

CHANGING OUR WORLD?

Acts 17:1-9

INTRODUCTION:

- A. From Matt. 10:16 We understand we are like sheep in the midst of wolves and we must be as wise as serpents & harmless as doves.
 - 1. This is the way Jesus went out & defeated Satan. John 1:29; 1Pet 1:18-19
 - 2. This is how we can be victorious. Rev 12:11
- B. In Luke 16:8, Jesus made a sad observation.
 - 1. How are we going to make a difference when?
 - a. Intelligence of world is not centered on Christ?
 - b. Wealth of world is not used to the glory of God.
 - c. Mind-boggling technology of the world not used to teach the Truth of God's Word.
 - 2. The short answer is: WE MUST BE DIFFERENT!
 - a. That's how a difference is made.
 - b. The only way world can be altered. Acts 17:6
- C. There are several principles we need to understand.

DISCUSSION:

I. CHRIST MUST BE EVERYTHING TO US.

- A. Everything is addressed by the Christ-like life we are asked to live. Col 1:28; Col 3:17
 - 1. Christ is to be at the heart of everything we do.
 - 2. Christianity not series of independent, unrelated actions God called us to do. Rather, God asks us to live Christ-like lives.
 - 3. Jesus must affect every decision we make in life.
 - At work, school, marriage, eat, drink, & say.
 - 4. A complete, mature, well-rounded biblical wisdom is something we must possess.
 - a. We must study the word of God Acts 17:11.
 - b. Properly handle challenges of life 2Tim 3:16-17
- B. Everything must come second to Christ.
 - 1. Jesus must really be 1st in our lives.
 - 2. Jesus demands undivided loyalty. Matt 6:24

II. CHRIST IS TO BE SEEN IN OUR LIVES. Acts 4:13

- A. What do people see when they look at us? Matt 5:16.
 - 1. We are the only Bible some people will ever read. 2Cor 3:1-3
 - 2. Note the song: "The World's Bible"
- B. What do I see when I look at myself?
 - 1. Am I more concerned about doing what I want than doing God's will?
 - 2. Am I more excited about the things of this world than the things of God? Matt 6:33.

- C. What does God see when He looks at me?

- 1. One in the image of His Son?
- 2. One excited about studying word? Psa 119:174
- 3. One who enjoys worship? Psa 122:1
- 4. One who puts spiritual things 1st in life? Col 3:2

III. CHRIST IS TO ORGANIZE OUR EFFORTS.

- A. Do we see ourselves as the body of Christ? Eph 4:16
 - 1. Do you see yourself as an important part of the company where you work?
 - 2. Do you see yourself as an important part of Lord's church? (local congregation only organization)
- B. Are we as organized for success as many prospering businesses in the world? Companies have plans, strategies, and goals.

IV. CHRIST SETS THE AGENDA CHRISTIANS FOLLOW.

- A. People need to see we serve a distinctive agenda (things to be done; list of things to be done) 1Pet 3:15.
 - 1. If today I tell world I'm a Christian, it means very little, because of the false concept the world has
 - 2. If today I tell world I'm a Moslem, it means a lot.
- B. People need to see that I live as a Christian ought.

V. CHRIST MUST BE CENTER OF OUR THOUGHTS.

- A. How much time do we spend thinking about Christ & His cause? Psa 1:2
 - 1. Thinking revolves around what God said Phil 2:5
 - 2. God's thinking determines what I think, say, & do!
- B. How much time is spent thinking about Christ as we go about our daily lives? At work, at school, at home.

VI. CHRIST IS TO CREATE IN US BALANCED LIVING.

- A. Do we get as excited about everyday positive aspects of the Christian life as we do zealously opposing doctrinal error?
- B. Do we get as excited about the everyday positive aspects of the Christian life as opposing immorality?
 - 1. We need to oppose what is wrong while we live by what is right. Matt 23:3-4; Rom 2:3; Matt 7:1-3
 - 2. How will people remember us? Phil 1:3
- C. Don't just tell me I'm wrong, show me what's right.

CONCLUSION:

- A. If we are going to make a difference in this world, we must be different ourselves!
- B. We cannot ethically ask others to do what we are not willing to do ourselves! Matt 16:24
- C. If Christ is to be seen in others, He must be seen in me!

(By Alan C. Cole revised by JLH)