

BIBLE LIGHT AND TRUTH

Reflections on Scripture

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

DAWN CHRISTADELPHIANS

“SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS
RIGHTEOUSNESS” MATT 6:23

PREACHING THE WORD

“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season.” 2Tim 4:2

This was Paul’s exhortation to Timothy that no matter how convenient or inconvenient, “preach the Word” Now the most effective way of preaching is by example and Paul tells us to use him as an example saying:

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. I praise you for remembering me in everything and for **holding to the teachings,** just as I passed them on to you.” 1Corinthians 11:1-2

So how can we follow Paul’s example?

Well, not all of us feel able to go out in public and speak directly to other people about what we believe. However, Paul wrote that all can help in this work through prayer saying:

“and pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.” Col 4:3

“Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may **spread rapidly and be honoured,** just as it was with you.” 2Thess 3:1

Even in prison Paul never ceased preaching the Word. We can all help in the work of preaching by prayer and following Paul’s example: “Endure **hardship with us** like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No-one serving as a soldier gets involved in civil-

ian affairs--he wants to please his commanding officer.” 2Tim 2:3-4

Service to the Lord Jesus plus the willingness to ‘seek first the Kingdom of God’ and ‘hold fast that which is good’, must be our overriding attitude of mind. There is no fellowship with those who are in spiritual darkness, the life of those who seek to honour God must be quite different and separate:

“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?” 2 Cor 6:14-15

How can we preach by example, if our lives are no different to those in the world about us? Consider the example of Ezekiel, he was to be a ‘watchmen’ to his generation.

We read: “..son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for me. When I say to the wicked, “O wicked man, you shall surely die!” and you do not speak to warn the wicked man from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at your hand. Nevertheless, if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.” Ezek 33:7-9

We **all**, no matter what our

abilities or talents, have a duty and responsibility to proclaim the Gospel message, acting as ‘watchmen’ to our generation. There is no substitute for personal preaching and there are many opportunities for speaking to family, friends, work colleagues etc. Are the people we know aware of what we believe, or is the light of the Truth hidden? Just think, the only chance that those people may have of finding the Truth and salvation may be us!! If we do not preach the message to them, who will?

Paul seized all his opportunities to preach the Word, so also should we, so ask yourself some questions:

- Do you show the joy of the gospel in your manner of life?
- Do you show the hope of the gospel in your manner of life?
- Do you keep separate from the world and its ways?
- Do you set a personal example just as Paul did?
- Do you pray for all aspects of the work within your ecclesia and the brotherhood?
- How do your preaching efforts match up to the enthusiasm, zeal and perseverance of Paul?

Let us all fully and wholeheartedly obey the command of the Lord Jesus to “go into all the world and preach the Gospel”.

A.P.



Commandments of Christ

“Glory in the Lord; not in man”
1Cor 3:2; 2Cor 10:17

Man glories in human achievement, yet scripture warns: “Do not put your trust in princes, Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help. His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; in that very day his plans perish.” Psa 146:3-4

So, what should we rejoice, or glory in? Surely in the One who created all things. We once were without hope, yet because of the mercy of God, through baptism we are “in Christ”. Paul considered himself “least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.” Yet Paul could truly glory in Yahweh and the Lord Jesus Christ. That road to Damascus became for Paul the road to the Kingdom. Thus Paul wrote of “God, who is rich in mercy”, and of “the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus” (Eph.4:4,7).

Paul wrote about Abraham who, “was strong in faith, giving glory to God”; and to us he writes, “We have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God”. Thus the verse this commandment is based upon continues: “..he who glories, let him glory in the LORD. For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.” (2 Cor 10:18). Therefore let us glory in Yahweh, putting Him first and honouring Him above all.



