Sounding Forth The Gospel

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday September 30th, 2018

Text: I Thess. 1:6-8; II Thess. 2:13-14

### Intro

1. I Thess. 1:6-8
   1. The gospel (“word of the Lord”) “sounded forth” from the Thessalonian brethren “not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth!”
2. II Thess. 2:13-14
   1. Paul said those who had no love of the truth would be deceived and believe a lie, and would not be saved *(II Thess. 2:1-12).*
   2. He thanked God for choosing us to be His from the beginning, and the saints at Thessalonica were called through the gospel to have the glory of Christ.
   3. The gospel calls individuals to obey!
3. The call of God has issued forth (I Thess. 1:8)!
   1. II Pet. 1:1-4: He “called us by His own glory and excellence.”
   2. Saints are called of God! (I Cor. 1:2: “Saints by calling”)
4. As good “soldiers of Christ” *(I Tim. 2:3-4)* we submit to the Commander-in-Chief (Jesus) and obey our “marching orders.”
5. What are the marching orders *for the Christian? For the church?*

#### Mission of the Church

* 1. To sound forth (To bring to light) the gospel of Christ!
     1. This was Paul's mission as an apostle – Eph. 3:8-9 (Rom. 10:14)
     2. We teach to persuade men! – II Cor. 5:10-11; Rom. 1:16; I Cor. 2:1-5
     3. A purpose planned by God for the church from eternity – Eph. 3:10-11 (The manifold wisdom of God is displayed to the heavenly host in the church)
  2. The mission of the church is no different than was the mission of Christ – Save sinners!
     1. Christ came to save sinners – Lk. 19:10; I Tim. 1:15
     2. He came preaching the gospel to lost and dying sinners – Mk 1:14-15
     3. Jesus wants the gospel made known to every person – Mk. 16:15-16
  3. To proclaim the praises of God!
     1. God has made us a holy nation, His own special people – I Pet. 2:9a
     2. Our purpose? To proclaim the praises of God – I Pet. 2:9b
     3. What are the praises of God we are to proclaim?
        1. How we were called from darkness into His marvelous light – I Pet. 2:9c; Col 1:12-14
        2. How we have become the people of God – I Pet. 2:10a
        3. How we have obtained mercy – I Pet. 2:10b
     4. How do we proclaim this? By proclaiming the gospel of Christ!
  4. Our mission as the church, as the people of God, is a glorious mission!
  5. We sound forth the gospel of God and proclaim His praises!

#### How the Church Can Fail Her Mission

* 1. Jesus spoke in parables, so let us consider a modern-day parable on how the church can fail her mission, ***Parable of the Life-Saving Station* by an Unknown Author**…
  2. How we can fail our mission…
     1. Through misplaced emphasis:
        1. By placing emphasis on the material rather than the spiritual
        2. A problem experience by the church in Laodicea – Rev. 3:14-19
        3. Are we like the church in Laodicea? If so, we would be better off materially poor and spiritually rich like the church in Smyrna – Rev. 2:9
     2. Through showing preference in our efforts to saving souls:
        1. Most people only look for a “Cornelius” to save *(Acts 10:1-2) – His soul was saved in the 1st century – look for someone new to save!*
        2. God wants all to be saved – I Tim. 2:3-6
        3. God is no respecter of persons, nor should we be – *Acts 10:28-29,34-35*
        4. We should not show preference...
           1. On the basis of social distinctions – *Js. 2:1-9*
           2. On the basis of racial distinctions – *Col. 3:10-14 (Gal. 3:26-29)*
        5. Are we selective in sharing of the gospel? Or do we try to preach the gospel to every creature? – *Mk. 16:15*
  3. Let us not forget our mission to sound forth the gospel to save the lost of every nation!

