

Navigator History

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I. Introduction.

II. Dawson Trotman, founder of the Navigators.

A. Trotman was converted through a Bible group that had a Scripture memory competition.

1. The Scripture he had to memorize had to do with salvation: Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Hebrews 9:12, Ephesians 2:8-9, John 1:12.

2. Through these verses Trotman realized that he had to believe in Jesus for eternal life. (John 5:24)

3. He did not feel different but he was a new creature and began memorizing Scripture in large quantities. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

B. Trotman was given the opportunity to teach a young boys' Sunday school.

1. It was a challenge but he asked God for direction.

2. He found that everyone wants a personal visit and that a person is different with individual contact.

3. He taught the students that they were to be obedient to their parents.

4. The church grew and Trotman began work with older men also.

C. Trotman began discipling a young man in the Navy named Les Spencer, and when Spencer recruited another man Trotman told him to teach the man the same thing. This was the beginning of the Navigator movement.

D. Trotman's influence has extended through his disciples on bringing light to sin and getting other men to memorize Scripture. (Romans 5:20)

III. By God's grace we will. Discipleship starts with that commitment.

A. We are to live victoriously day-by-day in Jesus Christ.

B. This means we must put the Word of God first.

C. A disciple must have a good foundation in the Word depending upon no one except God and the Holy Spirit.

D. It is true that we can evangelize the world on the basis of a certain kind of disciple.

Application questions

1. How could it be said that the Navigators was founded on a commitment of an individual? Explain.

2. What characteristics of the Navigator movement were present in the beginning that are still important today?

3. What does the speaker mean when he believes the world can be evangelized based on a certain kind of disciple?
