

"THE REAL McCOY"

Romans 1:16

Thousands have thrilled to the words and music of "It's Real", written H. L. Cox. But It's Real, it's real, I know it's real. Cox's song underscores the fact that Christians know Christ is real because of a personal experience with Him. That it is not a hearsay or an imitation product.

Now most of you have heard the expression -- (It's the real McCoy.) Even though you do not understand how the slogan got started, and that is what I want to talk to you about today. The Real McCoy.

Back in 1891 a black inventor scientist by the name of Elijah McCoy invented an automatic lubrication device, for heavy machinery. Now prior to this discovery, all machines had to be stopped periodically to be oiled. Which meant a time and money delay. He organized his own firm. The Elijah McCoy Manufacturing Company in Detroit. And from that company, he marketed his product. His company coined the phrase. (The Real McCoy.) Now when other people tried to copy his invention, customers could be assured of the real thing - if they bought from McCoy.

It is important to buy genuine products in the market place. But it is vital to everything in this life and in the life to come, to discover the real thing in religion. Jesus Christ, himself. No substitute will do.

Let us now look at Paul, who talked about Christ and the great salvation. In which he said, I am not ashamed. In recent years the world has been shaken to its

very foundations. The whole world has been in war and has followed change after change. Economic, industrial, social, financial, educational, moral, religious. In Lebanon today we have some awful things happening. The instability of trying to reconstruct certain sections of the world. Where there are misunderstandings, terror, and hate.

Now, Paul comes to us with a great statement. He is trying to get our attention about this Gospel.

Many of the classical, musical concertos began with a crashing cord. The man would sit at the piano while the people in the hall were still a buzz and hum of conversation. To attract their attention, he would play the crashing cord. He would get their attention, and then he would go into the theme. And Paul's Gospel, of which he was proud and privileged to preach. When you think of the background out of which he made this statement. You are simply amazed. He had been in prison in Philippi, chased out of Thessalonica, smuggled out of Berea, laughed at in Athens. He had preached in Corinth. Where his message was declared foolishness to the Greeks. And a stumbling block to the Jew.

Do people today have an adequate remedy for the situation as the world is today. For human need. Do we have the answer?

Paul was representing Christ. Whether he was dealing with astoids - Paul's message could be utterly discredited by them. In Athens. But Paul went on to Rome. To the seven-hilled city. The chief power of the ancient time. He longed to witness for Christ, where Cicero *Thrilled the multitudes with his eloquence*

He made confession of his faith, as every man ought to do. He was (giving up) his friends and his loved ones for a life of toil, wounds, and suffering. To the end of his earthly days. And when it meant finally the laying down of his life for the Gospel.

Was Paul justified in his course. Did he represent the real McCoy of the Gospel. Let us come a little closer. And listen to some of the confessions that Paul made. You would make it - and I would make it. We have staked our all on Christ for time and for eternity. Now are we justified in such a great adventure. Have we chose the way of wisdom, safety, and peace. As followers of Jesus Christ.

Now I believe that Paul felt that he had access and was representing the real McCoy of the Gospel for several reasons.

First, because of its author. Paul was not ashamed of the author of the Gospel. The Gospel is Christ. And I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. Paul's hope for time and eternity was in the person - and that person was Christ. The (key) to his whole concept of Christianity - now the battles of theology have raged about the person of Christ. Through history, but (everything) stands or falls with the person of Christ. What you think of Jesus Christ. Without hesitation, the human race did not and could not produce Christ. (If) it could have produced one Christ, why has it not produced others equal to him. The task was beyond the human race. Because he is not only the son of man. He is also the (son of God). He is God the Son, God of God, light of light - he is immanuel, God with us. He was both God and man in one personality. And that is a mark of distinction and yet there is unity. Now this tremendous truth was stated in five brief words in the Bible. The word was made flesh. Without controversy, great

is the mystery of Godliness. God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into Glory.

Second, the Word of God. Paul knew that he had the real McCoy in the Gospel, because of Christ's Word. And the way he spoke. Never a man spake like this man. Always and everywhere, there was perfection. He affirmed his own diety, from eternity. "Before Abraham was, I am." In his omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience. He is the only adequate Saviour.

