**“Send The Light”**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday October 8th, 2015

Text: II Cor. 4:6

# Intro

1. Current events highlight the evil and immoral choices mankind continues to make!
2. Highlights the dark world we live in but not to be a part of!
	1. Burnette Chapel church of Christ Shooting in Antioch, TN (September 24th, 2017): 1 Killed, 7 Injured (6 from gunshot wounds, 1 injured from struggling with assailant)
		1. A lone gunman killed a 39-year-old woman in the parking lot and then went inside the building and shot at people indiscriminately, wounding 6 people before being subdued.
		2. Police are still investigating a motive for his actions.
	2. Route 91 Harvest Festival Shooting (Massacre) from the Mandalay Bay Hotel, Las Vegas, NV (October 1st, 2017): 59 Killed, 489+ Injured (Updated 10/05/2017)
		1. Police are still investigating and may take time for all the known facts to come out. *(That doesn’t stop many people from speculating)*
		2. An apparent act by a lone gunman with an arsenal of weapons and evil intent, shot rapid-fire randomly into a crowd of over 22,000 people at a concert, then was found dead of apparent suicide.
		3. Being called, “the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.”
		4. No motive or reasoning behind his attack has been discovered yet or at least not divulged by authorities yet (ongoing investigation).
3. Instead of calling something “evil” as it is, within minutes of a tragedy people begin politicizing it for their own personal agendas! (Want someone/thing to blame!)
4. Our society has become one that refuses to call evil “evil,” but finds ways to excuse evil actions (they chalk it up to a mental health problem), so evil will continue!
5. ***What evil needs is to hear the gospel!***
6. Col. 3:16: Singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs can teach and admonish!
7. “Send The Light” (1890) by Charles H Gabriel (1856-1932).
	1. Son of a farmer, taught himself music and was teaching his own singing school at 17 years old!
	2. Throughout his hymn-writing career, he used several pseudonyms, including Charlotte G. Homer, H. A. Henry, and S. B. Jackson.
	3. He wrote and/or composed between 7,000 and 8,000 songs.
	4. “Send The Light” was his first commercial success and the one he is most known for, but he did write many others!
8. The darkness of the world needs to hear the gospel – Who will “Send the Light?”
9. **Souls to Save**
10. Stanza 1 emphasizes the need to save souls!
	1. “There's a call come's ringing o'er the restless wave, 'Send the light! Send the light!' There are souls to rescue, there are souls to save; Send the light! Send the light!”
11. The call that comes ringing is through the gospel: II Thess. 2:14
	1. Jesus said He came to seek and save the lost! (Lk. 19:10)
	2. II Cor. 4:6: Saints need to shine the light of the gospel into the dark world around us!
12. This call reminds us that souls need to be rescued because they are precious: Mt. 16:26
13. Because these precious souls have sinned, they need to be saved: Rom. 3:23; 6:23
14. There are souls to save so saints need to “Send the Light!”
15. **Help of the Gospel**
16. Stanza 2 emphasizes the need of man for the help of the gospel!
	1. “We have heard the Macedonian call today: 'Send the light! Send the light!' And a golden offering at the cross we lay; Send the light! Send the light!”
17. Just as Paul received a call from a man of Macedonia, so the gospel calls all Christians to shine the light out of darkness: II Cor. 4:5-6
	1. Acts 16:9: The hymn reminds us of the man from Macedonia who appeared to Paul in a vision asking for help saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”
	2. Acts 16:10: Paul and the others with him understood that they needed to go preach the gospel to the people of Macedonia!
	3. When Paul received the plea for help…
		1. He did not go and build homes and orphanages in Macedonia.
		2. He wasn’t sending in food and other rations.
		3. He didn’t take up a collection of funds to send!
		4. He did not set up a sponsoring church to send funds to for them to distribute to the Macedonians!
	4. He knew that the best way to help the Macedonians was to make sure the gospel was heard by the people *(Acts 16:11-15)*
18. While we should go where we can, no one individual can go everywhere, but all of us can give a “golden offering” so that those who can go to other places can be supported: Phil. 4:15-16; II Cor. 9:6-7
19. The gospel is the best “help” for a dark and evil world! (Jn. 3:19-21)
	1. The gospel is God’s power to save (Rom. 1:16) and in it we learn of man’s sin, and the cure (Rom. 3:23; Jn. 3:16).
	2. We learn of Christ, and how He came to this earth *(Mt. 1; Lk. 2),* lived and taught the truth *(Mt. 5-7),* and then died upon the cross and shed His blood “for forgiveness of sins” (Mt. 20:28, 26:28; Eph. 1:7).
	3. We then learn of His victory over death at His resurrection and His ascension *(Lk. 24:1-9; Acts 1:9-11; I Cor. 15:1-8)*
	4. Hearing, believing in Christ and being baptized “for the forgiveness of sins” *(Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38)* is the beginning of a new life and walk with God (Rom. 6:3-8)
	5. When people hear, believe, and obey the Lord’s plan of salvation, this is when they are truly helped! *(Js. 1:21; Jn. 12:48; II Thess. 1:7-9)*
20. True “help” comes by introducing sinful man to Christ and showing them the Lord’s plan of salvation – “Send the Light” into the dark world!
21. **Pray**
22. Stanza 3 emphasizes the need to pray as we teach the gospel!
	1. “Let us pray that grace may everywhere abound; Send the light! Send the light! And a Christ-like spirit everywhere be found; Send the light! Send the light!”
23. God's people should pray, especially for those who are lost: Rom. 10:1 (Paul prayed for the Jews - the prayer was for them to come to the knowledge of God and obey – 10:2)
24. We should pray that through the preaching of the gospel grace may everywhere abound: Rom. 5:15-21; 6:1-2 (Col. 4:2-4: Paul asked for prayers for “open doors” to be opened)
25. We should also pray that as the gospel is preached a Christ-like spirit will be found: Rom. 8:9; Titus 2:11-14 (Grace appeared to all men – we are to deny ungodliness & live godly)
26. As we “Send the Light,” let us pray hearts will be opened to the truth and that they will obey!
27. **Not Grow Weary**
28. Stanza 4 emphasizes perseverance – to not grow weary in the work of love!
	1. “Let us not grow weary in the work of love; Send the light! Send the light! Let us gather jewels for a crown above; Send the light! Send the light!”
29. In the work of sending the light, we must not grow weary: Gal. 6:9-10; II Tim. 2:24-26
30. We shall not grow weary if we remember that we are gathering up God's “jewels” for Him: He wants all men to be saved! – I Tim. 2:3-4; II Pet. 3:9
31. It will also help us to persevere to recall that the “jewels” which we gather will also be our joy and crown: Phil. 4:1
32. Mt. 6:19-21: This world is not our home! We must not grow weary or content with the treasures of the world but seek the treasures of Heaven! (Heb. 12:1-3; Col. 3:1-3)
33. Let us not grow weary and lose heart, but continue to “Send the Light!”

