

Supporting Israel and the
Jewish Community Conference

Session #04

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Dean Bible Ministries

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“To the Jew First” Part 2
Romans 1:16 and the Priority of Jewish Evangelism

“To the Jew First” – Part 2

Romans 1:16 and the Priority of Jewish Evangelism

- 1. Romans 1:16 and priorities for missions**
- 2. With this in mind, the question raised is “what is the place of Israel in the outreach of the Church?”**
- 3. The relationship to Abrahamic Covenant**
- 4. Paul’s procedure**
- 5. Application**

“To the Jew First”

Romans 1:16 and the Priority of Jewish Evangelism

Romans 1:16, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it [the gospel] is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Romans 1:17, “For in it [the gospel] the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘*The just shall live by faith.*’ ”

Romans 1:16,

“for it [the gospel] is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

- 1. A priority for the universal Church, local churches, but not the first thing necessarily for every believer.**
- 2. In much of the History of Christianity Jews were persecuted by Christians, forced conversions, blamed for everything that went bad.**
- 3. In our lives we are to witness: by the life, by the lips.**
- 4. As many ways to present the gospel as people and conversations.**

What is the place of Israel in the outreach of the Church?

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

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Genesis 12:1–13

“land” “seed” “blessing”

ISRAEL LAND COVENANT

Deuteronomy 29

“land”

DAVIDIC COVENANT

2 Samuel 7

“seed”

NEW COVENANT

Jeremiah 31

“blessing”

Paul's Practice

Acts 13:5, “And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as their assistant.”

Acts 13:14, “But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down.”

Acts 13:44, “On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God.

Acts 13:45, “But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.

Acts 13:46, “Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, ‘It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.’ ”

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πρῶτος *prōtos* Adverb first, prominent, former

πρῶτον, *prōton*

BDAG: ② adv. πρῶτον of degree in the first place, above all, especially

Acts 14:1, “Now it happened in Iconium that they went together to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed.”

Why we must reach out to the Jewish people:

Matt. 28:19, “ ‘Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Matt. 28:20, “ ‘by teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

Problems for Jewish Believers

1. Hostility from friends, family, their community.

Problems for Jewish Believers

Cultural suspicion at the most due to the history of antisemitism: blaming Jews for the crucifixion!

John 10:15, “As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.”

John 10:17, “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.

John 10:18, “No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

Rom. 11:25, “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.”

Preparation for any evangelism:

1. Prayer

Col. 4:3, “meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,”

Preparation for any evangelism:

- 2. Know your material. Understand the questions, objections that you might hear and how to answer them, or where to go to find the answers.**
- 3. Be walking by means of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the One working, John 16:8–11**

John 16:7, “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

John 16:8, “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

John 16:9, “of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

John 16:10, “of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

John 16:11, “of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

Preparation for any evangelism:

- 4. Be sensitive, we don't necessarily know what people are either going through, their background, etc.**
- 5. Always be gracious and kind, not argumentative, or pushy.**

Transition into the gospel by asking sincere, thought-provoking questions.

- 1. “I have some questions about some of the practices in Judaism. Would you please explain to me about . . . [Passover, Yom Kippur, etc.]?”**
- 2. “How does a Jewish person have a personal relationship with God?”**
- 3. “How does a Jewish person get atonement for his sin and guilt?”**
- 4. “How does a Jewish person find peace with God?”**
- 5. “A Jewish man changed my life. Would you like to hear about it?”**

Are You Right With God?

**“Can a man be righteous [Heb. צַדִּיק , *tzaddiq*] with God?”
(Job 9:2)**

1. God created each of us to have a personal relationship with Him.

a. He created us “in His image and likeness” in order that we might have a personal, intimate relationship with Him. This separates human beings from all life forms. This means that God created human beings to be a finite representative of Him, fully capable of knowing Him, able to communicate, learn, and have a relationship with Him,.

Genesis 1:27, “And God created man in His image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” (*Tanakh*, 1985)