If you take any of his words that you will, and it is manifest that he speaks the first Word and the last upon every subject in which he speaks.

Take the amazing words, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Now these words upon any other lips than his, would be absurd. But coming from Him, they are like honey from the rock of God.

Take the amazing words, "I am the light of the world." What does Christ say here. He says he is all the light that the world needs. Even all of its people, all of the centuries, throughout all of the ages. He says, he is the answer to all. He says he is the explanation of all mysteries.

What are some of the universal questions that Jesus throws light on. What kind of a God, have we? Does he care? Philip cries, show us the Father, and it suffices us. Jesus answers, have I been so long a time with you - and yet, hast thou not known me Philip. He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father.

There is another question, what are the proper relations between man and God. The answer comes, there is one mediator between God and men. Himself, man. Christ, Jesus.

Another question - what are the proper relations between man and man. In Christ alone we find the right answer. Take any question -- what about the great beyond. If a man dies, shall he live again. The answer, is death an eternal sleep. And is it a passage into a land without light or love. The only sane sure answer about the life beyond is given by Christ.

Third, his works. Paul knew that here was the real McCoy. "Believe me, for my works sake." A tree is known by its fruit. What then shall be said of Christ's works. From his cradle to his grave - there was his diety. The shepherds came and salute him as a King. The Magi came with their rich gifts on that memorable night to worship him.

When he was 12 years of age, in the Temple, he was asking and answering the questions of learned men. He baffled them. As a young man, he patiently worked at the work bench - teaching us how the infinite was on his divine mission. Three short years of public ministry. Wherever he went, he had only to speak and the winds obeyed him. The storms were quieted at his command. Demons fled from the afflicted people.

Loaves and fishes were multiplied to feed the hungry thousands.

With Jesus' pierced hands, he had lifted empires off their hinges. And turned the streams of centuries backward into its channel. The short years of his public ministry, Jesus had done more to help the regenerated man, than all of the philosophers since the world began.

Fourth, his character. Paul knew that he had the real McCoy. There he stands, flawless. You cast any challenge to him, which of you convinceth me of sin. Whether friend or foe.

Pilate said, "I find no fault in him."

Look at him, not as a son of man, but the Son of man. For all humanity is summed up in him. He is the highest example of meekness. You would not look to Moses but to Jesus. Who was meek and lowly in heart.

For a high example of patience. We would not look to Job - but we would look to Jesus. When it is said, he was reviled. Yet, he reviled not again.

For the highest example of wisdom, we do not look to Solomon. But we look to Jesus. Who spake as never a man spake.

For the highest example of pity and sorrow, we would not look to Jeremiah the

weeping prophet. We would look to Jesus who wept over the tomb of Jerusalem.

For the highest (example of zeal) we would not look to Paul. But we would look to Jesus. The zeal of thou house hast eaten me up.

For the highest (example of love) we would not look to John, but to Jesus. He so loved us sinners, though we are, as to lay down his life for us.

Men talk about their ability to believe in miracles. Or their inability. Pray - what will they do with Jesus. He is the outstanding miracle of the ages. He is the universal man. He is born of the first century and he belongs to all centuries. He was born a Jew, but he belongs to all races. He was born in Bethlehem, but he belongs to all countries.

As the old sexton said, as he put his trust in him, and he will go his way - thrilled with the consciousness that Christ has forgiven his sin. And is helping him to bear the burdens of life.

Forever God,  
Forever man  
My Jesus shall endure  
And fix on him, my hope remains  
Eternally secure.

Mozart, it is said, brought angels down with his music.

Beethoven lifted up mortals to Heaven. But Jesus does both and more. He is God's way to man and man's way to God. He is the true Jacob's ladder between earth and Heaven. He lived as none other ever lived. He died as none other ever died. From Mt. Olivett he went back to the Father, to fulfill the history, and to be the Saviour of the lost world.

No wonder Paul says in his text is there anything in the person of Christ, to cause us to be ashamed. We believe in his super natural birth, his absolute diety, his substitutionary death for sinners, his bodily resurrection, in his personal return. In his own time without sin unto salvation.

