

2010

**Blunted Evangelism**  
by Bill Lockwood

Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society, observed that in order to mobilize people for constitutional causes, there were at least three hurdles to overcome. *First, Many Are Apathetic.* Americans, by the thousands, are past the point of caring. The daily diet of bad news does not unsettle us. We become careless about the plight of our country as we slide into a collectivist pit. *Second, We Sometimes Have a Vested Interest In Error.* This is to say that some will profit as we adopt more and more a socialistic style government. For example, there are businessmen who will stand to profit financially in the world market and thus are content to meld the United States into a global organization. *Third, the American People Frequently Fail to Grasp the Nature of the Enemy With Which We Deal.* Problems in society are seen as the result of well-intentioned, but overly exuberant legislators. Or, we may suppose that problems stem from “overly lenient” judges. We fail to recognize that today in America we are beginning to reap the fruits of policies that have been **designed** to centralize power in Washington D.C. and/or the United Nations. The so-called “Climate Change” discussion is a perfect illustration. Copenhagen efforts were strongly tilted towards overriding our Constitution by global laws.

Exactly the identical hurdles are for us to overcome in the spiritual struggle for men’s souls. To the extent that we have been tripped up by one or more of these same roadblocks, our evangelism has become **blunted**.

*First, Many Christians are Apathetic.* Many member of the body of Christ do not consider the plight of lost souls in the community about us. Nothing is unsettling to us in this regard. Our Lord instructed that the price of one soul is worth more than the world. Yet, too many Christians remain careless in their regard for souls about them. We are not moved as was our Lord that most people are lost and without hope in the world.

*Second, We Sometimes Retain a Vested Interest in Error.* Hard to believe as this is, nevertheless, ‘tis true. Too many of our neighbors and even loved ones are caught in the meshes of religious error. But to lead them out does not occur to us. Why? Perhaps to confront the issues would crack a relationship or cool a friendship. Thus, we continually hear, “Choose the church of your choice,” and “We are all going to heaven, just on different pathways,” yet we raise not a word of objection – even though the Bible teaches no ideas such as these. Our circle of friends need to hear the truth as presented by Jesus.

*Third, We Fail to Grasp the Nature of the Enemy.* Religious error is planted by Satan, who prowls about, seeking whom he may devour. “Or wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the world rulers of darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places.” Again, the “god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ should not dawn upon them.”

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There are real forces of evil which strives to make religious error palatable to the masses. It is ours to withstand them.

Resolve in this new year to redouble your efforts at evangelism.

- *Pray* about winning souls to Christ. “Continue stedfastly in prayer ... that God may open unto us a door for the word” (Colossians 4:2-3).
- *Live Godly* lives that we may “adorn” or “beautify” the doctrine of Christ (Titus 2:9-10). Seasonal Christianity is of little use to the Lord.
- *Give* finances to meet the needs of the church that we may collectively be more effective in evangelism.
- Finally, *YOU plant the seed!* Remember, our goal is to spread the seed of the gospel – God give the increase.

Be not “blunted” in evangelistic efforts.