

T.L. OSBORN

# Soul Winning

*A Classic on Biblical Christianity*

## **Excerpted Version**



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# Introduction

**T**HE MISSION OF JESUS is now the mission of believers. The passion of Christ is now expressed through His followers. The love that drove Him to the *cross* now drives us to the *lost*. He trusts you and me to continue His ministry.

Sharing what Christ has done is the pinnacle of *Biblical Christianity*. Solomon said, *Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do it.*<sup>Pr.3:27</sup>

The value of his book deeply impresses me. It will enlighten you as to your dignity and vitality in God's design for your life. It will unveil for you a new self-discovery as God's partner. It will focus your world and reveal how much God believes in *you as His interpreter*. It will engender *a new love for life* and unveil *a new purpose for living*.

*Biblical Christianity is ministering God's Love and Life in our despairing world*. What the believer possesses is the greatest healing and lifting power on earth. It will cure diseases, lift the fallen, breathe life into the discouraged, and engender self-value in the abused. It will bring peace, health, success and objectivity to anyone who embraces Christ.

These truths that my father has learned in his long years of world ministry are *yours* now. Get your complete copy of, SOULWINNING, READ THOSE TRUTHS AND L-I-V-E!

— Bishop LaDonna C. Osborn, D.Min.

# Preface

**A** PROMINENT SOULWINNER once said: “Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves, at the crossroads so cosmopolitan that they had to write His title in Hebrew and Latin and Greek.

“The Son of God was crucified at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, where thieves curse, and where soldiers gamble. Because that is where He died and since that is what He died about, that is where Christians can best share His message of love because that is what real Christianity is all about.”

First Century Christians lived with a passion to share their witness of Christ. They did it in a daily house to house, face to face ministry.

Following the death of the first apostles, theological controversy finally extinguished the Christians’ compassion for the *unconverted*. It is amazing that personal witnessing, as First Century believers practiced it, has only been rediscovered in recent decades. It was not until the Eighteenth Century that evangelism began to reappear, *beyond the walls of the church sanctuary*.

The concepts expressed in this book encourage communication between church *insiders* and world *outsiders*—in homes and schools, in factories and markets, in parks and streets—out where humanity hurts most and where only Christ’s love can heal.

—T.L. Osborn

# Soul Winning

## Join This Chariot

**T**HE IDEA OF SOULWINNING is depicted by the evangelist Philip, who shared information about Christ with a celebrity traveling to Ethiopia.<sup>Ac.8:26-40</sup> The fellow became a believer in the Lord Jesus right there on the public thoroughfare.

This is putting the gospel where it belongs – on main street, on the broad highways of humanity, out in public places, speeding it on the wheels of modern technology, on multi-color web presses, on the spools of audio or video tape and of motion film, on electronic wave lengths, the internet and e-mail.

Where the masses can receive God's message of love, of hope and of faith – out where millions who might never visit a church can hear about Jesus and become believers.

Paul said: *The same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world and changing lives everywhere.*<sup>Col.1:6LB</sup> *Everywhere we go, we talk about Christ to all who will listen... This is our work, and we can do it only because Christ's mighty energy is at work within us.*<sup>Col.1:28-29LB</sup>

## The Method That Works

When Paul left Ephesus for the last time, he urged the believers to keep on witnessing of Christ, regardless of the cost, and to do it *publicly and from house to house.*<sup>Ac.20:20</sup> They did more in one genera-

tion than we have done in a millennium! Perhaps there's a better way for us to share the good news about Christ.

### **The Case In Brief**

1. *Non-Christians do not go to church.*
2. Our commission is to *preach the gospel to every creature.*<sup>Mk.16:15</sup>
3. Since *unbelievers do not go to church*, then Christians must take the gospel to them wherever they are, *outside the walls of the church.*

In the First Century Church, both leaders and laity were *daily in the temple and in every house. They ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*<sup>Ac.5:42</sup> They evangelized their world.

Jesus said, *I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*<sup>Jn.10:10</sup> Peter said, *We are his witnesses.*<sup>Ac.5:32</sup>

## **The Heartbeat Of Soulwinning**

**CHURCH MEMBERS SPEND** much of their prayer time urging God to do all of the things that He chose *them* to do.

- How can God's Spirit communicate His message to human persons without a Christian to express Himself through?
- What can Jesus Christ do in any town or community without *a body* to function through?

God redeemed us so that now *He can live within us* and express Himself *through* us.

