WWW.OpenThouMineEyes.com

THE BIBLE VIEW

In This Issue:

We Are His Ambassadors
Tell Them Your Story
When Paul Had the Opportunity
Unsubscribe Me!

Volume:735 December 5, 2019

We Are His Ambassadors

Bill Brinkworth

Paul, the apostle, was locked in a deep, dank dungeon for his testimony and preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He was separated from his friends, did not get the proper food and care, and was isolated and forgotten, yet he knew that God knew about his predicament and allowed him to be there for a reason. Ephesians 6:20 explains why Paul knew he was in the situation he found himself in: *"For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."*

An ambassador is an important, special representative appointed to represent another power. Paul's mission in prison was to be a representative of God. As odd as many think his circumstance were, all Christians are also called to be emissaries of Heaven wherever they are. God may have them in a particular neighborhood, situation, hospital bed, job, or school for a specific mission. He wants them to deliver his message to the people in that place. Often, no one else can reach others outside the position in which a person finds himself.

We can be ambassadors of Heaven with our lives. All are watching us in many situations, such as: how we speak, act, react when angry or sad, or even dress. If we do not tell others about the goodness, mercy, and grace of God, and be a testimony for Him, who will?

The Bible tells us how we can tell others. We can be an emissary by:
Singing: Instead of the world hearing us sing their songs emphasizing adultery, drugs, sexuality, disobedience, and other ungodly actions, they should listen to us singing songs praising God's goodness and mercy.
*"Sing praises to the LORD, which dwelleth in Zion: **declare among the people his doings.**" Psalm 9:11*

Talking: Use your voice to win others to the cause of Christ.
*"Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, **talk ye of all his wondrous works.**" I Chronicles 16:9*
*"Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought him that he might be with him: but Jesus sent him away, saying, Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and **published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.**" Luke 8:38-39*
*"Also I say unto you, **Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God**: But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God." Luke 12:8-9*

*"The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, **and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?**" John 4:28*
*"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and **he that winneth souls is wise**." Proverb 11:30*

Being a good example. The light of a good testimony for the cause of Christ can be brightness in this dark, sinful world. Do not "hide" your Christianity.
*"I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and **will not sit with the wicked. I will wash mine hands in innocency:** so will I compass thine altar, O LORD: That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and **tell of all thy wondrous works.**" Psalms 26:5-7*
*"And he said unto them, **Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed**? and not to be set on a candlestick?" Mark 4:21*

Quoting scripture and biblical principles:
*"My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes. **My tongue shall speak of thy word:** for all thy commandments are righteousness." Psalms 119:171-172*
*"Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: **so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.**" Psalm 119:27*

Praising Him:
*"Oh **that men would praise the LORD for his goodness**, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" Psalm 107:8*

"If the saved do not tell the lost God's way of going to Heaven, who will? Many will eternally perish because of Christians silence!"

Tell Them Your Story

Bill Brinkworth

When Paul arrived in Jerusalem (Acts 21), he faced an angry crowd. After a while (Acts 22), the preacher got his opportunity to defend the accusations that were made against him. When Paul did speak, he started with his own testimony concerning what Jesus had done in his life.

One of the best ways to talk to others about Jesus is to give your testimony to them. Tell them what Jesus did for you. Let them know what changes He has performed in your life.

When a personal testimony is given, it:

- Shows what Jesus did to a person the listener knows. He cannot dispute that Jesus is alive and still working in one's life today when he hears what He has done in the soul-winner's life.
- Shows that the power of God is still working in lives today. It makes His workings more real to them than a story that happened more than 2,000 years ago.

- Shows how God can transform a life. I have heard the personal testimonies of many that had a very wicked past. I could see from their standing there how different they were now. It makes Jesus' work more real when you hear it from the "horse's mouth."

Everyone should tell as many as they can how good God is and how anyone that trusts Jesus' death on the cross can be saved. The Bible commands us to do so. Often a scriptural plan with verses from God's Word about salvation can be used to tell others about the Gospel. The salvation plan and proof of God's working today can also be accomplished by telling how God has worked in your life. Tell your story today.

"Every Christian occupies some kind of pulpit and preaches some kind of sermon every day." — *Author Unknown*

When Paul Had the Opportunity

Bill Brinkworth

Paul was taken to be judged before the Roman procurator, Felix. False accusations were flowing against the preacher from envious, bitter Jewish leaders that resented Christianity. The Roman judge heard from the accusers.

Felix, however, was not ignorant of who Christians were (Acts 24:24), and what they were teaching. Perhaps, he had heard around the city about Christ, or how Christianity had been sweeping the countryside. He had his opinions about Christianity, and he was wise enough not to hear just the complainer's side of the story.

Then, Felix allowed Paul to speak. Instead of cowering under the authority of the man that was managing the affairs of the Romans, Paul took the opportunity to talk to the ruler about spiritual things. The preacher spoke of living a righteous life, not indulging in sin, and about the judgments God could bring.

Even though Paul's judge, as history tells us, was known for his cruelty, murders, and also considered himself licensed to commit any crime he desired, Paul did not waiver or hold back on any of the truths from the Word of God. Felix could have easily given the word and Paul's life would have been snuffed out, but Paul boldly preached on.

The preaching did affect the procurator. Acts 24:25 records that the man trembled at what he had heard. His fear did not guide him to repent, however. He dismissed Paul and promised that they might speak again. He had the opportunity to be saved, but he put it off. Felix missed the time he could have been saved from the terrible consequences of his sins.

Many are much like Felix. They hear the convicting message from the Word of God. It cuts deeply into their hearts. Conviction of past sins floods their memories. The uneasiness of their sinful past robs them of their peace. They often have the opportunity right then and there to confess Jesus as their Saviour and to get their sins forgiven, but they put it off. "Tomorrow" or "later," they justify.

For some reason, that “another time” never comes. All too often they miss the last opportunity they had for salvation, die lost without Christ, and spend their eternity in Hell. They may have gotten “close” to being saved, but missed an eternity with Jesus. Never say “No” to God’s provoking of your heart about something, especially salvation. You may never have tomorrow!

“We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)” *II Corinthians 6:1-2*