

OUR GREATEST REASON FOR WINNING SOULS TO CHRIST

2 Cor. 5:11

Paul is writing to the Church at Corinth.

Membership of that church made up of people converted from heathen idolatry. Had been worshipers of idols.

The cause of their conversion was the love of God.

Romans 2:4. Paul says "It is the goodness of God that leadeth men to repentance."

In his first letter to this church he reminded them of God's love. Greatest exposition on the love of God to be found anywhere in all the world is 1 Cor. 13. Nowhere else is love so defined in human language.

No doubt they had the idea that God was so good that he would not permit anyone to be lost regardless of how he lived.

That is our danger today.

Prone to preach the love of God to the exclusion of His wrath. When we do, there is one thing sure to happen - Christians quit trying to win the lost to Christ, because they have no burden for the lost. Terminates in a lack of incentive to pray and to warn people - can't you see it? How many times have I seen parents with tears streaming down their faces saying, "Pray for my boy; he is in trouble." Naturally they were not so much concerned about their child so long as he was not in trouble.

When I turn through the pages of the Bible and study the history of the great men of God, I am amazed at one thing that affected them that we do not seem to consider at all now.

it is the fear of God. When God spoke to men of old they minded Him like a faithful child, obeying the commandments of a Father.

It is said of Noah - "By faith Noah being warned of God of things not seen as yet moved by fear prepared an ark for the saving of his household."

The thing that moved Noah to build the ark was the fear of drowning in the flood.

It says three times in the first 3 chapters of Job, "Job feared God and escheweth evil."

The dying thief on His cross listened to the other thief rail on the crucified son of God in that tragic hour of Calvary.

He was astounded as a dying man's cursing the Saviour of men as he was spilling his life's blood.

He who had lived in sin up to one hour of death cried with a warning that echoed with this appeal "Dost not thou fear God?"

No wonder Solomon, the wisest of all men, wrote, "The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom" - Prov. 9:10. That statement astounds us - any one who does not possess the fear of God is void of even a spark of wisdom regardless of what knowledge he may have he is a fool in God's sight.

It was the terror of the Lord that caused Paul to be the world's greatest persuader of men to become reconciled to God. Note how carefully Paul made his statement - "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord we persuade men"

It is because of this solemn fear of God that we work so hard to win others! God ever present in our minds
Living Letters, Kenneth Taylor

How did he know it? - I know.

1. Historical Revelations

First - He knew it from the history of the angels. Lucifer, an angel of light - great beauty - power. He rebelled against God and his name immediately changed from light bearer to a demon.

No longer is he known for his love, light, beauty but from that time a rebel against God.

His names are legion and not one of them in the semblance of God.

He is Satan, devil, old dragon, arch deceiver, Father of lies, roaring devouring lion with not nature but to destroy, to doom others, to reign in darkness, to cause sorrow, tears and death.

No finite mind could possibly conceive of the extensiveness of his destructiveness.

Not only did he cause 1/3 of the angels to suffer the eternal curse of his diabolical nature and engage with him in his lasting schemes and the distinction of all that is good - but they too are to be shut up in hell, with him forever.

Paul was thinking - oh if I might have been there to persuade Lucifer of the terror of God. - Tell him consequences.

Paul knew about Adam - God spoke "of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat; but the tree of knowledge of good and evil thou shalt not eat of it for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" Gen. 2:16-17

There crept into the scene the devil clothed in stolen beauty of the serpent before his curse -

With blinding power - lying subtleness he said to Eve - "Yeah hadh God said ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden"

We may eat of the fruit - God said we shall die if eat one tree.

Serpent - Ye shall not surely die. Your eyes will be open and know as God.

Then the woman gave to her husband and he did eat.

Paul was thinking = "Oh if I might have been there to persuade Adam and Eve? - Tell them of the terror of the Lord."

Adam you are sealing your doom and the doom of you children. Fixing the eternal destiny of your children forever - Please Adam don't eat of that forbidden fruit - Don't disobey such a merciful God.

If only Adam had known the results of his acts.

He saw nothing but the goodness and mercy of God.

He never thought of God's hatred for sin.

He was blind to it's terrible consequences.

Think of God's covenant with Isreal.

He loved His chosen people?

Promise and fulfillment - land flowing with milk and honey.

Covenant - "and the Lord said unto Moses this thou shalt say unto the children of Isreal. Ye have seen that I have talked with you from heaven. Ye shall not make other gods with me; gods of silver, or gold you shall not make unto you.

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them, for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the Children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate men."

Paul was thinking if only I had been there to persuade Isreal to stay with their covenant with God.

If I could flash on the screen before their eyes the results of breaking that covenant. Could have shown them in chains marching away to Chaldea as exiles, leaving dead leaders, homes, the Temple in ashes, the city in ruins.

This day he wanders upon the earth without a home, persecuted.

II. Personal Experience

Paul had his own experience to make him know the reason for winning souls to Christ.

Remember He called himself "the chief of sinners."

When he was a Pharisee he was living in sin, but oh how he paid the price for his sin.

11 Chapt. he tells the people at Corinth about how he suffered after becoming a Christian.

I use to wonder why, for Paul is the best man and the nearest like Jesus, I ever read after.

"Once was I stoned and dragged out the city for dead" - but every time a stone from the hands of a persecutor struck his bleeding bruised body, Paul heard again the echo of the thud coming from that blood stoning of Stephen, of which he himself was guilty.

When Paul was beaten with stripes and thrown in prison he lay in his blood and pain remembering his confession.

