

How are we to actually live? - Part 2 The Main Goal of Evangelism

Written by Calvin Fox

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(continued from Part 1) My problem with Evangelism today is that, regardless of how "well-being" is understood and whether it is based on Arminian or Calvinistic assumptions, most of the people I know who have made "decisions for Christ" are glad to be "saved", but have not gone on to live for Christ. Data and Surveys of how "Christians" actually live support my personal observations. Evangelism, as commonly understood and practiced, does not produce "converts" who live their daily lives to the glory of God and doing that should be the main goal of all evangelism. The outcome of successful evangelism is Believers who take seriously 1 Cor 10:31 - *whatever you do, do all to the glory of God* and who actually, seriously, seek to do exactly that in all areas of their lives.

Eph. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

Calvinist wholeheartedly agree with vs.5-6. But we must not overlook v.4! We are chosen by God to live holy lives. Verse 12 says *we were chosen so that we ... might be [live] to the praise of his glory* .- not simply saved, not simply happy.

Eph.2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

This popular text is fundamental but so is the next verse- 10 *we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.* We are saved so that we might do good works!

4:1 I therefore, [Paul] a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 23 ... be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

The purpose of Election is not to make the forgiveness of our sins possible nor to make it possible for us to enter Heaven when we pass away. We were chosen in Christ in order that, once redeemed, we would glorify God by becoming holy and righteous, being dedicated to doing good works. Paul, who taught Justification by Faith alone, is emphatic about this-

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Titus 2:13 ...our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. 15 Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

Titus 3:14 let our people learn to devote themselves to good works