Paul summarized the issue: *Christ in you.*<sup>Col.1:27; Ga.2:20</sup> *He works in us mightily.*<sup>Col.1:29</sup> *You are built for a habitation of God through the Spirit.*<sup>Ep.2:22</sup> *Know you not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you.*<sup>2Co.13:5</sup> And John added, *Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*<sup>1Jn.4:4</sup>

You see why this truth is so significant to the Christian faith. *He functions through you and me.* He wills to be interpreted through us. It is through our lives and our personalities that He wants to be represented in our communities.

### Unique Privilege

The Bible says that *the glorious gospel...has been committed to our trust.*<sup>1Ti.1:11; 1Th.2:4; 1Co.9:17; Gal.2:7</sup> If we do not do it, the message of Christ and His love will not be communicated.

Paul said, *I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.*<sup>1Ti.1:11-12</sup> The gospel is now committed to us. He has now enabled us. He now counts us faithful. The witness of Christ now depends on us.

*This is biblical Christianity!* Christ lives *in* us. That gives purpose to our lives—to go beyond the walls of our church sanctuary to tell others about Jesus Christ and His love.

### His Mission—Our Mission

*God reconciled us to himself through Christ and has [now] given us the ministry of reconciliation... We are therefore Christ's ambassadors...*<sup>2Co.5:18NIV</sup> After He ascended back to the Father, He became our me-

diator,<sup>1Ti.2:5</sup> and we became His representatives to continue His ministry.

Jesus said, *You have not chosen me but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatever you shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*<sup>Jn.15:16</sup>

### **The Human Channel**

People may never be visited by Christ if believers do not go as His representatives and minister to them in His name. *People may never see God if they do not see Him in action through Christian believers like you and me.*

- Are you concerned about the lives of unconverted people in your neighborhood and elsewhere?
- Have you informed them or shared the uplifting lifestyle of Jesus Christ with them?
- Have you assumed that such matters are the responsibility of the *Church*? You are correct. But the Church is not the congregation nor the denomination. *The Church is you and it is me.* Christ has endowed *us* with that supreme honor.

He lives in our lives—in our bodies. We are His temple, regardless of age, race, gender, culture, or social background. This is our divine heritage that makes our Christian lives worth living.

*This truth is **the heartbeat of soulwinning**, the dynamics of the Christ-Life must be an inspiration, a revelation – a miracle in our lives.*

From an individual standpoint, you and I must grasp the fact that the church is *you* – it is *me*. Jesus Christ ministers to needy people today *through be-*

*lievers*, as they allow Him free expression through their lives, their emotions, their attitudes.

*You* are His church, His temple, His body. The most rewarding experience for a believer is to encounter someone who is *unsaved*, and help them to embrace Christ.

## Revival—Evangelism

**REVIVAL** IS *REVIVING* something that had life before. It is for Christians, **inside** the church building.

*Evangelism* is giving new life to those who are *dead in trespasses and sins*,<sup>Ep.2:1</sup> — who have never experienced God's *Life* before. It is for *non-Christians*, **outside** the church building.

This book concerns evangelism. That is why we call it SOULWINNING. Get your complete copy and let the First Century passion for lost souls be rekindled in you.

As Christians share Christ with *unconverted* people—on their own territory like First Century believers did, they rediscover the most rewarding ministry that Christ ever committed to His followers—*being His witnesses*.<sup>Ac.1:8</sup>

## The "20-20" Vision

**AND DAILY** IN the temple and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.<sup>Ac.5:42</sup>

What resulted from their action? *The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved*.<sup>Acts 2:47</sup> It is a numerical coincidence that Acts chapter twenty,



verse twenty, indicates the balanced *twenty-twenty* vision of First Century Christians.

### **The Balanced Vision**

Paul said, *I kept back nothing that was profitable to you and have taught you [1] publicly and [2] from house to house.*<sup>Ac.20:20</sup>

There is another verse in the Book of Acts that says, *this continued for a period of twenty[!] years, so that all those who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.*<sup>Ac.19:10</sup>

Did you notice that I misquoted the record? It does not say twenty years. It says two years. *By the space of two years, all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord.* Within such a short time?

They considered themselves to be Christ's witnesses.<sup>Ac.5:42</sup> That was their passion.



**I**N THIS BOOK, I share *seven reasons why we are soulwinners*. When you get the book, read them, learn them and be a soulwinner.

Jesus said, *Whoever believes on me, the works that I do shall he or she do also; and greater works than these shall they do; because I go to my Father.*<sup>Jn.14:12</sup> They believed His words. They understood that He was living and ministering *through them*. They were His voice, His feet, His body. He was now *continuing* what He had *begun* but now He was doing it *through them*.



