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Missions and Evangelism (Sermon Outlines)

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THE COMFORT MISSIONARIES

2 Cor. 1:3-7

I. The question is often asked: "What can I do?"
"What church programs am I to enroll in?" "Seems I have so little time!"

A. Do you love people?

B. Do you share their burdens?

C. Are you carrying them something you've got plenty of - if so, you are one of Christ's Comfort carriers.

II. Paul, in his most personal letter, quickly calls attention to this Need. And in so doing he introduces some most meaningful terms.

A. 1st, it's a spirit of thanksgiving:

"Blessed be God"

1. This is always the right mood in which to face life

2. Grateful atheist has no one to thank.

Eph. 5:20 "Giving thanks always for all things unto God"

3. Two reasons for gratitude:

a.) Divine comfort.

b.) Divine deliverance.

B. Next he introduces us to God in three ways:

1. Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

a.) Not an isolated expression.

Eph. 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ"

1:17 "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory"

Rom. 15:6 "That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify"

1 Pet. 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ"

Rev. 1:6 "And hath made us kings and priests unto God"

Jn. 20:17 "Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father"

- b.) Jesus volunteered to be Son - reflects His divine position.
- c.) Relationship of Son, dependency & suffering, is shown yet does not obscure his divine role.
- d.) Jesus subordinate to God in earthly life.
- e.) He's our mediator - took our suffering as God's servant, thus placed himself in position of dependency on God.
- f.) Our sonship is thru Christ: by election, adoption not by right but by redemption.
- g.) Christ, Channel of all blessings.
- h.) Our sonship must be like his as we submit to ever will of God Matt. 5:44-45

2. Father of Mercies.

- a.) God source of all mercy.

Ps. 103:10-11 "He hath not dealt with us after our sins

- b.) At heart of universe there is a never failing fount of love, grace, mercy, comfort.
- c.) Mercy of God captures man's mind as nothing else.
- d.) Every chapter of Koran begins with "In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate."
- e.) God the God of everything beautiful and desirable

3. God of all Comfort.

- a.) Meets two needs: man's a sinner & man's a sorrower.
- b.) Comfort as noun & verb used 10 times in 5 verses
- c.) Comfort 3 fold: "all", "all", "any".
- d.) Word means to:
 - (1) Strengthen.

Jn. 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give me another Comforter, that he may abide with you, and shall be with you forever."

(2) Fortify - give courage - sets a man on his feet.
e.) 1st time in NT God is described as divine comforter.

(1) Paraclete - one who comes beside another to help.

(2) Stand beside one to encourage him when undergoing severe testing.

f.) Comfort of God thus not a sedative or narcotic.

g.) Thrill you to think God is source of encouragement and wants to lift you up!

h.) Doesn't state means by which comfort came.

i.) We can get it however by:

(1) Reading Scriptures.

1 Thess. 4:13-18 "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope."

(2) Sympathetic friends.

2 Cor. 7:6 "But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment, that you may be comforted by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ."

(3) Affliction removed.

(4) Holy Spirit.

(5) Promises.

2 Cor. 5:1-6 "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we will be clothed upon with our heavenly house, and shall receive an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away."

j.) Comfort - to be brave together.

2 Tim. 3:12 "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall be persecuted."

1 Pet. 4:16 "Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify in him, because he will receive the crown of life which God will give to him who loves him."

k.) Entire Trinity at one time or another called Comforter.

C. Then Paul states We'll have troubles.

1. Afflictions or tribulations.

a.) Weights put on a man's chest until he was crushed to death.

b.) Costly to be a Christian.

2. Affliction is a school that instructs you to help others.

3. Best answer to our human need is a more adequate thought of God.

4. Exact perils not told.

5. But do know sufferings are a part of our lives.

Rom. 8:17 "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God,

Col. 1:24 "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you

D. We become Comfort Missionaries.

1. Jesus would not leave you comfortless (orphans).

a.) He does this continually.

b.) It costs Jesus - and us - to bring the gospel.

c.) We help because He 1st did.

