



**ED LACY MINISTRIES, INC.**  
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STRIVING TO DO  
GOD'S WORK, GOD'S WAY, FOR GOD'S GLORY

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord Jesus,

I was reminded, yesterday, of the occasion when King David moved the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, after conquering the city and making it his nation's capital. In II Samuel 6:3, we are alerted to an important truth, which we need to hear, in this critical hour. It declares, "They set the Ark of God on a **NEW CART**..." You may be thinking, "Well Ed, so what? Why is using a new cart such a huge problem"? Friends, the great wickedness lies in the fact that **'God'** had given specific instructions in the Old Testament of concerning how the sacred Ark was to be moved. This was designed and commissioned purposely by God and for God's glory. He had not only given concise directions concerning how the Ark was to be constructed, He had also delivered explicit guidelines on how the Ark was to be carried! God had mandated that the Ark should be carried on poles, upon the shoulders of the Levities, who were set apart for this sacred task. Again you may ask, "Well Ed, how and why did the people of God concoct this new method for moving the Holy Ark of God"? The answer is found in the previous writing of Samuel. The infidel and idolatrous Philistine priests had given their leaders instructions, concerning how the Ark should be removed from the land of the Philistines; and returned to the people of God! I Samuel 6:7-8 tells us, "Now, therefore, make a **NEW CART**, take two milk cows which have never been yoked, and hitch the cows to the cart... Then take the Ark of the Lord and set it on the cart.. ." It is not surprising that the 'pagan Philistines' invented their

own profane method of transporting the Ark of the Lord; for they did not possess the Word of God! So they certainly did not have any idea of God's specific instructions, concerning the "God-pleasing" method for carrying out such a sacred task. But the great tragedy is that the Israelites chose to mimic the method of the worldly, pagan Philistines, rather than to obey the 'means that God had ordained', to carry out this vital mission!



The Ark of God was never to be handled or moved by a "new method"! Also, it was never to be carried about like it was just another common piece of furniture. When God gave them a pattern, He expected them to follow and obey His method and employ His means. But this specific command from the Lord was

ignored, for the sake of expediency and pragmatism! Instead of carrying out this important mission in God's clearly determined way; the example of the pagan Philistines, (the people of this world), was imitated. How could this possibly happen, when God's method was so clearly delineated? Did David consider "God's ways" as being obsolete? Antiquated? Did he think that any method would do, just as long as he got the job done? Did he falsely deduce that it was acceptable to substitute the world's ways for God's ways? Had the people of God lost their reverence for the Lord and His ways? Friends for whatever reason or motive, the Ark was not transported according to God's biblical method. So when they attempted to carry out God's mission in a worldly manner, they committed a serious trespass against the Lord God. They ignored God's appointed method and substituted them with their own "man-concocted" arrangements!

It wasn't long before their rebellion against the Lord's clear-cut command resulted in death. For they had become so lax and irreverent, that when the oxen stumbled, Uzzah foolishly put out his hand and took hold of the Holy Ark of God. The very reason that the poles were to be used by the Levites was so that the Holy Ark would not be touched. The Levites could walk in step with each other and the Ark would remain stable in their midst. However, by putting the ark on a NEW CART, it made it susceptible to the movements of the animals. And what was the fruit that was produced by forsaking the ways of the Lord and imitating the ways of the world? This trespass ultimately resulted in the death of Uzzah!



How does this admonition apply to us in the contemporary evangelical church?

Brothers and sisters, I have heard countless preachers, evangelists and denominational leaders make the following statement, "THE MESSAGE NEVER CHANGES; BUT THE METHODS DO"! But friends, all of the Old Testament scriptures are given for our admonition, (the correction of error)! Is it possible that the overarching reason for the "spiritual death", which appears to be smothering the majority of evangelical churches today, is directly related to this precise issue? We have now witnessed over 75 years of evangelicals who have subtly ignored God's ordained means to carry out God's great mission of evangelism. Instead of trusting God's means, they have been guilty of concocting many NEW CARTS, on which to carry out God's great mission. Multitudes have become exceedingly irresponsible and negligent, concerning the message that they are commanded to declare, and the methods that they are directed to employ! They are attempting to carry out God's mission, as though the message and the methods do not matter; just as long as they "produce decisions for Christ". Pragmatism is the rule of the day! Churches search for the latest fads and fashions of the world; and then do their best to imitate them. They replicate the world's latest gimmicks and gadgets and "tack on" a little superficial and inoffensive message! They apparently have no genuine interest in carefully studying the gospels and the book of Acts, so that they might discover the message, which is to be preached and the methods that God has specifically prescribed, to carry out this "holy work". They attempt to carry out **God's mission** in a manner that is diametrically opposed to God's designated guidelines. Many of them sinfully shift the focus of their message away from the Person, the work and the terms of the Lord Jesus; and they focus their message to appeal to carnal desires of the unconverted masses. Additionally, in many cases, high-pressure tactics are employed and human manipulation is freely engaged in. But sooner or later all of the efforts, which are not carried out according to the plumbline of the Word of God, will produce death and failure!



