

## DOING IT RIGHT

- A. We are commanded to be the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world".
- \* Implies an intense involvement with the world (tho we are not OF the world).
  - \* Implies that we are to create mission forces rather than mission fields.
- B. "Success" is a matter of God's Sovereignty.
- a) We must not be success-driven.
- \* "Fear not on account of the birds".
  - \* Billy Graham--"40 years ago, I thought I was going to change the whole world. I don't think that any more. You know, Jesus was here only three years with his public life. He went about from town to town. And then he said, "I have finished the work the Father has given me to do."
- b) God is sovereign and in control.
- \* We must not be discouraged when there are few results--trust God's timing.
  - \* At the time when the church needed a man like Paul, Paul was there to meet the need. He had the Jewish background and the Christian experience. He had the Roman privilege of culture, education, and citizenship. He had the mind of a philosopher and the heart and spirit of a mystic. He had the courage of a crusader and the humility of a saint.
  - \* We should not expect to be gratified with immediate results--our task is to propagate the Good News, whether we are able to see fruit or not.
  - \* We do not know who the saved are, those whom God has called..
  - \* Such an approach takes the frenzy out of our lives and makes us calm and composed reapers for the Lord.
- C. Proper motivation and motives.
- \* "A coal from God's altar must kindle our fire; and without fire, true fire, there is no acceptable sacrifice." (Wm. Penn)
  - \* It is easy to forget that to sacrifice a promising career and go to the mission field is just a means to an end, not an end in itself.
  - \* The simplest of motives:
    - Not for our self-gratification or triumphalism, nor for the church or even for Christianity.
    - Not just because it is a part of our obedience (though it is).
    - Not just to make other people happy (though it does).
    - But because we cannot live without Christ and we cannot bear to think of men living without him...We believe in a Christ-like world. We know nothing better; we can be content with nothing less. There is no greater incentive than the lordship of Jesus.
- D. The personal approach.
- \* Not as a strategy but as a genuine outreach toward others.
  - \* Stanley Jones asked Gandhi what we Christians should do to make Christianity more successful in India: "First, all of you Christians, missionaries and all, must begin to live more like Jesus Christ. Second, practice your religion without adulterating it or toning it down. Third, emphasize love and make it your working force, for love is central in Christianity."
  - \* Excerpt from a letter of a missionary, illustrating personal giving of self: "I have tried to give you of myself, my faith in God as the Creator of life, my trust in Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life, my interest in you as children of God, and my love of life. And now after trying to give of myself to you, I have received a clearer awareness of myself, God's purpose for my life and my relationship to Him. Now I believe thru experience the words of Jesus as Luke says: "give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over...For the measure you give will be the measure you get back."
- E. Receptivity.
- \* "*Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave*". (Mt 10:11)

- \* Find a method of seeking out the receptive. This should be a pattern for evangelism today--not being a nuisance until they give up.
- \* "Shake off the dust of your feet" (Mt 10:14).
- \* "Seek-and-harvest theology".
- \* History tells us that the highest receptivity is among the masses, that religion usually enters society among the common people and works itself upward.

#### F. We are all to be missionaries.

- \* We have been able to get away with paying for the upkeep of others--ministers, social workers, urban youth workers, missionaries--to work for us.
- \* Jesus' Commission is to go, preach, and disciple all persons.
- \* His approach is expulsive in character, e.g. *"And he called to him the twelve and began to send them out"* (Mk 6:7)
- \* In the first century, people of small means and education, with simple organization, were vibrant and alive with the spirit of their Master, so amazingly happy, so exuberantly certain that they had a secret which would transform men's lives, so passionately eager to pass it on that Christianity spread, not by advertisement and stunt and piteous invitation, but like a glorious infection.

#### G. Accountability to the sending church:

- \* We must thoughtfully and prayerfully assess our effectiveness in acting out the vision of God.
- \* Nicodemus' opinions of Jesus were second-hand, so he went to investigate the Master himself.
- \* It is our duty to exercise our influence (however great or little it may be) in behalf of Godly causes. No man walks without an influence, any more than he walks in the sunshine without a shadow.
- \* *"Upon arrival they called together the believers and reported on their trip, telling how God had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles too."* (A 14:27)

#### H. Money and financial support.

##### a) The dark side of money and missionary work.

- \* Missionaries seem to be totally at the mercy of those with money.
- \* We pray for guidance, but let statistics, forecasts, and experts give us the final word.
- \* "You have to have money if the work is going to be done".
- \* We readily admit that it is sad that we have to resort to such means, but what are we to do? The work is not going to get done any other way!

##### b) The bright side to money and missionaries.

- \* Missionaries should not be beggars.
- \* Money is not the solution of missionaries' problems, but it is power, and like all power, it can be used for good or evil.
- \* Phil 4:11-14--*"Not that I complain of want; for I have learned, in whatever state I am, to be content. I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. I can do all things in him who strengthens me. Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble."*  
[Context: thanking them for gift of money]

##### c) Missions and money

- \* Money can empower missions by
  - (1) supporting effective missionaries to open new areas of the world to the Gospel,
  - (2) partnering with developing national congregations to train and oversee effective national leaders, and by
  - (3) developing media and materials to strengthen specific local ministries.
- \* Money can hinder missions by
  - (1) creating unhealthy dependence,
  - (2) controlling churches which should be self-supporting,
  - (3) creating jealousy between those supported by the West and those not supported,
  - (4) unwittingly attracting leeches and con-men who hope for benefits, support, and/or a chance to study abroad, and

(5) over-support of missionaries who physically separate themselves from the people among whom they hope to minister.

I. Vocational missionaries and "tent-makers".

- \* Paul & Barnabas could have been paid professional missionaries, but refused.
  - Cf 2 Thes 3:8-9: "*...we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we did not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow*".
  - "*But we did not use this right...we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ*" v12
  - "*I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of this boast*" v15.
- \* Their position gives them a certain dignity and a right to speak out on dedication and hard work.--I admire and agree with them.
  - In preaching, independence is precious--dangerous to be beholden to anyone.