

Opening a Door for the Gospel

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Christians have a purpose in this life and live so as to accomplish this purpose. Just as Jesus had a purpose in coming to this world, that is, the well-being of others, so we live in this world for a similar purpose, the well-being of others, not for ourselves
- B. Matt. 10:28-42 - "It's not about me"

I. TOTAL DEVOTION TO THE LORD

- A. God has every reason to expect all of creation will be devoted to Him.
 - 1. God created this world and all that is in it
 - a. John 1:3; Heb. 1:1-2; Col. 1:16-17
 - 2. God owns the world; we are merely non-paying tenants.
 - a. Psalm 89:11; Lev. 25:23
 - 3. God's ownership includes humankind - Psalm 24:1
 - a. Some do not acknowledge His ownership - Acts 17:24-25
 - 4. Tragically, many Christians view their lives as their own - 1Cor. 6:19
- B. Christians are thrice indebted to God; not just for life, but also...
 - 1. We are also ransomed from Satan - 1Tim. 2:3-6
 - 2. We are saved from the consequences of our sins - Rom. 5:9
- C. The Adversary perpetrated the lie that Christ should be an important part of our lives.
 - 1. God will never be just a part of anyone's life. For a true Christian, God is his life - Luke 9:23; Gal. 2:20
 - 2. The world believes this lie; however, the world takes notice when a true Christian live for God, not merely lives with God
 - 3. This opens the door for the Gospel. Illustration: Kent's grandson
 - 4. If you are unwilling to live this level of devotion to God, you will not open the door for the Gospel; in fact, you probably won't be admitted through the door of heaven, either.

II. GLORIFYING GOD

- A. Everything Jesus did on earth was done to glorify God
 - 1. Matt. 15:31; Luke 5:25, 13:17
- B. Christians must glorify God in their daily activities. The command to glorify God is not met simply by believing the Bible and abstaining from sins.
 - 1. Christians must be pro-active in their service, so the world can see God at work - Matt. 5:16; 1Peter 2:12
 - 2. We must be aware that our actions or inactions affect people's perception of the God we serve - 1Cor. 10:31
- C. God needs to be glorified in our bodies, not just our hearts. The world cannot see your heart - 1Cor. 6:20
 - 1. Kind and generous deeds move people to glorify God - 2Cor. 9:13
 - 2. A transformed life causes God to be glorified - Gal. 1:22-24

- D. Glorify God does not mean walking about saying "To God be the glory."
 - 1. One whose life reflects the glory of God actively, kindly, and generously is one who opens the door for the Gospel in this world.
 - 2. One whose manner of life is indistinguishable from the world around him will not open the door for the Gospel, and the door of heaven will remain closed to him as well.

III. TOTAL COMMITMENT TO THE SALVATION OF OTHERS

- A. God created humankind with one purpose in mind, that they would be His children and live with Him in heaven.
 - 1. When He created men and women, God had the relationship He wanted with them.
 - a. He supplied their needs and gave them a purposeful existence.
 - b. He had a personal, face to face relationship with them.
 - c. They followed His instructions as children obey their fathers.
 - 2. By tempting humankind to sin, the Adversary took that relationship away from God.
 - a. The rest of the Bible is God's record of His efforts to bring man back into His fellowship - 1Peter 1:20
- B. Jesus came to enact and validate God's plan to save human beings and restore them to fellowship with Him.
 - 1. Matt. 1:21; 1John 4:14; 1Tim 1:15
 - 2. Jesus declared that His reason for being here was to save lost souls
 - a. Luke 19:10
- C. As Christians, our purpose for being here is no longer about us; we are here for the same purpose Jesus came, to save souls
 - 1. 1John 2:6; Acts 3:26; 1John 3:5
 - 2. Jesus commanded His followers to work His ministry until He returned
 - a. Matt. 28:18-20
 - 3. The early Christians understood this to be a command and they obeyed
 - a. Acts 8:1, 4
 - 4. The commandment is clear - Mark 16:15-16
 - 5. The application is clearly illustrated - Acts 8:4
 - 6. That was how the Gospel was preached in the whole world in 28 years Col. 1:6, 23
- D. The world can tell what our purpose is in this world; if they sense that we are here for any other reason, the door for the Gospel will not be opened.
 - 1. And if we are here in this world for any other purpose than that reason for which Jesus was here, it is unlikely that the door of heaven will be open for us

Conclusion:

- A. God created us and His Son died to redeem us from our sins, so He has every right to expect that we will devote our hearts and lives to Him - Matt 10:37-39