With Paul, we would joyfully commit ourselves to Him, asking nothing more in this world or in the next. Than we should be forever with Him.

Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel, of what it is, of what it does for mankind. Because he says, it is the power of God, unto salvation, to everyone that believeth.

It is not a hard thing to understand why false Gospels should have their devotees throughout the earth. But if you mark the nature and the purpose of the Gospel of Christ, it has high and holy requirements. And you compare these with all of the false Gospels, with their appeals to the carnal and the selfish. And you see how His Gospel wins its way everywhere. Why do we have Mohammadism. Which has brought many to slavery. The purpose of Christianity is to abolish slavery. To break the shackles of human beings. The high challenge is to enter the Kingdom of God. Sin must be repented of. There is room in Christ's kingdom for repentent and believing sinners. We must be born again. We must be recreated. With that high demand, Christ ever makes his Gospel the same Gospel



to this day.

It is no easy sailing on this Gospel ship. Opposition has come against all of it from the beginning of time.

A noted skeptic of the old world, boasted in 1809, that in another 100 years - there would not be a single Bible left in the world. Save those that were kept as nik-nacks or in museums. And yet since he made that dreadful prophesy, there are many times more the number of Bibles in the world - than we ever knew before. And they have been printed and scattered like the leaves of the trees throughout the earth.

I received word this past week of some Gideons going down to South America and giving out 62,000 Bibles, in two days. A generation has come and gone - up and down this land, we find people who lecture against religion. But we know, as Paul says, truth found in Jesus Christ is the real McCoy.

There is a bit of (poetry) -

Truth forever on the scaffold.  
Wrong forever on the Throne.  
But that scaffold sways the future.  
And behind the dim unknown  
Standeth Christ within the shadows  
Keeping watch above his own.

This morning, or today my friends, do you not agree with me - that we do not need a (new) Gospel. With which to win this sinning world. Quite often, today, you see things

circulating - the new religion. And it comes and is hailed by trumpets. It goes to the book stores, and after its publication. But there is not anything new about it. The writers of those books are usually like the Greek philosophers. And they are as dry as the desert. Carlyle was right when he called all such Gospels - the Gospel of dirt. No redeeming salvation - and they reduced Christianity to ethics. Christ, crucified, is the power of God in winning the world to Him. There is no other power. To break the unbearable yoke upon men which is sin.

Paul once said to the Jews - require a sign. And the Greeks - seek the wisdom. But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jew's stumbling block, unto the Greeks foolishness. But unto them that are called both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power and God the wisdom, of God. Now Paul shouts, God forbid that I should glory - save in the cross, of our Lord Jesus Christ - by whom the world is crucified unto me. And I, unto the world.

It was in the face of that that Isaac Watts wrote - When I Survey The Wondrous Cross. On which the prince of glory died. My richest gain, I count but loss, and pour content on all my pride.

Forbid it Lord that I should boast, save in the cross of Christ, my God. All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to thy blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet. Sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did era such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown.

Where the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small. Love so

amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

All of those who go to these various sources cannot produce a Gospel, and cannot produce one life like that of Carey, Judson, or Livingston.

The power of God unto salvation. To any other Gospel, except the Gospel of Christ, let it be repeated times without count. That any Gospel that denies the death and the resurrection of Christ, never was or ever will be a religion or conquering power in this world.

Paul found the real McCoy. At it was found in the contents of Mark in his words - ("I delivered unto you first of all, that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins. According to the Scriptures. And that he was buried, and how he arose again, the third day according to the Scripture.")

That is a brief statement as to the content of this glorious Gospel. Christ died for man's sin. He arose again, the grave being empty of its content. And everywhere men repent and turn to him.

Do you not also agree, that much of the current things that we hear in the world are just scraps of discussion, of superficial things. And they fail to preach God's Book.

We are not primarily individuals to be social agitators. God did not call me to be

a reformer. One of the great Gospel preachers of the past like Alexander McClarrin held fast to the fundamental content of the Gospel of Christ. Their primary insistence was that all men must be born again. When men are born again, it will be natural for them to bear fruits and for them to praise God. A well pruned tree in the orchard brings forth fruit.