The Israelites of old disobeyed God's specific orders; disregarded His word; and imitated the Philistines. These eventually led to death. In a similar manner, all of these "worldly methods and diluted messages" have produced a harvest of "spiritually dead and dangerously deceived sinners"! Could this be the reason that there are almost 12 million baptized people, (in my own denomination), who do not attend anyone's church? Could this be the "root cause" that explains why millions of those, who do attend Sunday morning church services, do not appear to be manifesting the "I John evidences" that they are authentically converted to Christ?

Friends, "GOD'S MESSAGE HAS NOT CHANGED; AND GOD'S METHODS HAVE NOT CHANGED"! Our Lord and Teacher is calling on us, not only to accomplish His great mission; but He has called us to carry out this mission, according to the means that He has already prescribed. I believe that we are in desperate need of revival. But I also believe that it must commence, with a turning back to God's instruction manual, concerning both the message and the methods of Biblical evangelism! May God send a "reformation revival" that would fully return us to God's instructional manual!

## USING GOD'S MEANS AND WATCHING GOD CONVERT!

I received an e-mail from Pastor Johnny Touchet, the senior pastor of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Easley, SC. I had the privilege of teaching 'Christ-centered Evangelism' to their congregation, 4 weeks ago. I taught 8 of the 12 sessions, before we were interrupted by a winter storm. Our final 2 evenings had to be cancelled due to the weather. However, the congregation has been watching the remaining 4 sessions on DVD! Pastor Johnny reported, **"Even though we had to watch the last 4 sessions on DVD, those who were in attendance have been tremendously impacted by the study of Christ-centered Evangelism. We have one more session this Wednesday. One of our counselors has been sharing Christ with a dear lady in the area. After planting the bad news and the good news into the heart of this lady, she verbally testified that she wanted to be saved. The unconverted lady, (because of her past traditions and experiences), then expected our counselor to coerce her to repeat a prayer. But instead, our counselor (having learned well from the teachings) gave her more scriptures concerning conversion; gave her your gospel tract; and urged her to seek the Lord! Bro. Ed, this dear lady now testifies that she has entered through the narrow gate! I am so thankful that God has brought our congregation these glorious truths, once again!"**

This precious Christian counselor had grasped the reality, that we must do all that the Lord commands us to do in evangelism; (we must pray; we must proclaim; and we must plead). But then, we must not step across the line and into God's territory; with our humanly invented techniques and tactics, which cannot be found in the scriptures. We must prayerfully wait for God to accomplish what only He can, in His timing!

Just a few weeks ago, I sat across a table from a middle-aged man, with tears flowing down his face. I had just concluded preaching on the subject of 'Being Christianized But Not Converted'! After proclaiming the truths of conversion, I pleaded with sinners to come to King Jesus on His conditions. And then, we prayerfully waited on the Holy Spirit to perform His miraculous birthing work, in His perfect timing! This middle-aged man was one of a few men who testified, "Bro. Ed, I see it! For the first time in my life, I can see the truth"!



There was another middle-aged man, who is a building contractor, named Steven. He also asked me to speak with him about the need of his soul. He said these powerful words to me, "I have heard other preachers say that salvation is simple and easy! But this conversion, which you are describing, sounds impossible!" I responded to Steven by saying, "The Lord Jesus tells us that true conversion is impossible with men. But not with God, for with God all things are possible." Two weeks later, I had the joy of giving Steven a new study Bible. He said to me, with a smile from ear to ear, "I am going to my room and begin to devour it, right now!"

## CHRIST-CENTERED EVANGELISM IN A BOOK!

Over the last couple of years, pastors in India, Cuba and Africa, (as well as some in our country), have exhorted me to place the teachings of the "Christ-centered Evangelism" in a book format. I have continually responded by saying, "Do we really need another book on evangelism in America?" However, the calls from other countries; the lack of solid teaching on evangelism in other countries; and the challenge from a couple of our board members have caused me to begin to work on that project. It is my prayer that this book will be used to call spiritual leaders and lay people, from other nations, to jettison the NEW CARTS of evangelism; and return to God's ways of carrying out the Lord's great mission.

## CHRIST-CENTERED DISCIPLESHIP CONFERENCES

Our Lord graced me with 3 wonderful opportunities to teach our latest workbook study, entitled "Christ-centered Discipleship - (Living A Life In Which The Gospel Is Your Driving Force)"! The three churches were Woodside Baptist Church in Ocala, FL; Friendship Baptist in Baton Rouge, LA; and most recently, Fellowship Baptist Church in Steinhatchee, FL. I am so grateful for the glorious work that the Holy Spirit accomplished in many lives, through this teaching! There were numerous testimonies of individuals who have personally declared that, "This week was especially for ME!" I want to share just one of the multiple testimonies, which came to me by e-mail!

