



## **39. *Persuasive Witnessing***

*“The wise in heart will be called understanding, and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness ... The heart of the wise instructs his mouth and adds persuasiveness to his lips.”* Proverbs 16:21-23

Effective witnessing involves the heart, mind, and lips. A wise heart understands the needs of a nonbeliever. The wise believer witnesses with sweetness of speech ... adding *“persuasiveness to his lips.”* Paul pursued and persuaded non-

believers. And *“He went to them ... reasoned with them from the Scriptures ... explaining and giving evidence ... and some of them were persuaded.”* Those are Paul’s words from Acts 17:2-4. And *“He was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks,”* Acts 18:4. Paul wrote of himself and of his co-laborers, *“Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men,”* 2 Corinthians 5:11.

Paul witnessed to King Agrippa. The king replied, *“In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian,”* Acts 26:28. And Paul went so far as to beg others to be saved ... writing, *“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God*

*were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God,”* 2 Corinthians 5:20. Some Christians offer the Gospel as a turn-or-burn, repent-or-be sent, get-right or get-left-out message. However, witnessing should not be rude, crude, and obnoxious. Biblical witnessing comes from a wise heart ... and from sweet, persuasive lips. What’s your witnessing style? Could someone say to you, *“In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian”*? Be persuasive with the Gospel ... and then be more persuasive. And if necessary, beg someone to be saved.