of evil".
  - b. I Cor. 8:8, Paul knew the meat was neither blessed nor cursed by the idol. But there were Christians who thought Paul should not eat that meat.
  - c. Rom. 14:21, He said, "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak" Could Paul have eaten meat? Yes. Did he? No.

4. I Cor. 8 :13, “Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend”. In Christian work you should not **purposefully** offend people . . . and **neither** can you let yourself be offended. If you allow people to hurt your feelings, you will not be able to have the ministry with them in their lives that you need to have.

**Paul disciplined his own life to serve and help others.**

As a soulwinner, you will probably “give up” things that the average Christian wouldn’t even question-**not because you must**-but because you wouldn’t want anything in your life to keep people from trusting Christ as their Saviour.

1. It is not a question of “Can you do this or that and still be saved?” Nothing can affect your eternal life.
  - a. I Cor. 6:12, “All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any”.
  - b. Rom. 6:15, 16, Paul kept himself from becoming enslaved by sin in his daily life so he could be more greatly used for the Lord.
  - c. Gal. 5:13, “For brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another”.
2. To be a fruitful witness for the Lord you must voluntarily discipline your life.
  - a. If you tell people about Christ and don’t honor Christ in your life, people won’t respect you and will not listen when you witness.
  - b. However, don’t go to the opposite extreme either. Some Christians get so introspective that they spend all their time trying to be “holy,” spend hours in “prayer and meditation,” but neglect to tell the lost about Christ. They live “good lives” before others, but no one ever hears the gospel from their lips.
  - d. If you live a good life but don’t witness, you will get all the glory instead of Christ, to whom all glory belongs (I Cor. 1 :31). You will be labeled a “**fanatic**” if you witness without a life to back it up. A good testimony and a good witness go hand-in-hand. **You must have both** to glorify the Lord. They are not in competition.
3. John 8:44 says Satan is a liar and the father of lies.

Satan tries to get the lost to live good lives, deceiving them that this would help them get to heaven. Satan tries to keep the saved from living good lives, because he knows that this will keep the lost from accepting the gospel.

4. **I Thessalonians, chapter two, mentions many qualities Paul had as a soul winner.** (1) was bold in his witness, (2) used no deceit or trickery, (3) fulfilled his trust and pleased God, (4) was honest, (5) didn't seek the praise of men, ( 6 ) was gentle, ( 7 ) had great love and concern, ( 8 ) labored diligently, (9) carried a good testimony, and (10) taught them to live for the Lord.

- a. **If you want to be a great soul winner, you must be a great servant.** Mk 10:43, "... whosoever will be great among you, shall be your **MINISTER**".
- b. I Cor. 9:1 and 19, The Apostle Paul is a wonderful example of a really dedicated Christian. Listen to his own words in. "Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? **Are not ye my work** in the Lord? For though I be free from all men, yet have **I made myself servant unto all**, that I might gain the more."

**1. If you want to be a great soul winner, you must be make great sacrifices.**

- a. Acts 20:20, 21, 31, Do you realize the extent of the dedication of the Apostle Paul? Yes, he witnessed night and day for three years straight, publicly and privately. But what was he willing to give up to lead a soul to Christ? Money? Position? Spare time? Sports? Home? Health? Life itself?
- b. I Thess. 2:8, Did you know that he was willing to have given his OWN SOUL that others could be saved? tells us, "So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also OUR OWN SOULS, because ye were dear unto us."
- c. Romans 9:3, Paul cared so much for souls that he was willing, if it were possible even to go to hell himself, if that would help his fellow Jews to be saved.
- d. Hebrews 12:1, says to "lay aside every **weight**." Some things aren't even a poor testimony in themselves, but they "bog" you down, they are "weights," they take up valuable time which you should be using for the Lord.
- e. II Tim. 2:4, "No man that warreth entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier". Your life can become filled with so many "good" things of this life that you haven't the time to do much for Christ.

**2. If you want to be a great soulwinner, you must live by schedule.**

No one can tell you how to run your life . . . what to include in your schedule, and what to leave out. You could probably rationalize and excuse any activity which you really wanted to do. But between you and the Lord you must decide what is best for your service to Him. Your time is your life. You do not know how much you have. How you spend your time each day will determine the total worth of your life. If your life is made up largely of sports, money, pleasure, television, clubs, etc., then your life will come and go-and not much will be accomplished for Christ in it.

**Text:** Phil. 1:21 Can you say, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain”? If your time is spent for Christ, dying truly will be gain for you, for you will have much reward in heaven. Paul said that for him to live was “Christ.” He spent his time on things that were valuable to Christ. How do you spend your time?

## 1. The Value of the Scriptures

- a. Psalm 138:2, God exalts His Word even above His own Name (). With such high recommendation from God Himself, we certainly should know the Bible WELL, for our own personal comfort and exhortation and to bring the gospel message to the lost.
- a. II Tim. 3: 15, “. . . the holy Scriptures . . . are **able to make thee wise** unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” Rom. 10:17, “So then **faith cometh by hearing**, and hearing by the Word of God”.

## 2. The Vision from the Scriptures (Desire is Vision)

- a. Proverbs 29:18, Where *there is* no **vision**, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he. II Tim. 2:15, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth”. **You must envision God using you.**
- b. I Peter 2:2, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may GROW thereby”. **You must desire a vision of growth.** Yes, it is possible to win souls with very little knowledge of Scripture. A baby is not expected to have the knowledge of a college graduate. But when a baby remains infantile all his life, it is certainly a great tragedy.
- b. I Pet. 3: 15, God says, Those who **desire** to be FRUITFUL soulwinners should be “ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh (him) a reason of the hope that is in (him) . . .”.

## 3. The Victory through the Scriptures

- a. Rom. 1:15, Paul said he was “. . . READY to preach the gospel . . .”. **The key to victory is being prepared.** To preach the gospel in such a way that will answer people’s questions will require that you spend time MEMORIZING Scriptures and studying thoroughly the passages which answer people’s questions.
- b. Hebrews 4 :12, **GOD’S WORD IS POWER!** Knowledge of God’s Word is your greatest “weapon” in witnessing. “For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, ....”