There is a longing in all hearts to have something of the peace of God that passeth all understanding. The story in the art gallery of the old man who gazed at the thorn-crowned Christ, who broke out with the expression, "Bless Him, I love Him." A stranger standing near, heard his words, and clasp his hands and said - Brother, I love Him too. And then a third and a fourth and still others. Who before had been strangers and now because of their common love for the crucified Lord, this is a parable of the prophecy of what is going to come to pass through this earth. When Christ's love is fully shed abroad in men's hearts, by the Holy Spirit, The most vital matter in this world is that Christ's friends lay hold of this power which they have in the Gospel. The Gospel which won Paul the self-righteous persecutor. It won Simon Peter the boastful bragging man. It won Augustine, and John Bunyan, and Sam Hadley, and George Mueller, and on and on the list has grown into a multitude, which no man can number. It has won people in the South Sea, Cannibal Islands. Won people in Africa. It has won Indians, Chinese, Koreans, who were demon worshippers. And all sorts of fanatics - every type. The Gospel of Jesus Christ has been adequate and sufficient. It is the real McCoy.

Let me say to you, the Gospel which Paul preached here, can be fully tested in experience. That it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.

The test can be made by personal experience. And you and I can say, according to my

Gospel, Christ submits himself. Come and see - he says. This is his challenge. If any man is willing to do the will of God, he will know of the teaching - whether it be of God.

So by personal experience. Men may call as long and as earnestly as they will, Confucious, Plato, and there will be no answer.

But the man who goes his way, joyful - is the one who will say one thing I know, that whereas I was blind, now I see. Christ, in human experience, he awakens, to send us all back without hesitation to follow him.

The vital questions today is - to you who are assembled here. What are your personal relations to this sufficient, abiding Gospel of Christ. Are you a friend of Christ's. Jesus said, you are my friends if you do whatsoever I command you. Are you obeying Christ. Do you delight in His service. Are our lives consistent and victorious, as his witness to fellow workers. Shall we not humbly and without reserve say - that we have dedicated all that we have to Him.

Capt. Bowden was head teller at the Farmer State Bank, at Barnette, Texas. In 1924, he had a postage machine there. One day when business was a little slow, a man who looked into Capt.'s cage, asking a lot of questions - one was, why is there a thick (marble slab) in a paying teller's window. Reaching into the back of his cash drawer, the old man pulled out two shining half dollars, and said - toss them onto the marble slab. They fell with a (dull thud). Then he reached into his coin dispenser and picked up two halves, and tossed them onto the slab. They (bounced and danced) and gave off the (rhythmic ring) of real silver. They rang true.

A real person always rings true. A phoney won't. A person of genuine character has the bounce to come back from difficult situations. The real person has a constant value - the phoney is unpredictable.

So Paul is trying to challenge us. Do you have the real McCoy - the Gospel.

Travelers often go to beautiful Edinburgh. To stand in the old graveyard by the historic Grey Friars Church - it was in that open church yard several centuries ago - that a multitude of dedicated men signed the national covenant. The old Earl of Sutherland leading the way.

As you gaze upon them, that day - do you see what they are doing. They are opening the veins in their own arms and signing the covenant with their own blood. And shall Christ's people, redeemed by his own blood, hesitate for one moment to dedicate unto him their every talent, their time, their money, their learning, their love, their lives, their all - that he may have His way with all mankind today, tomorrow, and beyond forever.

Now what shall I say to people today who might be here who are ashamed of Christ. Can it be that such are here today. And how can you be ashamed of Him. And continues to be. How can you reject him and disobey him.

Remember, you must do something with Jesus. You must do one or two things with Him.

First, you must accept him as your personal Saviour. You must reject Him. You must

confess Him or deny Him. You must be for Him or against Him. There is no place for neutrality. No third course is a possibility. You need to come to Him without further delay. You need to come to the Saviour as your Master. You need to give your heart to Him without any reservation. I wonder while we sing the closing hymn - if you would express by your public expression of Him even now as we sing our closing hymn. Paul said, the Gospel is the real McCoy. Jesus, and shall it ever be, a mortal man ashamed of Thee, ashamed of Thee whom angels praise. Whose glories shine through endless days.