

What's Your World View?

Sunday Morning, March 3, 2013

Thesis/Introduction:

A Christian's World View is Focused on God's View

A Chain of Gold by Pastor Joe Focht

Edward Kimball had a burden for one of his Sunday school students to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. On April 21, 1855, Edward Kimball had a conversation about the love of God with an employee of Holton's shoe store in Mt. Vernon, Massachusetts. His name? Dwight L. Moody.

That young man, Dwight L. Moody, went on to become an evangelist whose ministry rocked two continents. While preaching in the British Isles, Moody spoke in a small chapel pastored by Frederick Brotherton Meyer. In his sermon Moody told an emotionally charged story of a Sunday School teacher he knew who personally went to every student in his class and won them to Christ. The message changed Pastor Meyer's entire ministry, inspiring him to become an evangelist.

Over the years, Meyer came to America several times to preach. Once in Northfield, Massachusetts a confused young preacher sitting in the back row heard Meyer say, "If you are not willing to give everything to God, are you willing to be made willing?" That remark led J. Wilbur Chapman to accept the call of God on his life.

Chapman went on to become one of the most effective evangelists of his time. A volunteer helped set up Chapman's crusades and learned to preach by watching him. His name: Billy Sunday.

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Sunday eventually took over Chapman's ministry, becoming one of the most effective evangelists of the 20th century. In the great arenas of the nation, Billy Sunday's preaching turned thousands to Christ.

Inspired by a 1924 Billy Sunday crusade in Charlotte, NC, a committee of Christians committed themselves to reaching that city for Christ. They invite Mordecai Ham... to hold a series of evangelistic meetings in 1932. A lanky 16 year old sat in the huge crowd one evening. Spellbound by the message of the white haired preacher who seemed to be shouting and waving his long finger directly at him. Night after night the youth attended and finally went forward and gave his life to Christ. That teenager's name: Billy Graham.

Billy Graham has doubtlessly communicated the gospel of Jesus Christ to more people than anyone else in the history of the world.

Remember how this sequence of events started: a nobody name Kimball, concerned for one of his students visited him at his shoe store. In doing that Kimball changed the world! Millions upon millions have been affected by his decision to go to that shoe store and millions more will continue to feel the impact. Can anything like that happen today?

Without Him we can't. Without us, He won't.

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I. When Are the Poor Rich and When Are the Rich Poor? **(Proverbs 30: 8 – 9)**

8 Keep falsehood and deceitful words far from me. Give me neither poverty nor wealth; feed me with the food I need.

9 Otherwise, I might have too much and deny You, saying, "Who is the Lord?" or I might have nothing and steal, profaning the name of my God.

(Luke 6: 20 – 26)

20 Then looking up at His disciples, He said: You who are poor are blessed, because the kingdom of God is yours.

21 You who are now hungry are blessed, because you will be filled. You who now weep are blessed, because you will laugh.

22 You are blessed when people hate you, when they exclude you, insult you, and slander your name as evil because of the Son of Man.

23 "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! Take note— your reward is great in heaven, for this is the way their ancestors used to treat the prophets.

24 But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your comfort.

25 Woe to you who are now full, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are now laughing, for you will mourn and weep.

26 Woe to you when all people speak well of you, for this is the way their ancestors used to treat the false prophets.

Do Your Circumstances Produce Faith in God?

II. The Marks of Agape Love **(Romans 5: 8 – 10)**

8 But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us!

9 Much more then, since we have now been declared righteous by His blood, we will be saved through Him from wrath.

10 For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by His life!

(Luke 6: 27 – 38)

27 "But I say to you who listen: Love your enemies, do what is good to those who hate you,

28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

29 If anyone hits you on the cheek, offer the other also. And if anyone takes away your coat, don't hold back your shirt either.

30 Give to everyone who asks you, and from one who takes your things, don't ask for them back. 31 Just as you want others to do for you, do the same for them.

32 If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33 If you do what is good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that.

34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners to be repaid in full.

35 But love your enemies, do what is good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is gracious to the ungrateful and evil.

36 Be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

38 Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure— pressed down, shaken together, and running over—will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."

(Malachi 3: 8 – 10)

8 “Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me!”

You ask: “How do we rob You?”

“By not making the payments of the tenth and the contributions.
9 You are suffering under a curse, yet you—the whole nation—are still robbing Me.

10 Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this way,” says the Lord of Hosts.
“See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure.

III. Judgmentalism is Not God's Character
(II Corinthians 10:5)

and every high-minded thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, taking every thought captive to obey Christ.

(Romans 12:2)

2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

(Luke 6: 39 – 42)

39 He also told them a parable: “Can the blind guide the blind? Won't they both fall into a pit?

40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.

41 “Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but don't notice the log in your own eye?

42 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself don't see the log in your eye? Hypocrite! First take the log out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck in your brother's eye.

IV. Obedient Hearts Focus on God
(Luke 6: 43 – 49)

43 “A good tree doesn't produce bad fruit; on the other hand, a bad tree doesn't produce good fruit.

44 For each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs aren't gathered from thornbushes, or grapes picked from a bramble bush.

45 A good man produces good out of the good storeroom of his heart. An evil man produces evil out of the evil storeroom, for his mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart.

46 “Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and don't do the things I say?

47 I will show you what someone is like who comes to Me, hears My words, and acts on them:

48 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep & laid the foundation on the rock. When the flood came, the river crashed against that house & couldn't shake it, because it was well built.

49 But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The river crashed against it, and immediately it collapsed. And the destruction of that house was great!”

Conclusion:

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