

“TO SEEK AND TO SAVE”
By Dr. Paul Chappell

Dr. Paul Chappell’s short book *To Seek and to Save* is based upon his goals, philosophy, technique and lessons learned in developing and leading his church to a Biblical model. The overall tone of the book is simplistic and generic in nature.

This book can be divided into three basic parts: the Gospel, the growth of the new believer, and finally the churches role in soul winning and discipleship. The first three chapters offer a review of the Gospel itself. Dr. Chappell offers many Scripture references and helpful terms, but this opening section of the book reads more like an overgrown Gospel tract.

Dr. Chappell made an excellent point regarding the catalyst for church growth. Church growth is purely the outcome of obedience to God’s command of leading others to the Savior and helping them grow in the Word. He stated, “I am a strong proponent of personal follow-up and discipleship of a new believer” (p. 70). The personal discipleship of new believers is often overlooked in churches that focus primarily on soul winning. They neglect to give the new “babes in Christ” helpful resources for spiritual growth, and this results in immature believers who are not able to be productive Christians. Instead of becoming an active part of the ministry, these new converts tend to deplete the strength of the local church.

Another primary point addressed by Dr. Chappell was the fact that many churches never extend their ministries to others outside the church doors. Dr. Chappell places a real emphasis upon community impact and evidently the church he is associated with has been very successful in accomplishing this.

An excellent example is given to help bolster the confidence of a new Christian. Dr. Chappell illustrated the importance of baptism as a public expression, as comparable to the wedding ring exhibiting to all a married individual. He furthered the illustration by reinforcing the truth that salvation does not depend upon baptism, in much the same way an individual is still married even when not wearing their ring. Other pertinent illustrations were rarely used throughout the text and would of been of assistance in demonstrating the authors ideas. In Dr. Chappell's later book, "Guided by Grace," illustrations abound, and it is apparent that Dr. Chappell has matured as a writer.

The title of this text, "To Seek and To Save" should have given away the ingenuity of this book. I found it offered a good review of fundamental principles regarding ministry, but with negligible impute into our local church ministry. Dr. Chappell's book is similar in many ways to Dr. Rice's book, "The Golden Path of Successful Soul-Winning," but Dr. Chappell comes across with a milder style. Overall, this book provides a beneficial reminder for all Christians, but it may be better suited for a new believer who struggles with soul winning.