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PROCLAIMING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

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'I' and 'YOU'

By Pastor Mike Eccleston

"Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

"These things I command you, that ye love one another." - John 15:15-17

Ofentimes in conversations or in our witnessing, you or another person will make a statement similar to this: *"I believe this to be true,"* or *"I think this about that subject."* Well, the truth of the matter is that in each case the chief importance of the words spoken lie in the character of the one speaking them. For example, someone who hasn't bathed in several months can wax eloquent about their beliefs on personal hygiene – but how seriously will those words be taken? Someone comes along who believes that the salvation offered in the Bible is not by grace through personal faith alone in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ – again, how seriously will their words be taken? In this case, it is too frequently and too seriously.

We must establish the standard right away. In John 1:1,14 – we see that Jesus Christ is God in human form. In John 14:6 – we see that Jesus Christ is the Truth. In John 17:17 – we see that Jesus Christ's words are Truth (also John 8:40,45-47). In John 15, our Lord uses first Person pronoun eleven times. These are impressive "I's" which relate and apply to all of us who belong to Him. John 15:9,12b says, **"I have loved you."** Think of that in relation to you:

1. who were dead in trespasses and sin; 2. who were afar off; 3. who walked according to the course of this world; 4. who were children of wrath; 5. who were ungodly; 6. who were sinners; 7. who were enemies; 8. who were unable to do good; 9. who were without hope, without God, and who walked in your own ways.

The Lord says that He loved you with a love that can only be compared with the love wherewith the Father loved Him. What a vivid picture of His grace: loving the unlovely. **"I have loved you"** speaks volumes of His Amazing Grace.

In verse 19, we read, **"I have chosen you out of this world."** I John 5:19, says that the whole world lieth in the wicked one; Galatians 1:4, says that the world is evil. To each born again believer has been the call out of the world and into His fellowship and kingdom. We are chosen out of this world like Noah, that we might be saved from it and witness against it. **"I have chosen you out of this world,"** speaks of separation, sanctification, and holiness.

In verse 15, we read, **"I have called you friends."** To be called a friend by our Lord and Master is indeed the honor of honors. It is to be elevated,

considering Him who calls us friends. We know that servants are granted certain privileges, but friends are granted greater privileges that servants do not enjoy. To obey what He says in His Word, without excuse or reservation grants us this status. This verse speaks of His friendship.

Also in verse 15, we read, **"...all things... I have made known unto you."** Our Lord is the Great Teacher come from the Father, and as He sought to instill in His disciples the things He had heard of the Father, so today by the Holy Spirit within every believer, does He still make known the will of the Father. In other words, He takes the things which are His, and shows them unto us. This portion speaks of His teaching.

In verse 16, we read, **"I have chosen you ... that ye should go and bring forth fruit."** The Lord Jesus Christ expects His children to be something else than mere patients in a doctor's care. He expects that our love will have grown into separation from the world, obedience, and therefore friendship, and will go on to ripen into fruitful service for Him. A fruitless branch never serves the purpose of the vine, and a barren Christian is a misrepresentation of salvation in Jesus Christ. If the fruit of the Spirit (nine parted) in Gal.5:22-23, is not manifested in our lives, we falsify our calling and ordination. This verse speaks of responsibility.

In verse 17, we read, **"These things I command you, that ye love one another."** This love is the

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strongest arrows, however, were directed at compromising-apostate preachers who delighted in “fable” style preaching.

Listed below are some excerpts indicating Sunday’s ministry concerning these compromising-apostate preachers.

On the two kinds of preaching: *“There is a kind of preaching that will never arouse the devil ... too much of the preaching of today is too nice; too pretty, too dainty ... some people won’t come to hear me because they are afraid to hear the truth. They want deodorized, disinfected sermons. They are afraid to be stuck over the edge of the pit and get a smell of the brimstone. You can’t get rid of sin as long as you treat it as a cream puff instead of a rattlesnake. You can’t brush away sin with a feather duster ... if there is anything that will make the devil roar it is a sermon on repentance.”*

On preachers whose goal is a large crowd: *“There are many foolish, shortsighted ministers who are satisfied only if they can draw a large crowd. Some are as crazy after sensations as the yellowest newspaper that ever came off the press ... what does it matter if you pack a church to the roof if nothing happens to turn the devil pale?”*

On apostate preachers: *“I’ll preach against any minister who is preaching false doctrines ... I’ll turn my guns loose against him and don’t you forget that. Any man who is preaching false doctrines to the people and vomiting out false doctrines to them will hear from me. I want to say that the responsibility for no revivals in our cities and towns has got to be laid at the door of the ministry ... most of them are a lot of evolutionary hot air merchants. There will be so many of these preachers in Hell, their feet will be sticking out the windows.”*

