

Teasdale, Mark R. *Evangelism for Non-Evangelists: Sharing the Gospel Authentically*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2017. 150 pp.

Evangelism has been a challenging subject for many Christians who know of its importance but shy away from participating. In addition, many have questioned the role of evangelism within the church and the wider world. In his book, *Evangelism for Non-Evangelists*, Mark R. Teasdale addresses these questions as he deals with this subject of Christian faith that has been overlooked or forgotten over the years.

As a professor of evangelism, he writes the book with his students in mind who have come from all walks of faith and backgrounds. He observes that many have struggled to find the relevancy of evangelism due to the rigid stereotypes of it as no more than a monodirectional proclamation of faith. This often means that evangelism is practiced inauthentically, since the Christian is simply sharing a formulaic script with others.

Teasdale argues that evangelism needs to be approached authentically by a Christian sharing the experience of the good news of Jesus Christ which has transformed her or his life. This experience can come from anyone who is a follower of Jesus Christ, regardless of their theology or journey of faith. Teasdale reconciles the theological discrepancies different evangelists might have by proposing a common goal for evangelism. He argues that the goal of evangelism should be to communicate that God is good, and God desires all people to share in this goodness. Christians call humans to respond to this message by participating in this goodness.

The structure of the book follows this common goal of evangelism, often pausing to expound on what Teasdale sees as misinterpretations of evangelism. Different perspectives of evangelism from mainline to conservative denominations are discussed while the claim of evangelism is revisited in light of modernity, postmodernity, and fundamentalism. Teasdale then

shifts to discuss the message evangelists should seek to share. Arguing that it must go beyond a sharing of moralistic Christian jargon, chapters are dedicated to what the good news might be, how it can be articulated in context and how it should creatively seek change in individual's lives and the larger world.

Teasdale's book contributes to refuting the limited perspective that evangelism is only for a special few. His reconciliatory message of emphasizing God's goodness revealed through the narrative testimonies and actions of believers brings a non-evangelist who has struggled on the fringes to be an active participant. In addition to this, Teasdale articulates differing perspectives of evangelism that widens the understanding of participation. The book encourages and refocuses the non-evangelist to rethink their hesitation of sharing the good news.

Although the author includes all believers as evangelists of the good news, he does not explicitly state what the good news is or rather should be. The book is written from a framework that loosely allows anyone with different beliefs of God to share a personal interpretation of the good news in Christian faith. This could lead the reader to apply a general view of salvation and faith which might depart from the non-negotiable foundations of Christian faith. In addition to this, eternity and life after this cosmos is only briefly discussed by the author. This may possibly be an implied reality which evangelism seeks to address but due to its importance, a lack of discussion seems to limit the purpose of evangelism.

Overall, the book is a good introduction to address the hesitations of the non-evangelist while also being a good discussion starter towards the subject.