A Challenge From Dr. Angel Martinez

The task of evangelism is to get the church out of the church. It is so easy for God's people to insulate themselves from the world with comforting preaching and delightful music. Christians will never surpass the technique which Christ gave the church that she needs to go out into the highways and the hedges and compel them to come in. The outsiders who need God's redeeming love are not going to seek it on their own. We must become the link between their desperate need and the saving mercy of Jesus Christ.

70' Last year it took thirty Baptists one entire year to win one person to Christ. This is not adequate. No business could survive with this type of progress. How long would an insurance company survive if it took thirty agents an entire year to sell one policy? How long would an automobile agency stay in business if it took thirty salesmen an entire year to sell one car? So many of God's people are indifferent to the needs of men. The saving experience of conversion is a pivotal event in making life meaningful. The unsaved man needs redemption; we should not ignore it.

Do you know that if one Christian won one person to Christ this year, and then both of them win one each the following year, and all four would win one each the third year, in thirty-three years, the length of the life of Jesus, three billion people, the population of the earth at the present time, would be won to the Saviour.

made in one month
I urge every member of this church, in the concluding days of revival to try to win one person to Christ. Bring them to the services and let me preach to them and then expose them to the moment during the invitation when I challenge them to accept Christ through prayer in the privacy of their own hearts. Bring your loved ones and neighbors and business associates and Sunday School pupils and friends. God could repeat Pentecost in our midst.



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(Hick)

Spencer
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Worship

As for Saul he made havoc of the church entering into every house and dragging men and women committing them to prison.

Paul knew that men were deceived by sin, men and led to think that somehow, everything will finally come out right - that hell is a fallacy and heaven is a dream - that sin is a blunder of ignorance - that judgement is a fake and it will be well with them no matter what they do.

UNsaved men are lured into a feeling of false security.

Lost men do not discern the evil within them, In fact they feel what they do is right. To the drunkard, gambler, immoral man there is no evil. Bad men always justify themselves in their wrongdoing.

Men simply put the matter of their souls salvation off to a more convenient season. When the time is right they will turn to God.

The trouble is not with God, but with men. ^{are} They/in too big a rush in this world of change to think about their soul's salvation.

Set in their own ambitions - their souls will wait they think. They think respectability is laudable so why worry about accepting Christ.

Tomorrow as you go out on the street - count the people you meet every other one on an average is lost.

If death should come immediately, every other one on an average would go out of this life unprepared to meet God.

Count the houses on you street - if the Lord were to come today, it would be literally time that "the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left." Luke 17:34.

C.W. Pope - Tenn. Convention Executive Secretary - Tells moving story of the lost in Tenn.

Suppose the army of lost in Tenn. were going to march by you beginning the close of the Sunday morning service and you stand by road side counting - one person per second until they all passed by.

How long would you count - 60 lost persons each minute - 3,600 each hour, 86,400 each

24 hours.

Lost soul every second - never stopping get food or drink or sleep or to talk.

Next Wed. when we gather for prayer, still be counting next Sunday morning - and the next Sunday morning. Two weeks from now you would still be there - day and night for 17 days.

There they go - old men - women - youth - children = parents - teachers - lawyers - doctors - farmers - mechanics and others marching to their doom.

No wonder Paul wrote "Be not deceived God is not mocked , for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

When sickness comes they have no spiritual resources. Thousands of homes where children have never been blessed by a parents ~~max~~ prayer.

Children usually follow the pattern of their parents.

If the lost continue their present plight they will spend eternity in a terrible place the Bible calls hell.

When I read the story of that rich man in hell, that I have preached and pondered many times, I find myself pitying him.

I cannot help wishing that I could have been there when Lazarus died and said to that rich man - "oh, please allow me to persuade you to accept the Saviour of this beggar. He is in Heaven and unless you give your heart to Christ you will wake up in hell."

I could have said remember your influence as well as the welfare of your soul. Man look at your five brothers here = if only you would trust Jesus as your Saviour, maybe they would too.

But I can not talk with him like everyone who died out of Christ. His doom is sealed forever.

I can say with Paul knowing the terror of the Lord we persuade men/

To the indifferent who are Christians, please hear me - your sin will surely find

you out - you may laugh at your indifference and lack of interest in the church but that does not settle the issue by any means. Who Won you to Jesus?

Hudson Taylor - won - unknown writer

R. A. Torrey - won - mother

Russell Conwell - Orderly

J. Wilbur Chapman - S.S. Teacher

A.B. Simpson - Book

George Mueller - Friend

Sam~~x~~ Jones - Father

Spurgeon~~in~~ - Blacksmith

J. Wesley - Unknown Preacher

Dewitt Talmage - Circuit rider

John R. Mott - S.S. Teacher

Charles Finney - Christian Mother

Billy Graham - Preacher Mordicai Hamm

Every Christian should have the names of one or 3 persons that they are trying to win to Christ.

Jesus is our example Nicodemus, Samaritan woman, Zaccheus, et.

Persuade men - when men begin to see what sin is and what it leads to.

When men begin to be dissatisfied with a life of sin and long for a right way of living, then will their souls be stirred with a desire for the Christian life - then will their salvation be assured.

There is only one way to get to God and that way is through faith in Christ.

Phillippian Jailor - What must I do to be saved?

Paul - Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.

A lotis contained this word believe

Tender - to embosom and nestle one's self in God.

xWhere is youx

Where is your soul?

Your soul should be anchored in Christ - rest in His promises = love so amazing,
so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

There is only one time to take Christ and that is now.

There is only one way - Believe

There is only one result - Eternal life.