

2009-2010 WORLD MISSIONS SERMON OUTLINE

EVERY WAY

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To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings (1 Corinthians 9:22-23).

INTRODUCTION

There was a driving force within Paul that led him to work every way possible to reach everyone possible so that God could meet every problem. What was that driving force? It was the knowledge that there are four absolutes concerning the lost. We must consider them now or face the consequences at the judgment!

- I. Paul knew that God does not want even one soul to be lost.
 - A. Paul declared this truth.
[God] wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4).
 - B. Peter underscored this truth when he wrote ...
The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).
- II. Paul knew that if those in darkness never hear they will be eternally lost.
 - A. That is why he wrote to the church in Thessalonica,
He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).
 - B. Good people are wrong when they say,
“God is a good God and won’t allow anyone to go to hell who has not heard the gospel.”
 1. Those who believe this are pillowing their consciences on a lie.
 2. Peter stood before the council and emphatically declared of Christ, *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12, KJV).*
 3. Jesus declared, *“I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again” (John 3:3).*
 4. God’s Word recorded by the prophet Ezekiel is very emphatic. *“When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin” (Ezekiel 33:8).*
 - C. Others will insist that we have enough needs at home without worrying about the rest of the world.

1. Do we really believe this or is it a response motivated by selfishness or a lack of knowledge?
2. There is no one in America who cannot hear an adequate explanation of the gospel and call out to Jesus Christ for salvation, but more than half the world knows nothing of the road to Calvary.
3. One country in the Middle East has one church for every 1.3 million people.
4. Another Middle-Eastern country has no churches and only a handful of secret believers for its 16 million people.
5. In many places there are no gospel programs on radio or television, no Christian bookstores, no churches and no Christian neighbors who can tell them about Jesus.

III God commands us to tell them.

- A. His Word is very clear,
“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 18:19, NKJV).

He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation” (Mark 16:15).

The Great Commission appears also in Luke, John and Acts!

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples (Psalm 96:3).

- B. God has given us the gospel as a trust. We have been keeping it as a luxury.
1. How much could we have done but did not?
 2. How much time, money and effort have we spent selfishly for our own pleasures?
 3. How often have we concentrated on our own church buildings and programs with little or no thought to the needs of a dying world? Jesus said, *“Freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8).*
- C. The callousness of many American Christians concerning world needs is appalling.
1. Many intentionally miss missionary services.
 2. They will read almost anything the world produces but will never read anything about missions.
 3. The truth is that the average Christian doesn't want to be reminded of an obligation he or she is failing to fulfill.
 4. Many can cite the latest statistics of their favorite sports team but could not share with you anything meaningful about the spiritual needs of a dying world or remember the names of the missionaries that their church supports.

5. The missionary message is the last conscience of the American Church.
6. The truth is that *the level of your passion for the lost will be in direct proportion to the level of your love for Jesus Christ!*

IV. If we don't tell them about Jesus, we will be held responsible.

A. God will be inflexible.

... (if) you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood (Ezekiel 33:8).

1. God will hold us guilty for what we might have known.
2. We are trustees for those who have never heard the gospel. It is our responsibility to find out the needs of the world and do what we can to see that they are met. *If you say, "But we knew nothing about this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay each person according to what he has done (Proverbs 24:12)?*
3. In the great Day of Judgment we will find that our accountability will be equal to our opportunities. *Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom (James 2:12).*

B. We are being weighed even now.

... does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay each person according to what he has done? (Proverbs 24:12).

C. God has given us incredible freedom to live as we desire.

1. We can be as selfish as we wish and spend our money as we please.
2. But God is calmly waiting until we are through and have shown all that is in our heart.
3. Woe unto the one who has not obeyed the Master.
4. When God gives us money, He stands back to see what we will do with it. If we are faithful stewards He will give us still more.
5. God will always give more *through* us than He will give *to* us.

CONCLUSION

A. It is not necessary to do anything to be guilty of the eternal damnation of the lost.

1. We don't have to look upon a hurting world, shake our fist in the air, and curse it. We don't have to do anything.

2. God says “...(if) you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood” (Ezekiel 33:8).
- B. What will God say to those who have neglected the lost?
- A. B. Simpson wrote that on that Day of Judgment, God may say to those who were careless about reaching the lost, “Murderer of immortal spirits, enter your place of doom and let the cries of those whom you have ignored and ruined be your eternal punishment.”
- C. What will we do?
1. For many of us, a prayer of repentance and contrition is in order.
 2. The next step is to determine that we will never again be guilty of living just for ourselves.
 3. It won't be long until the world that God expects us to save will be dead and gone.
 4. That means that we must make a decision today.

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