

THE GOSPEL MUST BE PREACHED!

The great commission as issued by the Master and recorded by Luke reads thus: "And he said unto them, These are my words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must needs be fulfilled, which are written in the law of Moses, and the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their mind, that they might understand the scriptures; and he said unto them, Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer, and rise again from the dead the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name unto all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. Ye are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:44-48). Without preaching, few would be saved. This record of the commission shows us that part of the preaching which God would have us to do is with respect of repentance unto remission of sins. All the good deeds and church going will avail nothing if there is no genuine repentance. Accountable men and women must hear this message if true repentance is to be forthcoming.

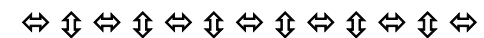
Preaching saves hearers! Paul told Timothy, "Take heed to thyself, and to thy teaching. Continue in these things; for in doing this thou shalt save both thyself and them that hear thee" (1 Timothy 4:16).

Preaching saves believers! Note what Paul told the brethren at Corinth, "For seeing that in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom knew not God, it was God's good pleasure through the foolishness of the preaching to save them that believe" (1 Corinthians 1:21).

Preaching saves them that obey what they have heard and believed! The tone of Romans is set in the beginning and end of the book in the phrase Paul used in 1:5 and 16:26, what he calls "the obedience of faith." The Hebrew writer concurs with this when he wrote, "he Christ became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation" (Hebrews 5:9). So then, as we become "doers of the word and not hearers only," being "obedient from the heart," we thus fulfill the wish of our Lord

when He told us, "if ye love me, ye will keep my commandments" (John 14:15), and "ye are my friends, if ye do the things which I command you" (John 15:14).

Are you saved? Have you obeyed that form of doctrine (the Gospel) to which you have been delivered? If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, are willing to confess that faith and repent and turn from your sins, you are ready to obey the Gospel like Saul of Tarsus when he was asked, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on his name" (Acts 22:16).



THE HEART OF EVANGELISM

We all remember those three elements of the Christian life that endure until the end, "But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13). Part of the aspect of faith, hope and love necessarily involves evangelism. The same writer who told the Corinthian brethren about these qualities also told the Christians at Thessalonica, "remembering without ceasing your work of faith and labor of love and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father" (1 Thessalonians 1:3). Yet he goes on to compliment them because they "became imitators of us so that ye became an ensample to all that believe in Macedonia and in Achaia. For from you hath sounded forth the word of the Lord, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith to God-ward is gone forth; so that we need not to speak anything" (1 Thessalonians 1:6-8). Obviously, part of the faith, hope, and love we are to maintain will include being an example to those about us and sounding forth the word at home and abroad. This is a part of being imitators of God as beloved children (Ephesians 5:1).

However, too many, perhaps even most brethren today have the faulty notion that evangelism is the preacher's or someone else's job. This is not what

saith the Lord. The real heart of evangelism may be found in what we sometimes lack. L.A.C.K. is an acrostic for four essential ingredients to evangelism. This was suggested to me many years ago in a sermon and I am grateful for that reminder.

"L" stands for Love. We many times lack Love for those who are lost. We may rarely even think about them. Yet, what sent God's only begotten Son to this world?

"A" stands for awareness. Are we really aware of those all around us who have not obeyed the saving grace of God? Do we bring these people to mind when we are about to have a Gospel Meeting with a visiting preacher?

"C" stands for conviction. Perhaps our failing is that we do not have the conviction of our own professed "faith." Or maybe we are not convinced that God will condemn the lost at all!

"K" stands finally for knowledge. Do we know enough to teach what one must do to be saved? Surely we do! Then, with this knowledge, leading to personal conviction, becoming aware of the lost all around us we will develop the love necessary to teach to seek and to save those who are lost. Love will give us the approach; Awareness gives us the opportunity; Conviction will supply the drive and Knowledge will give us the tool for evangelism. May we overcome what we LACK and continue to grow in Love, Awareness, Conviction and Knowledge that we may fulfill the Lord's desire for the church to be a beacon to this dead world of sin. This is the heart of soul-saving. How strong is your heart?

RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

SUNDAY MORNING	BIBLE STUDY	9:30 A.M.
	WORSHIP	10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY EVENING	WORSHIP	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY	7:30 P.M.
Preachers:	Robin W. Haley	614-751-1082
	James Grayson	614-409-0941

March 15, 2009

Weekly Budget: \$1360.00

Weekly Item Needed: Glass Cleaner
Wednesday's Wisdom:

"Make good decisions; you will answer to God for them." Austin Truss

Remember in prayer: Lloyd & Barbara Moore; Steve's sister; Hubert's sister, Cheryl's sister-in-law. All these have had serious health challenges. Pray that their battles will be easy, their burdens light, and if the Lord wills, their recoveries complete.

Cell phone updates: Suzie Grayson, 614-625-3824; Whitney soon-to-be Grayson, 614-302-2492. Whitney's home phone as listed in the Directory is no longer valid.

Letter from Pomeroy: Dennis Sargent has sent his monthly report of the work there.

Question/Answer night: March 29, 2009