

# The Road to Pergamum...

**You Should be a  
Witness**

Lesson Ten



# *The Road to Success in Christian Living*

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## COMMITMENT

I believe:

- that God the eternal Father, creator of all things, loved me so much that Jesus came to earth to be my Savior.
- that Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died to pay for my sins, was buried, rose from the dead on the third day, appeared to many people, ascended to Heaven where He sits at the right hand of God, and will one day return to earth taking all believers of all the ages to be with Him in Heaven forever.
- that when I made declaration of this, my belief, to God, I became His adopted child and His Holy Spirit came to be with my spirit forever.
- that my relationship with God is in His hands, and He will never let me go.

## The Road to Pergamum...You Should be a Witness

**Lesson Goal:** To encourage believers to share the Good News.

**Scriptures:** Revelation 2:12, 13; 1:5; Acts 16;

**Memory Verse:** "...I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace." Acts 20:24

There is an interesting story in the Revelation. Jesus is addressing the churches through the Apostle John. He comes to the church at Pergamum and tells them how much He appreciates them and how He sympathizes with their situation. They were persecuted for their loyalty to Christ and were being killed for their faith. Jesus told them, through John, that He understood that they lived "where Satan has his throne." Some really bad things happened there...even the worship of Satan. But, Jesus said, you continued to be loyal even when Antipas, "my faithful witness," was martyred "where Satan lives."

Obviously, Antipas was a vocal witness for Christ. He was not willing to be quiet about what Jesus had done for him.\* A wonderful thing about this story is that Antipas is called the same thing as Jesus. In Revelation 1:5 Jesus is called "the faithful witness." Both Antipas and Jesus were willing to die for the privilege of following God's will.

The road to Pergamum will lead us, as Christians, to be faithful witnesses. Every Christian is given the opportunity and responsibility to tell others about God and what Jesus has done for them.

We have all been given a testimony. You might think that you don't have an inspiring testimony...a story that people want to hear...an ability to use Scripture well in explaining God and His salvation to people. Think again!

You have all the testimony (witness) you need. God has done something for you...in your life...within your ability to understand. You can share that.

When a witness gives testimony in a court of law, that person is to share truthfully what they have seen or heard. They tell of a real and personal experience. Experts in scientific fields give witness to scientific facts. Experts in the law give witness to the application of the law. The rest of us just tell what we have experienced, usually what we have seen or heard.

So, we can assume that Antipas was no different from you or me. He was someone who had experienced a personal relationship with God. He knew that such an



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experience was something that others should have. He just wanted to tell everyone...everyone he could possibly tell...about what God had done for him.

That is very natural. When someone gets a special gift, they normally want to tell someone about it. If you are given something special, especially the gift of life, you should be unable to keep it to yourself. Think about someone who has been given a heart transplant. Think of how happy it makes them and how pleased they are to tell others about that gift of life.

Now, does that person have to understand all that the doctors did to accomplish the transplant successfully? Hardly! All they have to know is that they have a new heart and it provides life-giving movement to their blood. All they have to know is that there is something different about them. All they have to know is that they are no longer threatened by immediate death. All they have to know is that they feel better than they have felt in a long time. And when they tell someone about it, that is what they talk about.

The very same thing is true of the Christian who receives new life in Christ. You don't have to know all the Bible verses and all the beliefs that apply to the new life. You don't have to know how to explain all that God did to make your salvation possible. What you do have to know, to tell someone else about your new life, is that when you asked God to forgive your sins, when you confessed to Him that you believed that He loved you and sent His Son to earth to sacrifice His life for your sins, God did forgive you and now you have eternal life with God.

Salvation is a personal thing. Your testimony of your salvation is a personal thing. It is simply telling someone what God has done in your life. If God hasn't changed your life, you aren't saved and you don't have a testimony to share. Truly, if you have nothing to tell, you most likely don't have new life in Christ.

But, that is not the case. You do have new life, or you would not have made the confession in the left-hand column at the beginning of this lesson.

\*Underlined sentences in the Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.

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## **Memory Verse:**

"...I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace." Acts 20:24

## **You Should be a Witness:**

>Antipas was a vocal \_\_\_\_\_ for Christ... not willing to be quiet about what \_\_\_\_\_ had \_\_\_\_\_ for him.

