

“A Portrait of a Sold-out Believer” 2/14/10

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

1 Thessalonians- “Living a Life of Focus in Expectation of Jesus’ Return”

REVISIT ACTS 17:1-9;

Setting of Thessalonica- paganism, pluralism, hedonism, materialism; religious charlatanism; tolerance; licentiousness (extreme sexual immorality)

What is our witness? 6X “you know”; 3X God witness; 4X Gospel of God

Paul writes, *“Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”* (1 Corinthians 11:1)

POINT 1- The life of a sold out believer should strive for these TRAITS

- A. The characteristic of a sold out believer includes gospel BOLDNESS
(v. 2; Mark 16:15; 8:38; Rom 1:16-17; 2 Cor 3:3-12 “boldness in speech”)

Henry VIII ILLUSTRATION

- B. The characteristic of a sold out believer includes the full GOSPEL
(v. 2-3; 1 Corinthians 15:3-5; Four S’s; Bad news; Good news)

- C. The characteristic of a sold out believer includes the right MOTIVE
(v. 4; John 12:43; 2 Timothy 2:15; Galatians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 5:9)

- D. The characteristic of a sold out believer includes a heart that is PURE
(v. 5; Isaiah 30:10; Acts 20:33; 1 Timothy 6:6-11; Proverbs 30:7-9)

“It is better to fall among crows than flatterers; for those devour only the dead -- these the living.”

- E. The characteristic of a sold out believer includes avoiding EGOISM
(v. 6; Matthew 23:7-9; 1 Cor 1:12-13; Matthew 20:25-28)

- F. The characteristic of a sold out believer includes gentle SACRIFICE
(v. 7-9; cherish- warm, not scalding; Imparting Gospel and our lives)

COMMENT BY DAN ABOUT SACRIFICE- BURYING A DOG

- G. The characteristic of a sold out believer includes proper BEHAVIOR
(v. 10; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Matthew 5:16; 2 Cor 6:3; 7:2; 2 Thess 3:7)

Can God be a witness of your behavior before others?

- H. The characteristic of a sold out believer includes walking WORTHY
(v. 11-12; Galatians 5:16-25; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; Ephesians 4:1)

Are you teaching your kids, praying with them, being an example to them?

Going Deeper God wants us to seriously challenge ourselves to be sold out for Him!

“All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith.” (Heb 11:39)

Paul’s life was permeated with the gospel. Is yours? 1) write down in 25 words or less the content of the gospel (with verses); 2) pick 2 characteristics that you will commit to working on in your life. Share this with someone you trust for accountability.

Hugh Lattimer once preached before King Henry VIII. Henry was greatly displeased by the boldness in the sermon and ordered Lattimer to preach again on the following Sunday and apologize for the offence he had given. The next Sunday, after reading his text, he thus began his sermon:

“Hugh Lattimer, dost thou know before whom thou are this day to speak? To the high and mighty monarch, the king’s most excellent majesty, who can take away thy life, if thou offendest. Therefore, take heed that thou speakest not a word that may displease. But then consider well, Hugh, dost thou not know from whence thou comest—upon Whose message thou are sent? Even by the great and mighty God, Who is all-present and Who beholdeth all thy ways and Who is able to cast thy soul into hell! Therefore, take care that thou deliverest thy message faithfully.”

A CROW having stolen a bit of meat, perched in a tree and held it in her beak. A Fox, seeing this, longed to possess the meat himself, and by a wily stratagem succeeded. "How handsome is the Crow," he exclaimed, in the beauty of her shape and in the fairness of her complexion! Oh, if her voice were only equal to her beauty, she would deservedly be considered the Queen of Birds!" This he said deceitfully; but the Crow, anxious to refute the reflection cast upon her voice, set up a loud caw and dropped the flesh. The Fox quickly picked it up, and thus addressed the Crow: "My good Crow, your voice is right enough, but your wit is wanting."