

1/22/06

The Believer And His Witness #11

The bible tells us that God has chosen to use the foolish things of the world to confound the wise and the weak things to put to shame the things that are mighty, therefore He has chosen man as His primary witness to the world not angels.

Such was God's choosing as He broke the silence of 400 years through the witness of John the Baptist. Jn. 1:6-9

* "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, **to bear witness of the Light**, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. This is the responsibility of each Christian in the world!"

We want to look at three things regarding being a witness.

- I. What is a witness?
- II. What is the believer to give witness to?
- III. Why is the believer to be a witness?

I. What is a witness?

A. Webster's dictionary defines a witness as one who can give a firsthand account of something, be it fact, knowledge or information, such as one who testifies in court.

1. A witness can be a false witness excepted or rejected.
2. A witness can be a true witness excepted or rejected.
3. The rejection of the witness does not affect the truth of the witness.
 - a. The acceptance of their witness is not under their control.
 - b. Their only responsibility is to be an accurate and true courageous witness.

B. The scriptures equally support this definition and include inanimate objects.

1. A heap of stones became a witness between Jacob and Laban. Gen. 31:49-54
 - a. Jacob is returning home to Canaan.
 - b. The context is Laban's mistrust of Jacob.
2. The song of Moses was a witness against the children of Israel. Duet. 31:19
3. The need of two witness was required by law for capital punishment and such grave accusations. Deut. 17:6, 19:15

* A false witness was punished by receiving the punishment intended to be brought by the false accusation.

4. Business transactions needed two witness. Ruth 4
* The witnesses were at the gate to make the transaction.
5. Those who give testimony to truth about God and Jesus Christ are called witnesses. Jn. 3:1-8, 5:32-33, 36, 37, 39, Acts 1:8, 4:33, 5:32
* Our witness is of Jesus, no one else!
6. The person who bears witness at the cost of his or her life is called a witness. Acts 1:8, 7:58
* The primary witness is to Jesus through a changed life by obedience, then to people!

C. The believer is a witness.

1. To the reality and existence of God by his or her fellowship. 1Jn. 1:1, 3-4
 - a. By sight.
 - b. By hearing.
 - c. By touch.
2. To the change in his or her life. 2Cor. 5:17
 - a. What they were before Christ.
* They are the greatest witness to who they were and all they did in darkness!
 - b. What they are after Christ.
 - 1) They are completely different from what they used to be.

- 2) The acceptance or rejection of the witness does not affect or change the truth of the witness proclaimed!
- c. If I am not a witness to Jesus, going out to witness and pass out tracks is not being a witness!

Illustration

Noah was a witness for God and the revelation of God about His displeasure regarding sin as well as the provisions to escape the judgment to come.

* He was to communicate it clearly, faithfully without contamination or compromise!

A Christian gives a faithful witness about the truth of God according to the Scripture!

II. What is the believer to give witness to?

- A. That Jesus is God in the flesh.
 1. He existed from the beginning and took on flesh to dwell with man. Jn. 1:1, 14
 2. He is the visible form of the invisible God. Col. 1:15
 - a. God is Spirit. Jn. 4:24
 - b. Jesus told Phillip, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father. Jn. 14:9e
 3. He emptied Himself of His glory and came in the form of a servant. Phil. 2:6-8
 - a. He emptied Himself of His glory, not His deity.

- b. He came as a servant to die.
- c. He was given a name above every name and every knee shall bow and tongue confess that He is Lord.

B. That Jesus suffered for us as a substitute for our sins.

1. He became sin for us who knew no sin, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2Cor. 5:21
* I can not be judge for the same sin twice, I have been acquitted!
- 2 He accomplished what the law could not accomplish because of the weakness of the flesh and condemned sin in the flesh. Rom. 8:3
* Sending Jesus in the likeness of sinful flesh!
3. He left us an example to fellow in His steps. 1Pet. 2:21
* Now we are to lay down our lives for others, cover a multitude of sin and incur the cost when there is genuine repentance!

