

# “The Essentials Of Our Faith”

## Session XLIII

September 11, 2011

### “Missions: World Vision”

#### Part Two: The Believer’s “Call” And “Commission”!

Review:

#### I. “World Vision” in the Life and Teaching of Jesus Christ.

- A. The Incarnation of Christ represented a “VISION” for the world:
  - 1. To be the “Lamb of God”, Jn. 1:29.
  - 2. To be the “Savior” of the world, Jn. 3:16.
  - 3. To be the “Founder” and “Builder” of the Church, Matt. 16:18.
- B. The Followers of Christ were called to have the “SAME” vision (call):
  - 1. To recognize the true “need” of people, Jn. 4: 3,4,7,34-36.
  - 2. To bear spiritual “fruit” that remains, Jn. 15:16.
  - 3. To “GO” into the world in Jesus’ authority to “make disciples”, Matt 28:18-20.
- C. Summary:
  - 1. World Vision involves “SEEING” – what God sees!
  - 2. World Vision involves “GOING” – where God sends!
  - 3. World Vision involves “SPEAKING” what God says!

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”* Acts 1:8

#### II. “World Vision” in the Life and Teaching of the Apostle Paul.

##### A. Paul’s personal life and ministry.

##### 1. Acts 20:20-21, 24

*“Now I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. . . . But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.”*

--Note: Paul’s focus was on the “\_\_\_\_\_” of the message \_\_\_\_\_!

## 2. Romans 15:18, 19, 20, 25-28

*"For I will not presume to speak of anything except what **Christ has accomplished** through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed . . . I have fully **preached** the gospel of Christ. And thus I aspired to **preach** the gospel, not where Christ was already named, so that I would not build on another man's foundation . . . but now, I am going to Jerusalem **serving** the saints. For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a **contribution for the poor** among the saints in Jerusalem. Yes, they were pleased to do so, and they are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their **spiritual things**, they are indebted to minister to them also in **material things**. Therefore, when I have finished this, and have put my seal on this **fruit** of theirs, I will go on by way of you to Spain."*

--Note: Paul maintained a \_\_\_\_\_ between " \_\_\_\_\_ " needs and \_\_\_\_\_ truth!

--Note: Paul never lost focus on the " \_\_\_\_\_ " of the Gospel message!

## B. Paul's admonition to Believers in the Churches.

*"Therefore if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who **reconciled** us to Himself through Christ and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**, namely that God was in Christ **reconciling** the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has **committed to us the word of reconciliation**. Therefore, we are **AMBASSADORS** for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, **be reconciled to God**. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the **righteousness of God IN HIM**."*

II Corinthians 5:17-21

### Helpful Quotes from William MacDonald:

*"An **ambassador** is a minister of state, representing his own ruler in a foreign land. Paul always speaks of the Christian ministry as an exalted and dignified calling. Here he likens himself to an envoy sent by **Christ** to the world in which we live. He was a **spokesman** for God, and **God was pleading through him**. . . . that is the glory of the gospel, that, in it, God is actually on bended knee and with tear-dimmed eye begging men and women to **be reconciled to Himself**. If any enmity exists, it exists on man's part. God has removed any barriers to complete fellowship between Himself and man. . . . Now man must lay down his arms of rebellion, must cease his stubborn revolt, and must **be reconciled to God**."*

*"Paul lets us listen to the **message** which he preached to the unsaved as he went from country to country and continent to continent. **It is important to see this**. Paul is not telling the Corinthians to be reconciled to God. They are already Believers in the Lord Jesus. But he is telling the Corinthians that **this is the message** which he preaches to the unsaved wherever he goes."*

This “ministry of reconciliation” rests upon \_\_\_\_\_ Believer and may be exercised in three ways:

**1. Sacrificial “\_\_\_\_\_”, II Cor. 8:1 – 9:15.**

*“The Gospel may be presented to the unsaved through sacrificial gifts (of support). Evidently there are many earnest Believers who would rejoice to win a soul for Christ who have not awakened to the effectiveness of giving . . . The messenger cannot go except he be sent, but the one who sends him is a ‘partner’ in the service and has taken ‘stock’ which will pay eternal dividends.”* --Lewis Sperry Chafer

Observation: Effective “fruit-bearing” through giving requires a clear understanding of the “\_\_\_\_\_” of reconciliation, II Cor. 5:19.

*“ . . . God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them . . . ”*

- a. Understanding the “Word” of reconciliation enables the \_\_\_\_\_ of individuals and ministries who are \_\_\_\_\_ preaching the Gospel.
- b. Understanding the “Word” of reconciliation enables participation in \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.

**2. Effectual “\_\_\_\_\_,” Colossians 4:2-4.**

*“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.”*

**Helpful Quotations from Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer:**

*“All evangelism must begin with prayer. And no human service, or device, can take the place of . . . intercession . . . While the ‘Believer-priest’ may intercede in behalf of fellow-members in the Body of Christ, it is a privilege of his co-partnership with Christ to intercede for the lost. The answer to that prayer will be the going forth of the Spirit to convince (convict) them of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.”*

*“The importance of preaching and teaching the truth is in no way lessened by this emphasis upon priestly prayer. It must be borne in mind that prevailing prayer necessarily accompanies all other ministry – for it commands the power of God and secures the needed illumination of the mind toward the Word that may be preached. Without prayer there will be little understanding of the Gospel, even though faithfully preached.”*

*"The marvelous, and so little experienced, movings of the Spirit upon the unsaved are at the command of the least of God's children . . . for such a Believer is a priest unto God . . . How little the stupendous fact of this individual power in prayer is realized by Christians today!"*

*"It is easily proven that there is no more fruitful ministry possible to the child of God than prayer; yet how very few seem to realize that souls are saved through that service."*

### **3. Word of "\_\_\_\_\_ " – "\_\_\_\_\_ " Evangelism, Eph. 6:19-20.**

*"And pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."*

*"Since all are commissioned to this task, there are certain imperative conditions to be observed: 1) The messenger must be willing to be placed where the Spirit wills. 2) The messenger should be instructed as to the precise truths which constitute the Gospel of the grace which he is appointed to declare. And 3) the messenger must be Spirit-filled, else he will lack the impelling passion for the lost which alone prompts one to fearless and tireless soul-winning service."*

*--Lewis Sperry Chafer*