

Standing in the Truth

Sunday Morning, July 22, 2012

Thesis:

Fear God and Share the Truth of the Gospel of Christ.
It is the Hope for our children, future generations, America, and the World!

Introduction:

2 Part Message: This is Part I
(Quote Thesis)

There were Three Great (Spiritual) Awakenings from the 1700 to 1900. Each of them brought more spiritual awareness and dedication to God. The First Great Awakening at the beginning of the 1700's in England and America brought people from a place of complacency to one of passion for Christ. As Christians focus on the "signs of the times" and let us not forget the "Great Commission".

(Stand for the Reading of God's Word)

(Matthew 28:18-20)

18 Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

I. When Standing in the "Truth" of Christ – Don't Fear Criticism and Rejection

Standing in the "Truth" -
What Does This Mean?
Adherence to the Truth
Living as Public Witness

The Blind Man A Public Witness

(John Chapter 9)

1 As He was passing by, He saw a man blind from birth.
2 His disciples questioned Him: "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"
3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," Jesus answered. "This came about so that God's works might be displayed in him.
4 We must do the works of Him who sent Me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work.
5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."
6 After He said these things He spit on the ground, made some mud from the saliva, and spread the mud on his eyes.
7 "Go," He told him, "wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means "Sent"). So he left, washed, and came back seeing.
8 His neighbors and those who formerly had seen him as a beggar said, "Isn't this the man who sat begging?"
9 Some said, "He's the one." "No," others were saying, "but he looks like him."
 He kept saying, "I'm the one!"
10 Therefore they asked him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"
11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So when I went and washed I received my sight."
12 "Where is He?" they asked.
 "I don't know," he said.
13 They brought the man who used to be blind to the Pharisees.
14 The day that Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes was a Sabbath.
15 So again the Pharisees asked him how he received his sight.
 "He put mud on my eyes," he told them. "I washed and I can see."
16 Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for He doesn't keep the Sabbath!" But others were saying, "How can a sinful man perform such signs?" And there was a division among them.

17 Again they asked the blind man, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?"

"He's a prophet," he said.

18 The Jews did not believe this about him-that he was blind and received sight-until they summoned the parents of the one who had received his sight. 19 They asked them, "Is this your son, the one you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

20 "We know this is our son and that he was born blind," his parents answered.

21 "But we don't know how he now sees, and we don't know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he's of age. He will speak for himself."

22 His parents said these things because they were afraid of the Jews, since the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him as Messiah, he would be banned from the synagogue.

23 This is why his parents said, "He's of age; ask him."

24 So a second time they summoned the man who had been blind and told him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner!"

25 He answered, "Whether or not He's a sinner, I don't know. One thing I do know: I was blind, and now I can see!"

26 Then they asked him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"

27 "I already told you," he said, "and you didn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again? You don't want to become His disciples too, do you?"

28 They ridiculed him: "You're that man's disciple, but we're Moses' disciples.

29 We know that God has spoken to Moses. But this man-we don't know where He's from!"

30 "This is an amazing thing," the man told them. "You don't know where He is from, yet He opened my eyes!"

31 We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He listens to him.

32 Throughout history no one has ever heard of someone opening the eyes of a person born blind.

33 If this man were not from God, He wouldn't be able to do anything."

34 "You were born entirely in sin," they replied, "and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out.

35 When Jesus heard that they had thrown the man out, He found him and asked, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

36 "Who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?" he asked.

37 Jesus answered, "You have seen Him; in fact, He is the One speaking with you."

38 "I believe, Lord!" he said, and he worshiped Him.

39 Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, in order that those who do not see will see and those who do see will become blind."

40 Some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and asked Him, "We aren't blind too, are we?"

41 "If you were blind," Jesus told them, "you wouldn't have sin. But now that you say, 'We see'-your sin remains.

Blind Man Receives Sight

Was Alienated From God

Was Blind to Spiritual Truth

Was Beyond the Help of Man

God Revealed Himself

to the Blind Man

Jesus Told the Blind Man

What to Do

Blind Man Obeyed Jesus

Blind Man Received

Physical & Spiritual Sight

Blind Man Was Questioned, Criticized and Rejected for
His Testimony of Christ!

Blind Man Represents the Lost Which We Once Were!

II. Work While It Is Day!

(John 9: 4-5)

4 We must do the works of Him who sent Me while it is day.

Night is coming when no one can work.

5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Do We Fear God?

Or

Do We Fear Man?

(Luke 12: 4-9)

4 "And I say to you, My friends, don't fear those who kill the body, and after that can do nothing more.

5 But I will show you the One to fear: Fear Him who has authority to throw people into hell after death.

Yes, I say to you, this is the One to fear!

6 Aren't five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight.

7 Indeed, the hairs of your head are all counted. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows!

8 "And I say to you, anyone who acknowledges Me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God,

9 but whoever denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

The Hope for Our Children, Future Generations, the World
Around Us...is the Gospel of Christ!

The Great Awakening Started From Small Groups of Believers
Not Main Stream Influences!

To Stand in the Truth of Christ is to Honor Him!

III. When Believers in Christ Don't Stand in the Truth of Christ, We Hurt the Heart of God

(John 20: 25-29)

25 So the other disciples kept telling him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "If I don't see the mark of the nails in His hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will never believe!"

26 After eight days His disciples were indoors again, and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace to you!"

27 Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and observe My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Don't be an unbeliever, but a believer."

28 Thomas responded to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Jesus said, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Those who believe without seeing are blessed."

(Zechariah 13: 6-7)

6 And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.

7 Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the Lord of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

(Matthew 26:31)

31 Then Jesus said to them, "Tonight all of you will run away because of Me, for it is written:

I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.

(Hebrews 11:6)

6 Now without faith it is impossible to please God, for the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and rewards those who seek Him.

(James 2:17) In the same way faith, if it doesn't have works, is dead by itself.

Conclusion:

As Believers in Christ Let Us Not Hurt/Wound the Heart of
Christ, but Let Us Stand in the
Truth that the Lost will
Received the Gospel of Christ!
This is the Only Hope
for America and
the World Around Us!