Heb. 2:18 "For in that he himself hath suffered being

2. Following him, I must not desert you!

a.) Ware's translation, "I have comfort to spare."

b.) Comfort not intended to terminate in the recipient.

c.) He receives in order to pass it on.

d.) God has a purpose - so you can help others.

3. Yet some are busier criticizing than they are comforting.

4. Do we calm or stir up waters?

E. What are the Sufferings of Christ?

1. Abounding in us? - does Paul take credit for part of power of Jesus redeeming blood?

2. No - Christ suffered once - for all - men & time

3. The cross is over?

4. Paul claims no part of unique sufferings of Christ

5. Rather, we become a mutual sufferer.

(a) Silver becomes pure via fire so we are refined by suffering.

(b) Our place is among the sufferers.

6. Comfort is never outweighed by suffering.

Jn. 15:20 "Remember the word that I said unto you, Th

Matt. 20:23 "And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink

7. Your suffering earlier makes current sufferers willing to listen to you.

8. Suffering devastates us if:

(a) We have a guilty conscience.

(b) Or if we brought it on ourselves.

9. Our Consolation Abounds.

a.) Paul not only endured but derived blessings from his sufferings.

b.) Comfort's more than soothing sympathy - it enable you to be brave to cope.

c.) Purpose of suffering never fully revealed - but one of its blessings is your ability to abide & help others.

10. What is richer than our salvation?

F. Our further duties: Be steadfast, Be Partakers.

1. Steadfastness necessary.

Rom. 8:17 "And if children, then heirs, heirs of God,

2 Tim. 2:12 "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him

a.) Hope was steadfast.

b.) Steadfast is from word to plant the feet down.

2. Partakers.

a.) You speak c authority because you've been there

Ezek. 3:15 "Then I came to them of the captivity at T

- b.) Christians thrive on adversity.
- c.) Chr. cannot act as isolated individual - he's an integral part of the whole.

5 PLANKS OF EVANGELISM

Col. 4:5-6

- I. Just don't know a better summation of what's expected of each Christian in evangelism than Paul states here Col. 4:5-6 "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without."
- II. Let's study the 5 Planks.

A. Walk in wisdom toward them that are without.

1. Some are without.

- a.) They are not in the church.
- b.) The church is the within.
- c.) They are not in the family.
- d.) But I have an obligation to them.
- e.) Walls are invisible, but they are there.
- f.) Some are shut out - we are not if Chr.

2. Walk in wisdom.

- a.) We must be wise in action toward those outside the church.
- b.) What impressions do we leave?
- c.) Discreet conduct will commend the gospel.
- d.) World watches our behavior.
- e.) To know how to proceed is one thing - the strength to do it is another.

3. Wisdom necessary.

- a.) Not in craftiness.
- b.) If our lives deny the peace, joy, comfort, we do not walk in wisdom toward those w/out.
- c.) Wisely do nothing to encourage the heathen in vice or discourage the spread of the gospel.
- d.) Don't increase prejudice against the church.

B. 2ndly, Redeem the Time.

1. Seize the opportunity.

2. Make proper use of specific occasions.
3. Buy up the opportunity to use everyone at advantageous time - make the most of each chance.
4. Lord wants us ready for those He's made ready.
5. Joy to be awake - to be drowsy is to be discouraged.
6. Be ready at all times, but especially at precise moment. Who kisses hello on a date?

C. 3rdly, Let your speech be always with grace.

1. Hard to be courteous in speech.
2. Harder to always be.
3. Sometimes it's easy to be sweet.
4. Don't be too hard on heathen customs.
5. Not enuf to ans. - must do so in right manner.
6. Commend message c charm & wit.
7. Banish all impure motives.

D. 4thly, Let your speech be seasoned c Salt.

1. Avoid tastelessness.
2. Salt does away c the dull.
3. Salt brings out the best in food - our conversations should bring out the best in people.
4. Salt preserves & makes palatable.

Eph. 4:29 "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of

Mk. 9:50 "Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his salt

1 Pet. 3:15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and

5. GK. word means wit, piquant, not empty speech.

E. 5thly, That ye may know how to Ans. every man.

1. Meet inquiries c grace.
2. Deal c each man individually - not one stock ans. - little boy selling peanut brittle, "It's finger lickin' good - if I'm a - lyin, then I'm a flyin."