***Our Motto: Every Christian, A Witness!***  
***Our Mission: Out Where the People Are!***

The last thing Jesus authorized His followers to do before He returned to the Father was: *Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.* Mk. 16:15 The Lord Jesus left us no privilege greater than to announce the gospel to every creature. This is the believer's guarantee of happiness.

**God's No. 1 Job**

Soulwinning

Evangelism

What Christ authorized His followers to do.

Ministering life among the forgotten ones.

The Christian's greatest mission in life.

Guarantees success, happiness and fulfillment  
in ministry.

**Our life's Motto**

***One Way-Jesus***

***One Job-Evangelism***

Another vital phrase of our motto is:

***Around the Clock—Around the World.***

Soulwinning is the mission to which every Christian believer is called. It is our priority, our life, our passion.

*We are laborers together with God.*<sup>1Co.3:9</sup> ***Who-soever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.***

<sup>Ac.2:21</sup> Jesus said *that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations,*<sup>Lu. 24:47; Mt.28:19</sup> ***to all the world, to every creature,***<sup>Mk.16:15</sup> and ***unto the uttermost part of the earth.***<sup>Ac.1:8</sup>

## 52 Facts Of Salvation

**I**N SOULWINNING, I set forth 52 facts about this faith that are fundamental to knowing Christ and to walking with Him. These truths can be a great help in sharing the Jesus-life with others. (In this excerpt copy, I list only a few. Order my complete book to learn the full 52 facts.)

1. We were unsaved before we received Christ. *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*<sup>Ro.3:23</sup>

2. We were guilty before God, under the penalty of death. *For the wages of sin is death.*<sup>Ro.6:23</sup>

3. But God loved us too much to see us perish. *He is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*<sup>2Pe.3:9</sup>

4. God offered His best to prove His love for us. *He so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*<sup>Jn.3:16</sup>

5. Christ was God's gift to us and He died for you and for me. *But God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*<sup>Ro.5:8</sup>

10. We receive Jesus and become God's child. *As many as received Jesus Christ, to them he gave power to become the children of God, even to them that believe on his name.*<sup>Jn.1:12</sup>

14. We believe on the name of Jesus Christ because of the record of the gospels. *These are written, that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing, you might have life through his name.*<sup>Jn.20:31</sup>

17. We know there is salvation in none other. *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other*

*name under heaven given, whereby we must be saved.*  
Ac.4:12

52. We know Christ is with us to the end. *For he has said, I will never leave you, nor forsake you. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what any person shall do to me,*<sup>He.13:5-6</sup> *and, lo, I am with you alway, even to the end of the world.*<sup>Mt.28:20</sup>

## **Missions—To All Races**

**I**N MY BOOK, SOULWINNING, I tell how the early believers were determined to carry Christ's message to the *uttermost part of the world.*<sup>Ac.1:8</sup> Paul spoke of pressing on to the western edge of the continent: *When I take my journey into Spain.*<sup>Ro.15:24</sup>

### **The Renewed Dream** ***The Regions Beyond***

In the late seventeen hundreds God raised up William Carey who, was consumed with a passion to share the gospel with *heathen* nations because he contended that all peoples of all ethnic groups have the same spiritual value in God's eyes...

He translated the entire Bible into the complex languages of Bengali, Oriya, Marathi, Hindi, Assamese, and Sanskrit, and portions of it into twenty-nine other languages. He edited and prepared grammars in seven languages and dictionaries in Bengali, Sanskrit, and Marathi, plus publishing two major works on horticulture.

Carey contended that those steps, combined with medical services, would not only advance those nations, but would open the way for teaching them

the gospel. Those activities came to be known as *missions* and Christians once again realized the value of human persons, regardless of their skin color, gender or nationality.

## Miracles, Signs And Wonders

UNTIL RECENT DECADES, this sweeping renaissance of missions to what was called *heathen* nations, though successful, had not included the element of *signs and miracles* which distinguished First Century believers. In the complete printing of this book, we look at the recovery of this essential truth which was so vital in witnessing for Christ during the First Century.

Jesus began doing *miracles, manifesting forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.*<sup>Jn.2:11</sup> People saw Him, heard Him and believed on Him as their savior and Lord. They began following Him and telling others about Him. *Many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.*<sup>Jn.2:23</sup>

As soon as people believed on Jesus, they began to tell others about Him. They became His *witnesses*.