**"Dear Bro. Ed, Thank you again for being faithful and sacrificing your life, to teach God's Word to many churches in this country and others. By the power of His Word, through your teaching of the Christ Centered Discipleship course, the Holy Spirit convicted me in several areas. He taught me that repentance is not a one-time act; but it may take several days or weeks for Him to help me to change my heart, my attitude, my thinking, and my behavior in a particular area.**

In Session One, I was convicted that I do not keep the 'sacrifice of Jesus Christ' in the forefront of my mind each day; and I do not have the mind of Jesus, that we are called to exhibit in Philippians 2. The Lord is helping me to have this mind, so that I can stay humble and make myself of NO reputation, just as our Lord and Savior Jesus faithfully did! In Session Two, the Word of God convicted me that RIGHTEOUSNESS is to be the ultimate prize of a disciple; and that I do not love His righteousness enough!! His righteousness is so beautiful, compared to my sinful desires. He is helping me to love His righteousness, and to love those beautiful holy virtues of honesty, integrity, trustworthiness, and faithfulness; rather than the ugliness of sinful lust!!

In Session Five, The Holy Spirit once again convicted me. I find that when I am tired, weak, or frustrated, I don't mind doing the Lord's work, because I love Him so much. But I could not say the same about my wife. Oh, I love my wife dearly and will do anything for her. But when I found myself being tired, weak or frustrated, I had not been sacrificially loving her like I should. The Holy Spirit is helping me to kill my selfishness, no matter what mood I find myself in; and to sacrificially serve my wife!! Praise God, He loves us so much that He teaches us, and He will not let us stay the same! It is HIS will to transform us into a holy and righteous servant of our Lord!! I praise my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for saving me 15 years ago and teaching me to go to HIM as Savior; come under HIM as Lord; and follow HIM as my Teacher!! I am saying afresh and anew, that the Gospel has to be our driving force; for living a life that will glorify Him!! Thank you again for preaching the Word of God with His power!!

Since we are talking about this study, I want to share a testimony that I have just received from a pastor in Kenya. He shared, "Christ Centered Discipleship was great! My life was changed. I was personally touched by your deep insight and scriptural expositions on the need to spend quality time; and priority time, each day with the Lord! Other areas of discipleship, such as 'the disciple's use of the tongue' and 'pursuing practical holiness' touched the lives of many. Did you notice that the hall would go silent as you expounded on pertinent areas of Christian living? Our ministry brought 60 participants to the conference. In our weekly training sessions, we do not miss to reflect on the aspects of discipleship that you highlighted. We endeavor to live a life as you clearly put, "in which the gospel is the driving force". That, in a way, has become our vision statement! Let me know your itinerary and how we can pray for you, as you travel around the world, holding out these and other fundamental truths. As the church in Kenya, you are so dear to us. You are God's gift to us! Your brother, John Machuka



## SO MANY REASONS TO SAY “THANK YOU”!

Dianne and I have so many reasons for rejoicing in the Lord and giving Him thanks; not the least of which, is for you, our precious brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus! When we think about all of the precious saints of God, that He has providentially placed in our lives, thanksgiving and praise to Him becomes the very fabric of our hearts! Upon reflecting about the blessed reality, that you are fellow partakers of the grace of God with us, our hearts overflow with rejoicing. When we consider the precious truth of your participation with us, being co-laborers with us in the gospel until this present time, our mouths are filled with gratitude! When we ponder on the hospitality that you have demonstrated to this ministry, through your intercessions and your support, our souls shout out, “Bless the Lord”! When we contemplate on how you have stimulated us to love and to good works, through your steadfast love, prayers and support, it is such a source of encouragement for us. It stirs our hearts to persevere in the work that our Lord has for us! We love you in the Lord Jesus. We are so grateful for your fellowship in the Gospel! Friends, it will not be long, and we will be gathered around the throne of the Lord crying out, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!” It is our prayer that each of you will be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

II Corinthians 4:5

Ed & Dianne Lacy

### UPCOMING SCHEDULE

March 29 - April 1 ..... Liberty Baptist Church - Thomasville, AL

April 8 ..... Mission of Hope – Outreach - Mobile, AL

April 12-17 ..... Grace Life Church of Lake City- Lake City, FL

April 24 – 26 ..... Grace Baptist Church - Hurst, TX

May 3 – 15 ..... Open Dates

I will not be going to India until August for (two conferences) and then (one conference) in September. However, please pray for Raj Eleazar, my interpreter in India. May 4-8, He is teaching Christ-Centered Evangelism at Carey College in Calcutta. Our Material will be taught in two different languages, Hindi and Bengali. Then on May 11-15, He is teaching Christ Centered Evangelism in Kathmaudu, Nepal. It will be taught in English and also in the Nepali language.

May 17 ..... Birmingham, AL - Granddaughter’s Graduation

Last week of May - ..... A new grandbaby is due to arrive - Montgomery, AL