

Insight for the Issues

Prov. 4:23

NE[→]XT STEPS

“The Issue of Evangelism”

Prov. 4:23 **Keep thy heart** with all diligence; for **out of it are the issues of life.**

“Christ’s Mission = Our Mission”

We have been considering a vital issue for churches and members – evangelism. We began by looking at the “great commission” found in Acts 1:8:

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses unto me both** in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, **and** unto the uttermost part of the earth.

I. THE CAPABILITY FOR THE MISSION

II. THE COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION

III. THE CULMINATION OF THE MISSION

Two weeks ago, we considered the role of our church *body* in representing the Lord Jesus Christ in His *shepherding*...

I. THE ROLE OF THE SHEPHERD

A. The Symbolism Chosen

Psa. 23:1 **The LORD is my shepherd**; I shall not want.

Jn. 10:11 **"I am the good shepherd..."** 14 **"I am the good shepherd..."**

Heb. 13:20 **"...our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep..."**

1 Pet. 2:25 **"...but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."**

Pet. 5:4 **"And when the chief Shepherd shall appear..."**

B. The Service Connection, Mt. 9:35-38

1. The Necessity of the Ministry, 9:35-36

a. The Outreach, 9:35

b. The Obligation, 9:36

2. The Need of the Ministers

II. THE REPRESENTATION OF THE SHEPHERD

A. A Church Should Represent the Shepherd

- ❖ Jesus IS the Shepherd.
- ❖ Each community needs Him and His “shepherding” = a local body.
Col. 1:18
- ❖ Our church, as His body, is to represent Him and His shepherding =

ALL THE TIME...EVERYWHERE

B. A Church IS Reflecting the Savior

- ❖ Our church, as His body, is also likened as branches to the Vine:
Jn. 15:8 **Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**
- ❖ Our church, His body, must work together in unity and be fruitful for His glory. Col. 3:15

Tonight, we continue looking at the issue of evangelism and consider...

“Christ’s Mission = Our Mission”

Jn. 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: **as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**

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

Jn. 17:18 As **thou hast sent me** into the world, **even so have I also sent them** into the world.

I. THE FOCUS OF THE MISSION = The Will of God

A. The Sustenance of Christ

Jn. 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is **to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.**

- ❖ Focusing on the Obedience – “...to do the will of him that sent me...” = SUBMISSION
- ❖ Focusing of the Operation – “...to finish...” = COMMISSION
- ❖ Focusing on the Objective – “...his work.” = MISSION

B. The Strength for the Christian

- ❖ Relationship Identification with Christ:

Mark 3:35 For whosoever shall do **the will of God**, the **same is** my brother, and my sister, and mother.

Jn. 13:20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth **whomsoever I send** receiveth me; and **he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.**

❖ Realization of Commitment to Christ:

Rom. 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may **prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

❖ Reflection of Motivation for Christ:

Eph. 6:6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, **doing the will of God from the heart;**

❖ Reward of Faithfulness to Christ:

Heb. 10:36 For ye have need of patience, that, **after ye have done the will of God**, ye might receive the promise.

1 Pet. 4:2 That he **no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh** to the lusts of men, **but to the will of God**.

1 Jn. 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but **he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever**.

II. THE FAITH FOR THE MISSION = The Word of God

Heb. 10:38a “Now the just shall live by faith...”

❖ The mission is great, and God’s grace is sufficient for the task, as we walk by faith:

2 Cor. 12:9 And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee**: for **my strength is made perfect in weakness**. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

❖ Soul-winning witnesses MUST love and live the Word of God:

Rom. 10:17 So then **faith cometh by hearing**, and **hearing by the word of God**.

❖ The Holy Spirit, with His sword, will produce good fruit:

1 Pet. 1:23 **Being born again**, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **by the word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever.
24 For all flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the **flower** thereof falleth away:
25 But **the word of the Lord endureth for ever**. And this is **the word which by the gospel is preached** unto you.

Isa. 55:11 So shall **my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth**: it shall not return unto me void, **but it shall accomplish that which I please**, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto **I sent it**.

III. THE FAILURE IN THE MISSION = The Displeasure of God

❖ A professing Christian who fails to witness, or is a false witness, is displeasing to God.

Heb. 10:38b “...but **if any man draw back**, my soul shall have **no pleasure in him**.”

Prov. 6:16 These **six things doth the LORD hate**: yea, **seven are an abomination unto him**:

19 A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Prov. 14:5 A **faithful witness** will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies.

Prov. 19:9 A **false witness** shall not be unpunished, and *he that* speaketh lies shall perish.

Prov. 25:18 **A man that beareth false witness** against his neighbour *is* a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.

❖ A professing Christian CANNOT be neutral in regard to witnessing:

Mt. 12:30 He that is not with me is against me; and **he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.**

❖ The heart of a professing Christian is revealed by lifestyle choices, including witnessing:

Mt. 15:19 For **out of the heart proceed** evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, **false witness**, blasphemies:

IV. THE FRUITFULNESS FROM THE MISSION = The Glory of God

- ❖ Fruitfulness completes the purpose for our existence – Isa. 43:7 – to glorify God!

Jn. 15:8a “**Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit...**”

- ❖ Fruitfulness is a testimony of legitimacy – we are His disciple

Jn. 15:8b “**...so shall ye be my disciples.**”

Mt. 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth *it*; **which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth**, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Conclusion

1 Jn. 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that **God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.**

10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and **sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, **we ought also to love one another.**