#### The Call of the Gospel…

* 1. Calls men “out of darkness…” (I Pet. 2:9)
     1. Jesus used the metaphor of darkness for evil – *Jn.12:35* *(Jn. 3:19-21)*
     2. We were rescued from darkness – *Col. 1:12-14*
  2. Calls men “out of darkness into His marvelous light” (I Pet. 2:9; *Jn. 8:12)*
     1. Light of life now: Freedom! (Jn. 8:32)
     2. Light of life to come: Eternal life! (Mt. 25:34, 46)
  3. Calls men to “escape corruption” of the world (II Pet. 1:3-4)
     1. Important to not take calling lightly, for some after escaping, become entangled again – *II Pet. 2:20-22 (Focus on Christ and things above – Col. 3:1-3)*
  4. Calls men to inherit Heaven (I Pet. 1:4; *II Pet. 1:5-11)*
     1. The gospel is a “holy calling” that has saved us and will bring immortality (II Tim. 1:8-11)
  5. The calling of God honors man with the promise of adoption into the “household of God” *(Rom. 8:14-17; I Tim. 3:15: Adopted by God as sons and daughters in the church!)*

#### What Each Saint Can Do

* 1. Some people say they are not gifted at teaching or preaching so the work of saving the lost is left for someone else more capable.
  2. There are four simple things every saint can do!
     1. **Shine** – Mt. 5:16: Live by example *(Eph. 4:1-3)!* Old saying…
        1. “Your life may be all the sermon a person gets – make it a good one!”
     2. **Speak** – Eph. 4:15: As saints Christ should be in our conversations.
        1. We talk about things important to us – do others hear you speak of Jesus?
     3. **Invite** – Jn. 1:45-46: Be like Philip to Nathaniel: “Come and see!”
        1. ***CHALLENGE:*** Meet and greet two people in the next month and hand them a church “recommendation card.”
        2. This is something everyone can do!
     4. **Welcome** – Js. 2:1-4: James tells saints how to welcome and how to not welcome people into our assemblies.
        1. The assembly of God’s people should be a warm welcoming place!
  3. This is fundamental evangelism at a simple level that everyone can participate in!

## Conclusion

1. What kind of “lifesaving station” are we?
   1. One that is faithfully fulfilling its mission?
   2. One that is basking in its material blessings?
2. May God's grace and mercy shown toward us compel us to be active in sharing the same grace and mercy to others!
3. We can do this by sounding forth the gospel call to obey and proclaiming the praises of God!
4. If not a Christian you need to be. Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins!
5. If a Christian with sin prevailing in your life, repent of it and be renewed!

**Parable of the Life-Saving Station**

On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur there was a once a crude little life-saving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea, and with no thought for themselves, they went out day or night tirelessly searching for the lost.

Many lives were saved by this wonderful little station, so that it became famous. Some of those who were saved, and various others in the surrounding areas, wanted to become associated with the station and give of their time and money and effort for the support of its work. New boats were bought and new crews were trained. The little life-saving station grew.

Some of the new members of the life-saving station were unhappy that the building was so crude and so poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be provided as the first refuge of those saved from the sea.

So they replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in an enlarged building. Now the life-saving station became a popular gathering place for its members, and they re-decorated it beautifully and furnished it as a sort of club.

Fewer of the members were now interested in going to sea on life-saving missions, so they hired life boat crews to do this work. The mission of life-saving was still given lip-service but most were too busy or lacked the necessary commitment to take part in the life-saving activities personally.

About this time a large ship was wrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in boat loads of cold, wet, and half-drowned people. The victims were dirty and sick and thus made a mess in the beautiful new clubhouse. The property committee immediately had a shower house built outside the club where victims of shipwreck could be cleaned up before coming inside.

At the next meeting, there was a split in the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's life-saving activities on account of it being unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal life pattern of the club. But some members insisted that life-saving was their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a life-saving station. They were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save the life of all the various kinds of people who were shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own life-saving station. They did.

As the years went by, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. They evolved into a club and yet another life-saving station was founded. If you visit the seacoast today you will find a number of exclusive clubs along that shore. Shipwrecks are still frequent in those waters, only now most of the people drown.

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<http://www.bible.ca/evangelism/e-parable-life-saving.htm>

<http://www.ecfvp.org/vestrypapers/death-and-resurrection/parable-of-the-lifesaving-station/>

<http://www.allsaintslindfield.org/blog/the-parable-of-the-lifeboat-station>