

SUBJECT: Salvation.

TITLE: Almost Persuaded.

PROPOSITION: To look at being almost persuaded.

OBJECTIVE: To show that it is to be but lost.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Read the text.

2. Regarding the text.

(1) Paul stands before King Agrippa reasoning of the resurrection of Christ from the dead (v. 23).

A. Festus tells Paul that he is mad from too much learning (vs: 24,25).

B. Paul then tells Festus that he is not mad, but he speaks the truth and the king knows this because none of those things that were done were hidden from him and none were done in a corner (vs. 25,26).

(2) Then Paul asked Agrippa if he believed the prophets (v. 27).

A. Agrippa made his famous statement that he was almost persuaded (v: 28).

B. Paul stated that he wished he was not just almost, but altogether persuaded (v:29).

(3) Today, we have a lot of people who are almost persuaded, but not altogether persuaded.

3. Reference to S.T.P.O.

DISCUSSION: ALMOST PERSUADED--

I. BUT, I AM NOT QUIET SURE THAT THIS IS THE RIGHT THING FOR ME.

1. People seem to be skeptical of the truth when they hear it because society teaches us to be skeptical.

(1) Skepticism never has been acceptable to God (Rom. 14:23).

(2) If a man doubts he should not think that God will give him anything (Jas. 1:6-8).

2. People seem to think that there might be something better down the road.

(1) There is nothing better than Christ (Jno. 6:68).

(2) With God on our side there is nothing in this world that can stand against us, thus nothing is better (Rom. 8:28).

3. People who are not quiet sure are almost persuaded but lost.

II. BUT, THIS IS NOT THE RIGHT TIME FOR ME TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN.

1. Why we think that we have all the time on earth there is, is a mystery.

(1) Our life is but a vapor (Jas. 4:14).

(2) No one knows how long he has in this life (Heb. 9:27).

2. There is no time to waste.

(1) Today is the day of salvation (2 Cor. 6:2).

(2) The Eunuch was baptized immediately (Acts 8:35-39).

3. People who think that this is not the right time are almost persuaded but lost.

III. BUT, ALMOST CANNOT AVAIL.

1. Almost is but to fail.

(1) Felix waited for a more convenient season (Acts 24:25).

(2) Agrippa was almost persuaded (Acts 26:28).

2. There is no record of either one of them ever obeying the gospel.

(1) Without obedience to the gospel they are lost (2 Thess. 1:7-9).

(2) The gospel is the only way one can be saved (Rom. 1:16-17).

3. People, who put salvation may be almost persuaded, but they are lost.

CONCLUSION:

SUMMARY: WE HAVE SEEN IN THIS LESSON THAT SOME ARE--

1. Almost Persuaded but they are not quiet sure if it is the right thing for them.

2. Almost Persuaded but they are not sure if it is the right time for them.

3. Almost Persuaded but almost cannot avail, almost is but to fail.

APPEAL: Don't be almost persuaded, be altogether persuaded and obey.

Preached at Belle, MO on 4/19/09, morning lesson.

SUBJECT: Christian Living.

TITLE: O To Be Like Thee.

PROPOSITION: To look at being like Christ.

OBJECTIVE: To see how we should be living.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Read the text.

2. Regarding the text.

(1) Jesus is that Spirit of new covenant of which Paul has been speaking and where that new covenant is, there is liberty, especially the liberty of seeing (2Cor. 3:3,6,8).

A. Those living under Moses were veiled so that they could not see Christ in their dispensation, but all we who live under the new covenant see the glory of Christ with unveiled faces as he is mirrored in that new covenant.

B. However, none of the ministers of Christ, not even the apostles continually beheld Christ glorified as an objective reality, for it is only in our future state that we shall thus look upon him, and that look will fully effect the transformation into his likeness which our knowledge of him in the gospel has been slowly working out within us during our earthly life (2Cor. 5:16).

(2) In order to be able to be transformed like Christ in the life after this one is over we must live like Christ while we are living this life on earth.

A. We are to follow his examples (1 Pet. 1:21).

B. We must live a Christ like life in order to be able to go to heaven.

(3) Let us see how we are to live on this earth.

3. Reference To S.T.P.O.

DISCUSSION: IN OUR LESSON WE SEE THAT WE ARE TO BE--

I. CHRISTLIKE IN OUR PRAYER LIFE.

1. Christ taught that men ought always to pray (Lk. 18:1).

(1) Pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17).

(2) The early church continued steadfastly in prayer (Acts 2:41).

2. Christ taught his disciples to pray (Lk. 11:1).

(1) We are to pray for our blessings, both spiritual and material (Jno. 16:23).

(2) We are to pray when we are troubled (Mt. 26:39).

3. We are to pray just to spend time with God (Mt. 14:23).

II. CHRISTLIKE IN OUR MANNER OF LIFE.

1. Our manner of life is to be as becometh the gospel of Christ (Phil. 1:27).

(1) We are to remember that people are watching us (Mt. 5:16).

(2) We are to set a good example of the believers (1 Tim. 4:12).

2. Our manner of life is to be one of holiness.

(1) God has called us unto holiness (1 Thess. 4:7).

(2) We are to perfect holiness in the fear of God (2 Cor. 7:1).

3. This is how our manner of life is to be.

III. CHRISTLIKE IN OUR COMPASSION.

1. Christ had compassion on the lost (Mt. 9:36).

(1) We are to have compassion on the lost (Mk. 16:15,16).

(2) Satan is blinding the minds of the lost so they won't see the light of the gospel (2 Cor. 4:4).

2. Christ had compassion on the needy (Mt. 15:32).

(1) We are to help the orphans and widows (Jas. 1:27).

(2) We are to take care of the needy (Gal. 6:10; 2 Cor. 9:13).

3. We must have compassion like he did.

CONCLUSION:

SUMMARY: We have seen that in order to be like Christ we must be--

1. Christlike in our prayer life.

2. Christlike in our manner of life.

3. Christlike in our compassion.

APPEAL: Let us be like Christ.

Preached at Belle, MO 4/19/09, evening services.