**Conclusion**

1. The chorus urges us onward to let the light of the glorious gospel of Christ to shine everywhere:
	1. “Send the light! the blessed gospel light! Let it shine from shore to shore. Send the light! the blessed gospel light! Let it shine forevermore.”
2. Evil cannot be legislated out, because it is a heart problem!
3. The gospel can change hearts and transform lives (I Cor. 6:9-11) – “Send the Light!”
4. If not a Christian, you need to be! Repent & be baptized today!
5. If a Christian, are you ready for the Judgment Day? If not, need to be, repent and be ready!
6. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!

**Sources:**

* 1. Burnette Chapel church of Christ Shooting in Antioch, TN (September 24th, 2017): 1 Killed, 7 Injured:
		1. <http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/crime/2017/09/25/how-nashville-church-shooting-burnette-chapel-church-christ-unfolded-timeline/700049001/>
		2. <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime/church-shooter-referenced-revenge-dylann-roof-massacre-article-1.3531505>
	2. Route 91 Harvest Festival Shooting (Massacre) from the Mandalay Bay Hotel, Las Vegas, NV (October 1st, 2017): 59 Killed, 500+ Injured:
		1. <http://theboot.com/route-91-harvest-festival-shooting/>
		2. <http://www.billboard.com/articles/news/7981940/las-vegas-shooting-route-91-harvest-festival-shooter-dead>
		3. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/music/2017/10/03/las-vegas-shooting-route-91-harvest-festival-completely-devastated-over-sundays-violence/726414001/>
		4. <http://abcnews.go.com/US/las-vegas-massacre/story?id=50246458>
		5. <http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/girlfriend-of-las-vegas-gunman-says-she-had-no-idea-he-was-planning-attack/ar-AAsSWGd?li=BBnb7Kz>

Wayne S. Walker @ <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/hymnoftheday/conversations/messages/496>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_H._Gabriel>

**“SEND THE LIGHT” (1890)**

**By Charles Hutchinson Gabriel (1856-1932)**

*“...Come over into Macedonia, and help us” (Acts 16:9)*

A song (which uses the call of Paul's vision in which a Macedonian asked him to come over and help them) that encourages us to sound forth God's message of salvation is “Send the Light.” The text was written and the tune (McCabe) was composed both by Charles Hutchinson Gabriel (1856-1932). It was produced in 1890 while Gabriel was song director of the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church in San Francisco, CA, for the Sunday school there and first published in his 1891 Scripture Songs with the copyright owned by E. O. Excell. The refrain originally contained sixteen measures and began with a bass lead. The shortened version seems to have been made in 1894.

Charles Hutchinson Gabriel was born in Wilton, Muscatine County, Iowa, and raised on a farm. His father led singing schools in their home, and young Charles developed an interest in music. It is said that he taught himself to play the family's reed organ. Even though he never had any formal training in music, he began to travel and lead his own singing schools in various locations around the age of 17.

He is said to have written and/or composed between 7,000 and 8,000 songs, many of which are still available in 21st century hymnals. Throughout his hymn-writing career, he used several pseudonyms, including Charlotte G. Homer, H. A. Henry, and S. B. Jackson. His first commercial success was “Send The Light,” and he is also known for “He Lifted Me,” & “I Stand Amazed” as Charlotte G. Homer, and provided words and or/music for a number of well-known hymns such as “Come to the Feast,” “God Is Calling the Prodigal,” “Higher Ground,” “His Eye Is on the Sparrow,” “Jesus, Rose of Sharon,” “Where The Gates Swing Outward Never,” “Only in Thee,” “Only a Step,” and “The Way of the Cross Leads Home,” among many others.

Gabriel edited 35 gospel song books, 8 Sunday school song books, seven books for male choruses, six books for ladies, ten children's song books, nineteen collections of anthems, 23 choir cantatas, 41 Christmas cantatas, 10 children's cantatas, and books on musical instruction. He also had an interest in military bands, and wrote marches, waltzes, etc., for bands.