C. That Jesus is the Savior of the world.

- * This title was given to Jesus not at Jerusalem but at Samaria as He witnessed to the Samaritan woman.
- 1. He is the only way, the truth and the life, to the Father. Jn. 14:6

2. His is the only name by which men must be saved. Acts 4:12
3. He is the one to give the Holy Spirit to the sinner at repentance. Acts 5:31-32
4. He is the only mediator between God and man. 1Tim. 2:5

D. That Jesus rose from the dead.

- 1 He fulfilled David's prophecy. Acts 2:29-32
2. His resurrection was the heart of the Gospel message. Acts 3:14-15
3. His resurrection was God's evidence of the payment for our sins, otherwise we are yet in our sins. 1Cor. 15:15, 17

E. That Jesus is the judge of all men and women at His coming.

1. He was ordained by God the Father to be the judge. Acts 10:42
2. He will be the judge of the living and the dead. Acts 10:42
* Jesus told Pilate, "For this cause I was born and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth". Jn. 18:37, 1Tim. 6:13

Illustration

The blind man who Jesus healed by clay and saliva as he was commanded to go wash at the pool of

Siloam and gave the Pharisee the true witness but they did not receive it. Jn. 9

A Christian gives a witness about the person, work, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the salvation of man!

III. Why is the believer to be a witness?

A. Because the world is lost.

1. Man is under the blindness of the god of this world lest the light of the glorious gospel in the person of Christ should shine on them. 2Cor. 4:4
2. Satan is the Prince and power of the air, children of wrath by nature. Eph. 2:2
3. Man is being held captive by Satan to do his will. 2Tim. 2:26
4. The entire world lies in wickedness. 1Jn. 5:19

B. Because men are under the wrath of God.

1. Those who have not Christ are under God's wrath. Jn 3:36
2. Those under God's wrath are a second away from eternal separation from God, our life is like a vapor of smoke. Ja. 4:14

C. Because Jesus chose us even as He did the disciples.

1. He chose us from the foundation of the world. Eph. 1:4

2. He chose us to be sons and daughters. Eph. 1:5

* We get so impressed to fellowship with man but are we impressed being one with Jesus?

D. Because every believer has been empowered to witness.

1. Jesus proclaimed it. Acts 1:8
 - a. If He has equipped you to be a good witness for Him and are not, what are you?
 - b. A bad witness.
2. The early church manifested it. Acts 4:33
 - a. Great grace appears only here in the New Testament.
 - b. The early church was a true witness.

E. Because the believe is said to be salt and light.

1. Salt purifies, preserves and causes thirst. Matt. 5:13
2. Light dispels darkness, attracts and is essential for life.
 - * We are to give an answer to every man who asks a reason for the hope of the Gospel that is in us, with meekness and fear. 1Pet. 3:15
3. The believer's witness is effective by three things.

- a. His words regarding the truth of Christ, that He is the God-Man to redeem man.
- b. His life, the reality of his words, as a first hand account to the change in his or her life.
- c. His compassion for the lost, yielding to the power of the Holy Spirit.

Illustration

A missionary physician in one of China's hospitals cured men of cataracts. A few weeks later 48 blind men came to the doctor from one of China's wilds, all holding on to a rope guided by the man who had been cured. He had led them in this way, walking in chain 250 miles to the hospital.

* The multitudes may appear indifferent to their condition, but let not this discourage us, for many are fumbling blindly after light. It is our happy mission to tenderly and tirelessly seek them. #7385

* Not like man at the pool of Bethesda who forgot others like himself

A Christian gives a witness to this lost world out of love and obedience.

Conclusion

Remember

- I. A Christian gives a faithful witness about the truth of God according to the Scripture!

- II. A Christian gives a witness about the person, work, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the salvation of man!
- III. A Christian gives a witness to this lost world out of love and obedience!

#7390 "Clock of life"

The clock of life is wound but once,
And no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop,
At late or early hour.

To lose one's wealth is sad indeed.
To lose one's health is more.
To lose one's soul is such a loss
That no man can restore.

Thirty-nine people died while you heard this short poem. Every hour 5, 417 people go meet their Maker. What are you doing to help reach them with the Gospel?