

the helpless man on Calvary, the forsaken man on the Cross. Why? Who is this? Why does this King of Kings ride on a donkey? Now we see Him in a new light, don't we?

The Answer

Now we search for an answer and we find that through His poverty YOU may become rich. He became poor so that you might become rich.

It was for ME the Saviour died. That's the Answer. And wherein may we be rich? In silver? In gold? No, we become rich in the riches of salvation. Many things are infinitely worth more than gold. If you don't believe it, try to buy a Christian's hope, or a believer's hope that he will one day rise to be with God. Why this plan of salvation is the pearl of great price and it's free. "The free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." "Whosoever will let him come." We have many things in this life that remind us of money and wealth and power, but when you read of John's

description of Heaven, and all that God has prepared for those that are His, then all the things of this world fall into insignificance and are forgotten.

Listen! Today, wherever you are, He became poor that you might become rich. If you're wandering the streets of America, if you're walking the streets of the world today poor and needy, it's not God's fault. It isn't the fault of His precious Son, it's your fault. You're living on scraps and crusts of bread because you want to, because you've been deceived and lied to by Satan. It isn't God's will for you, because He who loves you gave himself for you. He emptied himself and became the sacrifice for Sin in order that you might become rich. Dear friend, the ragged robes of self-righteousness clutch to your bosom today; cast them aside as worthless and take instead the royal riches of the Son of God and let Him clothe you in His robe that's been washed white in His red blood.

Why We Preach Christ

August 15, 1954

"For the love of Christ constraineth us! because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again." (II Corinthians 5:14-15.)

Paul, who wrote these words, was often accused of being crazy. You know that's the devil's favorite tool to use to keep men from serving God faithfully. Many a man has turned back because someone threw the term, "fanatic," at him. Paul had it from every hand, and Paul was able to answer them by saying: "I am what I am because the love of Christ has taken hold of me."

I've seen men lose their family and their health in the business world. Literally work from daylight till dark and then far into the night over their books, until finally, having not yet reached middle age, their health is shattered and they have left their family behind. And you know what the world calls that man, with his stocks and his bonds and his position in the world? He's called a success.

I have seen men who forget the world and live among books, who hide

away in some library or become a recluse in some far-away spot and spend their entire life pouring over the great books of the ages and the world calls them scholars. I've seen some men whose lives were unconventional, whose actions failed to comply with any of the social standards, who dress carelessly, whose habits are irregular and abnormal, and the world calls them geniuses. But you let a man give up the world and separate himself to the will of God and immediately someone says he's a fanatic.

Only Important Thing

And I tell you, friend, there's just one thing in this world worth getting enthusiastic about and that one thing is the religion of our blessed Lord. There's only one institution that's permanent, and that's the CHURCH. Ever since my football playing days, I've liked to be on the winning side. I believe that the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, the living body of our Lord, His bride, will be here when He comes and I know of no other institution in the world that can make that claim.

Paul believed and practiced what I like to call the dimension of intensity.

That was the rule of success in his life. Everything he did was bounded on one side or another by the dimension of intensity. His life resembled a fine rifle that hit the mark every time.

In order to understand the intensity of this Jewish preacher whose writings have shaken this world, have never been equaled, much less excelled, there must be an answer to why he lived in the dimension of the intensity. Why he literally was on fire for God. I think I know. I think I have the reasons to give to you today. I would say that the first one is found in the Scripture which reads: "The soul that sins shall die."

Paul Was Driven

Paul knew that scripture and every time he looked at a man he realized that if he was lost and a sinner he would die and go away from God forever, and the realization drove him day and night.

We're all dead in trespasses and sin, the scripture says. From the beginning of time God has decreed, "that the soul that sinneth, it shall die." He is the only one who has the right to make the law, and He said, "the wages of sin shall be death." Sinners whether they be Gentiles or Jews, black or white, it makes no difference, face one terrible fact: they have sinned, they are condemned, death hangs over their head, and God has said, "if the soul sins it shall die." I believe it.

And YOU believe it. And I have no right to provide a loop-hole where there is no loop-hole. All I can say is that if thou art a sinner, then this applies to you, and the apostle Paul was driven by that thought. Every time he looked at a map of the world he saw whole nations that were lost and it took such a grip upon his life that he could not eat or sleep in comfort unless he was out walking the dusty caravan routes of the world, telling men wherever He found them about the Lord Jesus Christ.

The second thing that drove Paul to live in the dimension of intensity was the fact that he believed that Christ died for us. He doesn't stop with the fact that men are dead in their sins. He says that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. He says "He who knew no sin became sin for us." He says "He hath redeemed us from the curse of the law."