Billy Sunday saw no topic as off limits. For instance, he spoke on:
Christian Service – *“Too much of the work of the church today is like a squirrel in a cage: lots of activity, but no progress. Don’t whine around as though God were a corpse, ready for the undertaker.”*

The Dance - *“The dance is a hugging match set to music. The dance is a sexual love fest.”*

Manhood - *“The size of a man depends on his mind and spirituality, not on his muscles or abilities. There is lots of bulk but little common sense in some men. Some fellows are working so hard to become angels they forget to be men.”*

Women and Motherhood - *“A good woman is the best thing this side of Heaven, and a bad woman is the worst thing this side of Hell. When a woman’s heart and a baby’s tears meet, something happens that gives the Devil cold feet. If you want to find greatness, don’t go to the throne, go to the cradle and the nearer you get to the cradle, the nearer you get to greatness.”*

One thing is for sure, that everyone who has finished reading this has been prompted toward a reaction. Hopefully, it is toward God and His Word. Bible believing Christianity could use an army of Billy Sunday type preachers today.

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adhesive that holds Christian people to one another amid the opposition and hatred of the world. If you have this in yourselves first, there will be the peace that passes all understanding, as well as a good spirit among the brethren. To fail to love the brethren is an open act of rebellion against your Lord. This verse speaks of brotherly love.

In verse 26, we read, **“... I will send unto you ... the Spirit of truth.”** The Comforter is the Holy Spirit. He is the Spirit of truth. In John 14:17, He was to be (future) in you. At Pentecost and thereafter in all this church age, all believers have been

1. Baptized into the Body of Christ by the Holy Spirit, and
2. Personally sealed and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. All other teachings are against or not of the truth of God’s Word. Within us, He will empower, anoint, lead, guide, teach and fill each believer as we yield to Him. He will not emphasize Himself, but He will be the Lord Jesus Christ. Listen, I know that we are at different levels of spiritual growth today, but there is coming a day when we will all be at the same level. That is not said to excuse sin or to turn our back on our responsibilities as Christians – just to get an understanding of where we are, and how much more there is to be gained in the Christian life.

Let’s put it all together. The Lord Jesus Christ said:

“I have loved you and chosen you out of this world;

“I have called you friends if ye do whatsoever I command you;

“... All things ... I have made known unto you;

“I have chosen you ... that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain;

“... I command you, that ye love one another; and

“Ye also shall bear witness ... when the Comforter is come ...the Spirit of truth.”

How do you judge the character of the Lord Jesus Christ when He speaks these words to **YOU**?

Personal Word

Here I am again filling in for Brother Dwight Porter. His condition is steadily improving and he has a good spirit in all of this. If everything continues in the direction it is going, he will be at the helm before you know it. We all continue to keep him before the Lord in prayer, knowing that He is in charge both with Pastor Porter and ourselves as well. Thank you for your kindness and encouragement as we make a sincere effort to continue the course of this ministry as the Lord directs and leads. It is extremely humbling to be in this position, and be sure that it is not taken lightheartedly. Also, pray for Pastor Porter's son, John, as well. He has put forth a lot of time, after his work day is through, and many, many miles in his travels from home to the various places that his father has been over the last six months – always without any complaints. We praise the Lord together for that kind of concern.

Jeremiah wrote in the Book of Lamentations, ***“It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness”*** (3:22-23). In those two verses is shown the heart of the prophet for God in the stark realities of life. We woke up this morning and drew breath because of the Lord’s mercies to us-ward. Every morning it starts the same way, yet every morning is new and different from all others. The only thing to not change: the faithfulness of God.

All too often we take these simple things for granted and plan our day without considering the Lord, and get irritated at our government leaders, our jobs, our responsibilities, our families, even our local churches, and a host of other things. ***We are here because of the Lord’s mercies!*** It is not because we are young and fit, nor because we take vitamins and stay off of junk food, neither is it because of anything in and of ourselves – it is however, because of the Lord’s mercies.

Jeremiah faithfully warned Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to turn back to the Lord and away from the idols that they had set up. They refused to listen to what he was saying. God gave Jeremiah more messages to tell the people, and that He would judge them severely if they did not repent and obey. Israel deserved to be judged and they were. They were taken captive to Babylon, the world’s center of idolatry.