3. Not asked to w/draw from ordinary community life
4. Let your ans. be accurate & full.
5. Chr. on outlook for every opportunity to talk Christ.
6. We need be ashamed of no question - neither weaken or enhance to please anyone.
7. Every Chr. has an urgent mission - have right approach to others to bring him to Jesus.

WE ARE EVER INVITING

I. In every sphere, I'm invited.

A. Advertising to come to stores & restaurants.

B. Entertainment spends lots of money.

C. People ever want friends to drop by.

1. Story of two widows & cottage - need lady to talk about.

II. Why do they want me?

A. My money - (family c no car - all they have is money).

B. My influence.

III. Why do we not invite?

A. Story of one man who brot 2700.

B. It's expected of a church that it wants to propagate itself - one of our visitors said, "Don't call - I'll come back."

C. I believe I can impart a blessing.

IV. Will we do it?

A. Hard work "The only stone she left unturned."

1. 80% sales after 5th call.

a.) 48% salesmen make 1 call & quit.

b.) 25% make 2 & quit.

c.) 12% make 3 and quit.

2. It demands unselfishness.

a.) Shrink resistant sox - Shrink out don't want to.

b.) Practical gift - outboard motor.

3. It demands promptness.

a.) Story of shoe ticket after 10 yrs.

b.) Fly - sick baby, walked ceiling all nite.

B. It's essential - work out the budget, one of us has to go.

West End Combined Visitation Teams Dinner 3-19-81

A REMINDER OF OUR MISSION

I. Before attempting to recount any experiences of the 14th Pan American Lectureship, I want to remind you of some words Earl Edwards had in the Fall Lectureship at Harding, Oct. '76.

II. Jesus the Reason for Joy.

Luke 2:10 "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for

A. Jesus is the Cause, the Occasion of the Joy.

1. Happiness found in being reconciled to Him.

2. Can't be happy w/o Him.

3. Depraved & lost out of Him.

Ps. 35:9 "My soul shall rejoice in the Lord, exulting in his deliverance."

B. Why was Jesus occasion of such Joy?

Eph. 5:21 "Christ loved us & gave Himself for a

1. Eros = street type.

2. Phileo = fond of, like to be around.

3. Agape = Cranfield, "This love shows itself by helping its object rather than desiring to possess & enjoy it."

4. Nygren, "The only grounds for God's love is to be found in God Himself. God's love is altogether spontaneous, it does not look for anything in man that can be adduced as motivation for it. Divine love is unmotivated. When it is said that God loves man, this is not a judgment on what man is like but rather what God is like."

5. At Orphan Home we select the pretty one; not the belligerent child who spits in our face. Yet this is what God did.

6. We select people we can profit from.

Rom. 5:11 "And not only so, but we also joy in God th

C. This Love Should Control us.

2 Cor. 5:14 "For the love of Christ controls us, becaus

1. We should want to please Him every way possible.

2. Our interest should be His interests.

3. Elevate spiritual matters.

D. He came to seek & save lost.

Lu. 19:10 "For the Son of man is come to seek and to s

Mk. 16:15-16 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all

Lu. 19:41 "And when he was come near, he beheld the

1. How **well** have we done it?

2. Many Christians in USA.

3. W.E. baptize many?

4. Our mission efforts.

(a) 200 American evangelists outside USA.

(b) 700 to 800 foreign evangelists preaching.

(c) 223 nations + island groups in world.

(d) 100 have no works at all.

(e) Ea. preacher outside USA has to carry gospel to
3 or 4 million.

(f) To project foreign picture to US it would be like
having 70 preachers in USA - 1 1/2 in Tenn.

E. Do we want to do better?

1. See urgency - every tick of clock 3 die.

2. Let personal life become subservient to this
mission - use time, talent, money.

Matt. 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and

3. Individually evaluate our motives.

1 Cor. 6:19-20 "What? know ye not that your body is

4. Find joy in reaching others.

1 Thess. 2:20 "For ye are our glory and joy."