

PH.D. IN EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH

Field Essay Study Guide

Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism

1. Thoroughly define “evangelism,” giving a clear indication of your knowledge of other proposed definitions while also defending the definition that you create/choose. In the context of this response, discuss relational evangelism, servant evangelism, ministry evangelism, and confrontational evangelism. Indicate the advantages and disadvantages of each approach.
2. Based on a review of the scriptures and resources related to the “healthy church” concept, describe a healthy church. Your response should show knowledge of several sources, including the scriptures.
3. Compare and contrast exclusivism, inclusivism, pluralism, and universalism. State clearly which position you hold, and defend it biblically.
4. Discuss the relationship between evangelism and spiritual awakening in historical perspective, including a comparison of the philosophies of Jonathan Edwards and Charles Finney with regard to spiritual awakenings. Critique both philosophies from an historical church growth perspective.
5. Based upon Rainer’s research of evangelistically growing churches, discuss the relationship between theology and church growth. In the course of this response, compare exclusivism to inclusivism, and pluralism.
6. Discuss relational evangelism, servant evangelism, ministry evangelism, confrontational evangelism, E-0 evangelism, and 3-P evangelism. Indicate the advantages and disadvantages of each approach.
7. Discuss how evangelism might be done effectively among postmodern persons.

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Field Essay Reading List

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- Basinger, David, and Randall Basinger. *Predestination & Free Will*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1986.
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Nash, Ronald. *Is Jesus the Only Savior?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

Packer, J.I. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1961.

Rainer, Thom S. *The Book of Church Growth: History, Theology, and Principles*. Nashville: Broadman, 1993.

_____. *Effective Evangelistic Churches*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1996.

_____. *High Expectations*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1999.

Reid, Alvin. *Evangelism Handbook*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2009.

Roozen, David A. and C. Kirk Hadaway, eds. *Church and Denominational Growth*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993.

Salter, Darius. *American Evangelism: Its Theology and Practice*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996.

Spurgeon, Charles H. *The Soul Winner*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1963.

Terry, John Mark. *Evangelism: A Concise History*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.

Wagner, C. Peter. *Church Growth and the Whole Gospel: A Biblical Mandate*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1981.

Warren, Rick. *The Purpose Driven Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.