

spirit of Jesus.

ILL. During the Franco-Prussian War, Pierre Hurlat, a french gunner, was ordered to fire on a little white cottage in village of Severs. With a grim face he turned the gun and fired, destroying the home. He lived in Severs, cottage was his home. He said "I must in obedience to the command of my captain.

When the command of our captian is clear we should have the same feeling. I Must.

IV. The Imperative of Victory: Victory must crown the love prompted duty.

" John 3:14 " The Son of man MUST be lifted up on the cross, and the Son of man MUST rise again.

Jesus was victorious in everything... Be of good cheer I have overcome the world.

Not only imperative that Jesus was victorious but that his followers be victorious. The scenes portrayed in book of Rev. are scenes of victory. The songs sung by the white robed throngs are songs of victory. Looking to the end of this age and to the final consummation of God's plans & purposes, the imperial imperative is victory. Because of that, Jesus repeatedly said, " I MUST."

Today Christian friend will surrender your self to this Victorious Christ and do your part for his church while you remain in this world.?

Lost person will turn to Christ today and be saved?

" Ye must be born again "

Federal & Co. Officer

ILL. Little boy being rocked by his mother. He was slowly turning her ring around on her finger, in doing so he noticed an ugly scar on her hand for the first time. He said mother that scar makes your hand look ugly, Mother said son, you want to know why that scar is there? Yes; When you were small you fell into the fire-place, this hand struck one the red hot iron bars in the fireplace in when it pulled you out of the fire and saved your life. He then took the hand and kissed it and said Oh Mother it is such a beautiful hand. *Plaza 10/16/66 Radio 5/66-11/21/71*

Jesus put himself in to pull us out of the fire. Oh that we would cast ourselves upon Him & be saved.

Indian River 10/28/54 Norton 8-56

" IMPERIAL IMPERATIVES "

Luke 2:49 " Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business "

Introduction: The word, must, is a word Jesus often used in explaining or clarifying his actions and works. Even at the tender age of twelve, he used it to explain to Mary & Joseph that his life was to be controlled by great imperatives.

All through his ministry we hear the words " I must ".

Jesus had accepted the program of the heavenly Father. This program necessitated the Son's coming into the world and taking upon himself the form of a servant.

The word, must, is a word that suggests solemn obligation, suggests urgency, necessity... cause one to push when he is tempted to give up.

Jesus accepted the Father's Will regardless of cost. and said, " I must ".

I. Imperative of Love :

Love was the irrepressible " must " in the ministry of Jesus. This love soared upward toward God and flowed outward toward men. It was love that prompted God to send his Son into the world, and it was that same love which prompted the Son to leave his place at the Father's right hand, to be born in a stable.

1. John begins that beautiful account of Christ's meeting with the woman at Jacob's well with the revealing statement " He must needs go through Samaria " There were other routes he could have taken, as the Jews avoided the roads leading into Samaria. But here was a must,

There was a poor, benighted soul thirsty soul in the villiage of Sychar. Some would not have considered her worthwhile but Love could take the times to sit on the ledge of a well with a woman of questionable character, and patiently unfold to her the deep truths of life.

Love says, " I must " where other motives may say I might or maybe.

III. A mother sits all night by a sick child that is running a high fever. She must stay there, but it is love that says she must.

If we have the Spirit of Christ within our hearts, our services will be prompted by love.

Forced service can be slavery but through love it becomes a delight to live & work for Christ.

A. Livingstone remained in Africa against the advice of physicians & friends. He stayed because he felt he must. It was that MUST that kept him there until he died on his knees.

B. Judson: kept at his tedious task of translating the scriptures into Burmese, with no hope of reward, except to see the light shine in Burma. It took a great imperative to prompt a man to give his life for such a task. It was the imperative of love.

C. Missionaries: in China during the last war rejected offers of evacuation in the face of the approaching Japanese armies. They felt they must stay with the people. The mission board did not say they must stay but something within their hearts said, I Must.

II. The Imperative of Duty:

John 9:4 "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."

Jesus knew that he had been sent to do certain things and it was his duty to the Father to do them.

Love and duty need not be thought of as separate imperatives in the Christian's life. They go hand in hand.

Duty points the way, while love gives the motive and the incentive to follow in that way. Love does not lessen duty, but rather awakens us to our highest duty.

DUTY is a word that many Christians need to re-learn.

"The Christian's highest privilege is to do what he ought to do, not what he may want to do. (NAME SOME)

There are distinct Christian duties that should become imperatives in our lives. *There are really more than duties - but privileges.*

1. Worship is a Christian duty: Purpose of worship is to exalt the Lord. Everyone should be in church for their services of Worship.

2. Bible Study is a Christian duty: It is the duty of every Christian to know all that they can about what God says in his word.

3. Prayer is a Christian duty: More than once Jesus withdrew from the multitude & sometimes from the disciples to spend time in prayer. We too should try to spend much time in prayer.

4. Consistent living as a Christian duty:

Here much is at stake. The life and influence of a child of God.

Here we must shake ourselves free of any sinful living. Come out from among the unbelievers and their ways of living. Remember you are a Christian and you are not suppose to do the things that the people of the world do.

III. The Imperative of Sacrifice:

Matt: 16:21 "From that time forth began Jesus to show unto his disciples, how he must go into Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day."

Here is the imperative that points to a cross. There before Jesus was the Hill of Reproach, and on it the Tree of Shame, looming ugly & dark against the sky. But over against this picture of a dreaded, shameful cross is the picture of a sinning, dying, helpless world. Jesus looked at a lost world, and then at that cross & said, "I must."

The imperative that sent Jesus to the cross was not his own need but for a world lost in sin. Must is a hard word when it involves cross. It was not easy for Jesus, but he set his face like a flint, & walked straight toward Calvary. It was something that must be done if a lost world was to be saved.

It is not easy when you have a Gethsemane to pass through. Not easy when you have a cross to bear of self-denial and complete surrender. Our people today know so little of self-denial or complete surrender.

Real Christian living does ~~not~~ include sacrifice & self-denial. "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself". The real test of our profession is our attitude toward sacrifice. If we can set our faces toward the cross and calmly shut out the thoughts of an easier path, then we are manifesting something of the