

## **CHRISTIANS MUST BE SOUL WINNERS** **(1 Corinthians 9:19-23)**

### **I. The command from above (Matthew 28:18-20).**

- A. God gave Jesus all authority and Jesus used that authority to command us to go and make disciples of all men, baptizing them and teaching them.
  - 1. This is not a mere suggestion from Jesus.
  - 2. This is a command that Christians must take seriously.
- B. We have been given the only tool necessary to save souls, which is also the only power to save souls (Romans 1:16).
- C. We are to use this tool to carry out the command of our King.
- D. Our Lord set the example for carrying out this command while He was on earth (Luke 19:10).
  - 1. We constantly read in the gospels about Jesus teaching people.
  - 2. He went about doing good (Acts 10:38), which very much includes teaching people how to be saved.
- E. If we are going to be obedient to Jesus we must evangelize.
  - 1. This command is just as important as the commands to worship or be faithful.
  - 2. Many times we put doctrinal purity as a great command but fail to evangelize.
  - 3. As one writer said, "In many churches, the Great Commission has become the Great Omission."

### **II. The cry from beneath (Luke 16:27-28).**

- A. The rich man desperately wanted his brothers to avoid the place in which he found himself.
  - 1. He was in great torment.
  - 2. He was in a place from which he could get no relief.
- B. When studying with people, you might get the question, "Are you saying my \_\_\_\_\_ is in hell right now?"
  - 1. I know people that have struggled with how to answer this.
  - 2. One thing we can say is: "I'm not the judge, but if your parent was lost, they would not want you to be where they are right now."
- C. If we could hear the cries from hell right now, we would realize how important evangelism really is (2 Corinthians 5:10-11).

### **III. The call from without (Acts 16:9-10).**

- A. In Paul's vision, a man from Macedonia invited Paul to come over and preach the gospel because he needed the help it offered.
  - 1. No doubt this weighed heavily on Paul, knowing that people there were lost and needed the message he had.
  - 2. Therefore, Paul immediately began making plans to go over there and preach to the lost in that area.
- B. There are people that want to hear the message of the gospel.
  - 1. Unfortunately, they don't send visions to let us know.
  - 2. Many times, we won't know unless we begin the discussion somehow.

3. The fact is, there are people who want to go to heaven but don't know if what they are doing is right or don't know how to get there at all.
- C. The greatest help we can bring anyone is the gospel.
    1. It is great to pay power bills, buy gas or groceries or other things.
    2. But the greatest thing we can do for people is to teach them the gospel.
- IV. The constraint from within (2 Corinthians 5:14).**
- A. Paul felt the binding, or constraint, of the love of Christ to preach the gospel.
    1. Think of all that Paul did for the cause of Christ.
    2. I imagine that someone along the way asked Paul why he suffered and endured what he did to preach.
  - B. 2 Corinthians 5:14 would have been his answer.
    1. He had the love of Christ in him, shown to him by God and accepted by his obedience to the gospel.
    2. That love of Christ caused Paul to be Christ-like in his love for those who were lost as well as fellow Christians.
  - C. All that Paul did was because of the love he had for Christ that came about as a result of the love Christ had for him.
  - D. If we love Christ, we can't help but love souls because He did and does.
    1. If we want to be like Jesus, we have to love what He loves.
    2. Jesus loves souls so much that He died for the souls of all mankind.

From an outline by Mark Posey