*And his fame spread through all Syria; and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those who were possessed with devils, and those who were lunatic, and those who had palsy; and he healed them. And there followed him great multitudes of people.*<sup>Mt.4:24-25</sup> They spread abroad his fame in all the country.<sup>Mt.9:31</sup>

## Witnessing—Confessing

Once the public crucifixion of this man from Nazareth had been performed, the Jewish rulers thought

His influence would dissipate. But three days later, the most crucial news of all was reported. Women found the tomb of Jesus empty. They said that angels had appeared at the sepulchre announcing that Christ had risen from the dead.<sup>Lu.24:1-6</sup>

*Jesus showed himself alive by many infallible proofs.*  
*Ac.1:3 Peter said, This Jesus has God raised up, whereof we are witnesses.*<sup>Ac.2:32</sup> *The record states: And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.*<sup>Ac.4:33</sup> *If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*  
*Ro.10:9*

*Paul preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.*  
*Ac.17:18* That was the *witness* or the *confession* that Early Church believers gave of Him to people.

### **Rediscovery Of The Supernatural**

As the holy spirit became active again among believers, Joel's prophecy\* which Peter quoted on the day of Pentecost, began to receive new attention. The Church began to realize that God had sent His Spirit upon *all flesh*, and that His plan for *the last days* was that His message be proclaimed by both His *sons and His daughters, by servants and by hand-maidens alike.*<sup>Ac.2:16-18</sup>

Jesus had lived with a passion to bring life, peace and happiness to hurting humanity. Now His followers, both men and women, had been impreg-

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\* In my book, I discuss real and profound meaning of this word *prophecy*, and who it applies to.

nated with that same passion and had been endued with that same power. That was the driving force in their lives, and that power has not changed today.

When asked, *What shall be **the** sign of your coming, and of the end of the world?* <sup>Mt.24:3</sup> Jesus said, *this gospel should be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; and **then** the end would come.* <sup>Mt.24:14</sup>

### **The Road To Rediscovery**

Although it has taken centuries for Christian believers to rediscover the passion to witness about Christ, that rediscovery has been made and is affecting the entire world today.

Multitudes of believers are taking their witness of Christ to needy people, out where they live and work and play. Jesus said, *My purpose is to invite sinners to turn from their sins, not to spend my time with those who think themselves already good enough.* <sup>Lu.5:32LB</sup>

Jesus said, *The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few.* <sup>Mt.9:37</sup> Millions of people are waiting to be won to Christ. Christ's followers, both men and women, are chosen and ordained by Him to *seek and to save those who are lost,* <sup>Lu.19:10</sup> **because we are His witnesses.** <sup>Ac.5:32</sup> He has chosen to trust you with His message.

### **Where No Voice Speaks**

**THERE IS A RENOWNED** saying, "*The pen is*

*mightier than the sword.*" The written word can penetrate where the human voice is forbidden.

The written word is often more powerful than the human voice. They said of Paul, *His letters are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.*<sup>2Co.10:10</sup> Think of the Bible itself. What a graphic illustration of the power and permanence of the printed page!

Marxists made their greatest advances in the world through the influence of the printed page. They considered communist literature to be more effective than their tanks and bombs. *The Bible and good Christian literature are the most effective tools that believers can use.*

### **The Printed Preacher**

We wrote eighteen tracts that build faith for the blessings provided in Christ's salvation. These have been translated and published in *one hundred thirty-two languages*. Order your set today.

Our practical, positive books constitute a faith-building tool chest to help believers win more souls.

### **The Magnetic Message**

To facilitate believers in witnessing, we have recorded gospel messages that have proved effective around the world.

They have been interpreted, phrase by phrase, on audio tape, by good national interpreters, in nearly seventy major languages and dialects.



More souls are being won to Christ through our audio tapes than through our own personal ministry of mass evangelism. Visit our web site, [www.osborn.org](http://www.osborn.org). Get some tracts, books, tapes or CDs to utilize in your own personal witnessing.

The Bible says: *They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.*<sup>Da.12:3</sup>

Jesus said, *the truth will make you free.*<sup>Jn.8:32</sup> Whether preached or printed or recorded, wherever truth is received, its power is the same.



The complete copy of this book includes the vital truths which First Century believers cherished, and then how those truths were lost during the Dark Ages. Then we look at the recovery of the essential truth which was so vital in witnessing for Christ during the First Century. Through this rediscovery, Christians once again began to share the Jesus-life with others.

The book, SOULWINNING, has become a *Classic On Evangelism*. Today many ministers believe that this new edition of SOULWINNING is the most important work I have authored. Order your copy today.

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