It would take much time to explain the matter of substitutionary atonement. But this one thing must be said. That is that God has been, is now and will always accept the death of Christ as a substitute for your death. Did you hear that? God has been, is now, and always will, accept the death of Christ as a substitute for your death. How can a preacher who believes this gospel tell about it in a dead, half-hearted way!

He came down and He died the death of a dog. He spilled His blood, in order that you might have a way of escape, and you who are helpless, and hopeless, and powerless, who stand upon the brink of eternity without God and without hope, can turn and see Jesus who died for you. And Paul, as he looked up to Heaven saw the scarred hands of Jesus, and when he looked about him, saw multitudes and untold multitudes of men who were lost and going away from God forever. He felt Himself so driven that he finally wrote these words: "The love of Christ constrains me."

Do you know what the word constrains means? It might best be described by the hoop that holds the barrel staves together. That's what the love of God does for a man. It holds him together. It gives him purpose. It concentrates his life. It keeps him from flying off the handle, from acting unpredictable, from becoming foolish in the matter of religion. He's constrained by the love of God.

"The love of Christ," Paul says, "gives me one purpose in life, and that is to please God. Constrained by that pressure power, desire, and that purpose, all I think of is that a world is lost about us, Jesus died for us and I am constrained by His love to give myself completely and willingly to Him."

Two Reasons

You know there are two reasons why your church and mine is not running over every Sunday. There are two reasons why the crowds are not so terribly great that we could not seat them. One is that many Christians have allowed sin into their lives, and the other reason is that there are a lot of people who have joined our churches who were playing around with God.

But I want to tell you today, friend, that I am convinced that scolding, scolding words and biting criticisms

will not do the job in bringing men to Christ and back to His service. I believe that if a man can look on the face of Christ on the Cross, and see the torment of God as the world trembles and shakes in the grip-of an earthquake, and if that will not change his heart and life and cause him to dedicate himself to Christ, then there isn't much any preacher can do. And lost men will be won when they know that God loves them and when preachers and Christians prove they love them, too

Your city is filled with people who for one reason or another have never publicly taken a stand for Jesus, they criticize the church, they hide behind a poor church member. But you remember this, whoever you are, you are going to be called upon one day to explain your actions before the same Christ whom you have denied publicly.

He shall stand at the right hand of your God and look full into your face while you try to tell God why you were ashamed of His Son and refused to let the world know that you loved Him, much less that you knew Him. The world desperately needs men and women who are not afraid to come out for Jesus, who are constrained by His love, bound by one purpose and that is to win this world to Christ.

The truest test of discipleship is the desire to tell someone else about Jesus.

Over and over again, I have listened to men and women who in the very act of trusting Christ the Saviour have continued that very prayer asking for mercy for someone else. A mother, a father, a husband, a wife, a son or daughter, a neighbor or friend, someone, and "oh, God:" they cry out, "now that you've saved me, please save my husband, please save my family, my mother or my father."

No wonder our old world drifts on battered, and bloody, and desperately looking for remedies. Our eyes are dry. We are constrained by His love to care what happens to others, much less to ourselves. Oh God, today, wherever men may be, may something happen within them that will cause them to live in the dimension of intensity, in the service of Christ. That they will have come to the place where they are not afraid to be called a fanatic, that they're not afraid to be called fools for Christ's sake, but realizing that men are dead in trespasses, realizing that Christ had died for the lost, and realizing that His love constrains us, we dare not stop.

Then we shall leave our work—the carpenter shall turn from his bench, the housewife from her table, the layman from his desk, the factory worker from his machine, and one and all shall witness to a lost world that Jesus died for us.

The Merchant

August 22, 1954

The words in Matthew 13:44-46, although brief, give us some interesting facts upon which we may do some prayerful thinking today. Read them.

I think Jesus knew this man. I think undoubtedly in the heart and mind of God there was some man that completely fulfilled this description. Jesus preceded the two verses with another story of a man with a wonderful experience. He said the kingdom of heaven was like unto a treasure that was hidden in a field, that which when a man has found it he hideth it, and for joy thereof he goeth and selleth all that he hath and buyeth that field.

Now these two men are very closely akin to one another. This farmer and his merchant, but there is an important difference. The man who found a treasure hidden in the field did not suspect that it was there; but going

about the business of ploughing and preparing that field for the crop, he came upon a treasure. The other man was in search of pearls, that was his business and he finally found the one pearl that surpassed them all.

The Decision

There have been many unkind things said about a man in the scripture whose name was Thomas. He has been variously described as the absentee disciple, the doubter, and on and on. I have a genuine admiration for the man because of one incident in his life. It is that closing moment when he comes in and sees the risen Lord, looks full into his face, he sees the scars on the hands and the feet of Jesus, and without one instant of hesitation he says: "That's what I want, that's it. My Lord and my God." If that word were trans-