Jerusalem was in ruins. The temple was destroyed and everything of value stolen and taken to Babylon. Jeremiah lamented for his people (Book of Lamentations), for they wouldn’t listen. Today, there are several nations that want to destroy the tiny nation of Israel. By the time of the Tribulation period, there will not be one nation standing with them. All will be against them. By all odds, they should be exterminated off the face of the earth. Not so, however: once again this verse will ring true to Israel, and they ultimately will turn to the Lord Jesus Christ and receive Him by faith as their personal Savior.

How about you? Think of all the days of life you have been granted without ever coming to Christ for salvation. The goodness of God has been shown to you over and over, yet you remain lost in your sins. It is still because of His mercies that you have not yet been consumed. But, die in that condition and you will be consumed forever, with no hope of forgiveness, a second chance, salvation, or ability to pay your debt of sin. Please, realize now how much the Lord has already done for you in order to get you to the place that you would receive Christ. You cannot save yourself. No church, ministry, or institution can save you. Therefore, you must repent and trust the finished work of Christ, His shed blood in your behalf, His death, and His literal, bodily resurrection. His offer still stands. You are not consumed if you are reading this. Great is God’s faithfulness to you. Come to Christ and be His for all eternity.

I would love to hear from you. Don’t hesitate to write to the address on this publication. Let’s read it together again: ***“It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.”***

Asst. Editor Dr. T. Michael Eccleston

GREAT VOICES FROM EARLIER GENERATIONS

APOSTASY	“Modernism and Communism are reverse sides of the same coin.”	Evangelist Billy Sunday
BIBLE	“There is only one way to keep clean and that is to take frequent baths in the Word of God.”	Dr. R. A. Torrey
CHRISTLIKENESS	“Christian experience is the making real in ourselves of what is already true for us in Christ.”	Dr. A. J. Gordon
DEFENSE OF THE TRUTH	“The most effective protest against apostasy is separation from it.”	C. H. Spurgeon
HABIT	“Habit is the mirror of a man as he is, and the mould of a man as he is to be.”	George Mueller
HOLY SPIRIT	“We are leaky vessels and we need to stay under the fountain all the time.”	D. L. Moody
POLITICS	“A man who is privately corrupt can never be politically pure.”	Evangelist Sam Jones

**Profile in Christian History II
Evangelist Billy Sunday**

Without a doubt, Billy Sunday (1862-1935) was one of the most dramatic and effective evangelists in American Christian history. Converted to Christ while playing professional baseball for the Chicago White Stockings (today's White Sox), he left the game to never return.

After several years laboring full time with the YMCA, he eventually joined the evangelistic team of Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman as an assistant. When Chapman left the evangelistic field to re-enter the pastorate, Sunday's opportunity was launched. Within a short span, he became the most well-known evangelist of his generation, conducting large city-wide campaigns all across the United States.

One of his biographers, William T. Ellis, stated that Sunday's ministry ran directly counter to the drift of the times. In analyzing his ministry, Ellis portrays Sunday as a "pounder" of the Word rather than an "expounder" of the Book.

Sunday's fervent "pounding" produced dramatic in the lives of the people that he ministered to. Ellis declares that the effects of Sunday's ministry in a community was like a "thunderstorm that cleared the moral atmosphere" and that his converts became 'partisans of purity.'

While Sunday may not have been an expositional preacher, his ministry created a thirst for the Book. A religious publisher once remarked that he couldn't sell anything but Bibles to the Billy Sunday crowd. Ellis maintained that 'it is only when the bulls eye is hit that the bell rings.' Analyzing Sunday's ministry he asserts that, 'Sunday hit harder at the forces that hurt humanity and hinder godliness than any other living warrior of God.'

Sunday aimed hard at the liquor crowd with all of his might. His

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WHO IS THIS ONE CALLED CHRIST? - Matthew 27:22

1. Christ is the Divine One	John 1:1
2. Christ is the Detecting One	Jeremiah 23:24
3. Christ is the Despised One	Isaiah 53:1-3
4. Christ is the Delivered One	Romans 4:25
5. Christ is the Departed One	John 13:1
6. Christ is the Dividing One	John 7:43
7. Christ is the Denouncing One	Matthew 11:21-23
8. Christ is the Declared One	John 1:29
9. Christ is the Defending One	Hebrews 7:25
10. Christ is the Descending One	II Thessalonians 4:16
11. Christ is the Disclosing One	Romans 2:16
12. Christ will be the Destroying One	II Thessalonians 1:7-9
13. Christ will be the Desired One	Haggai 2:7
14. Christ will be the Dominant One	Philippians 2:9-11

Dwight Porter, D.D., Editor
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