Jesus said:

"I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger"

THE HOLY BIBLE

*It may be going against the trend
But the Holy Bible I will defend,
For upon its word you can depend,
Its message simple to comprehend*

*The Old and New Testaments combined
No part of which can be undermined
The truth is there for all to find
To give us hope and peace of mind*

*Yet more evidence for its integrity
Can be found in fulfilled prophecy
The Bible is also full of history
Proved by the finds of archaeology*

*The marvels and wonders of creation too
Are everywhere around for us to view
It's something which you cannot eschew
Rarely given a thought by all but a few*

*The future of the world is there set out
No need at all to have any doubt
So open its pages see what it's about
Make it your guide, your life throughout*

Bro T. Cave

Names and Titles of God 5

Yahweh chooses to reveal himself in traits of character associated with His name YAHWEH'.

A PARABLE AND THE SOWERS COVE

"And he (Jesus) began again to teach by the seaside: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land." (Mark 4v1)

Just a short walk from Capernaum along the NW shore of the Sea of Galilee is a small COVE known as the Sower's Cove, where it is likely that Jesus sat. The land from the cove is a gentle uphill slope, and researchers have found that the acoustics of the area are such that anyone sitting in a boat, or standing on the shore, can be perfectly heard by several thousand people sitting on the land. The area is part of the plain of Gennesaret, ("princely gardens") which was cultivated and very fertile.

"There went out a sower to

sow" (v3) This would be a common sight. "Some fell by the wayside, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up" (v4) Just nearby is the "Valley of the Doves". Pigeons and doves are well-known for pecking up farmers' seeds!

"And some fell on stony ground where it had not much earth" (v5).

Close by is a rocky outcrop known as the Arbel Cliff, with scattered bits of earth, where seeds could start growing, but "when the sun was up, it was scorched" (v6).

The area would get the full force of the morning sun, which in Mediterranean countries is very fierce and burning hot. "And some fell among thorns, which grew up and choked it" (v7). In the centuries when it was left uncultivated, the plain of

Gennesaret produced the finest crop of thistles in the whole land of Israel. "And some fell on good ground and did yield fruit" (v8). The plain of Gennesaret is a volcanic area and various emissions of lava previously outpoured, have made it extremely fertile, so much so, that the Jewish rabbis would not allow the luscious fruits produced to be taken to Jerusalem at feast times, in case worshippers came just to enjoy the fruit. Local people would understand all the growing conditions mentioned, and would probably wonder why Jesus was talking about them. So "they that were with the twelve" asked him about it.

Many years have passed since then, and the land was left uncultivated, but today portions have been bought, and they are again yielding good harvests.

Sis D. Oakley

TAKING STOCK

There is a need to take stock of our position. Men in business take stock. Those who omit to do this incur a great danger: they risk having to face ruin suddenly and unexpectedly. We may find that such is our fate. If we fail to take stock of our standing, and take steps to ensure our acceptance in the day of Decision. Will our spiritual stocktaking reveal that we are advancing or retrogressing in the Truth? Have we improved and pro-

gressed since our baptism? Do we love the Truth more? Is our Bible reading and our attendance at the meetings equally enjoyable? Is our understanding of the Word advanced? Do we reflect the qualities of Christ in action more than before? Are we as enthusiastic in our ecclesia? Have we allowed the standards demanded when we accepted the Truth to lapse? Has our longing for Christ's return increased? Ruthless examination of Self in these re-

gards, can prevent an unpleasant surprise at the judgment seat.

There are some who are going to hear sad words in that day. They may protest: "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out demons? And in thy name done many wonderful works?" But the response will be: "Depart from me, ye that work iniquity..."

Author unknown

Coupled with the intent of God that the earth will be filled with His glory (Num 14:21; Hab 2:14), we see the Memorial Name of God as significant and outworking in His purpose. This revealed name of God is of primary

importance to understand. It is prophetic of the time when God will be manifested in those who are redeemed, granted eternal life and who will reveal the beauty of His glorious and holy character. The Divine name signified as Yahweh Elohim

comprises the declared purpose of God and signifies the time when it is expressed in the glorious multitude of the redeemed in Jesus Christ who will live in that glorious age to come. **May it be that we will dwell amongst them!**