>Every Christian is given the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to tell others about God and what Jesus has done for them.

>God has done something for you...in your \_\_\_\_\_...within your \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ that you can share.

>If you are given something \_\_\_\_\_, especially the gift of \_\_\_\_\_, you should be \_\_\_\_\_ to keep it to yourself.

>A Christian who receives new life in \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't have to know all the

Bible verses and all the \_\_\_\_\_ that apply to the new life; doesn't have to know how to \_\_\_\_\_ all that God did to make \_\_\_\_\_ possible.

All you must know is that when you asked God to \_\_\_\_\_ your sins, when you confessed to Him that you \_\_\_\_\_ that He loved you and sent His Son to earth to sacrifice His life for your \_\_\_\_\_, God did forgive you and you have eternal life with God.

>Salvation is a personal thing and \_\_\_\_\_ of your salvation is a personal thing.

# You Should Be A Witness

## How does a person become a good witness of their salvation?

First, it is not about convincing the another person that they should be saved. That may seem a strange thing to say, but it is definitely true. You see, it is the work of God's Holy Spirit to convince a person that they should let Jesus become their Savior and Lord. Jesus said that He was sending a Counselor (God's Holy Spirit) to convict the world of sin. It is that Holy Spirit who convinces each of us that we are sinners and need forgiveness. (John 16:8) It is that same Holy Spirit who draws us to salvation. (John 6:44)

Witnessing is all about living out your Christian life before others and telling them what God has done for you.

Paul's example: Paul was, as we discussed earlier in this study, interrupted on the road to Damascus by a light and the voice of Jesus. Paul could never get enough of telling that story. We know that Paul spoke of it before the crowd in Acts 22 and before King Agrippa in Acts 26. You can be sure that he repeated that testimony everywhere he went. It was his story, just like you have your story.

You are saying, "Well that is an exciting story. Mine is dull compared to that!" Oh really? You heard the still small voice of God. You responded with a plea for forgiveness. You realized that the Creator of the universe wanted to adopt you as His very own child. You gave yourself to Him by accepting the sacrifice of His only Son which paid the eternal debt for all your sin. That's dull? DULL?? Hardly!

You do have a story to tell...a wonderful story of a covenant made between you and God Himself. The covenant, sealed by the presence of God's Holy Spirit in your life, is eternal. God has pledged Himself to you and will never break the covenant.

When you share your story, someone may give you the opportunity to show them what is offered in salvation. They may ask, "How can I have that experience?" Or you might feel led of God's Holy Spirit to ask them, "Would you like to know how you can have that experience?" When their attitude is positive, you can use the Bible to show them how.

**Always wait for prompting of God's Spirit!** When you read the story of Paul, Silas and their companions on the way to Philippi (in Acts 16) you will see that God's Spirit would not let them go into certain areas to witness. He did lead them into other areas where they could share their witness, even to the city jail in Philippi.

The following is a simple and easily remembered plan for showing a person the way to salvation:

First, pray for God's guidance and read \*Romans 1:16 and 17.

Second, read with the person with whom you are sharing a witness, \*Romans 3:23. Emphasize the fact that everyone has sinned and sin must be forgiven.

Third, read \*Romans 5:8. Emphasize the fact that God loved us before we ever thought about loving Him or accepting His offer of forgiveness...forgiveness of our sin.

Fourth, read \*Romans 6:23. Emphasize the fact that, even though all sin is bad and condemns us to death, we don't have to pay that price. God offered Jesus as the payment for our sin, and gives us eternal life with Him.

Fifth, read \*Romans 10:9, 10. Emphasize the fact that all of us must not only believe to the core of our being that Jesus is Lord, but that He conquered death and now lives with the Father in Heaven. It is not just about saying that you love God, it is about your willingness for God to change you from the inside out.

Sixth, read \*Romans 8:38, 39. Emphasize the fact that there is nothing in Earth or Heaven that can separate us from the love of God which insures our salvation for all eternity.

\*Some mark these verses in their Bible so that they will be ready when God gives the opportunity to witness.