

“Stuffing Turkey with the Gospel!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. **Mothers:** *My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her.* George Washington (mother Mary)
- 1.2. I want to be **sensitive** to those who desired to have a child & couldn't. And to those who didn't have a great model for mothers.
 - 1.2.1. We are grateful for your model.
 - 1.2.2. Though you grieve, we honor you today.
- 1.3. What you represent in a day in which it isn't that popular to be simply seen as a mother... Though it is the most influential position one can have on the planet.
- 1.4. **Please Stand:** (Pray) Acknowledge **God's grace** in their “words, touch, & model”.
 - 1.4.1. What a pleasure to have **given life** to little people.
 - 1.4.2. Mothers who long for their kids safe return.
 - 1.4.3. **Our presidents mother & her influence on his life; presidents wife & her influence on her daughters.**
 - 1.4.4. There isn't a life **not touched** by their mother.
- 1.5. **Story** – Last year Larry, Wayne & I visited a mosque in Indonesia. We wore goatees so we wouldn't stick out. The head mufti came in & greeted all 3 of us w/*durkey, durkey, durkey!* [We asked our friend there what *durkey* meant? He explained he thought you were from Turkey! You past!]
 - 1.5.1. So, on we go to *Turkey* w/Paul!

2. STUFFING TURKEY WITH THE GOSPEL! (13-41)

- 2.1. **Leadership Change!** (13,14)
- 2.2. From *Barnabas & Paul* to “**Paul & his party.**”
- 2.3. **John Mark** returns/resigns/defects from the mission.
- 2.4. **Explain travel course** – From island of Cyprus (Paphos) north to Turkey.
 - 2.4.1. **Perga** – is 12 miles inland in the province known as Pamphylia.
 - 2.4.1.1. **Greek city, large Temple (Artemis)** [Diana of the Ephesians]
 - 2.4.2. **Antioch in Pisidia** – is a 100 mile trip on foot through rugged mountains. [region infested w/bandits who preyed on travelers]
 - 2.4.2.1. Maybe place Paul referred to “**in perils of robbers**” (2 Cor.11:26)
 - 2.4.2.2. **Major trade route. Had a synagogue.**
- 2.5. Antioch is in the region of **Galatia**. Soon after Paul ministered there he wrote his 1st epistle to the churches, the epistle to the Galatians.
 - 2.5.1. Only letter he wrote to a number of churches.

- 2.5.2. The name Galatians was given to the **Celtic people** because they originally came from **Gaul** before migrating to Asia Minor.
- 2.5.3. Where he talks about blessings from God via **faith**, not **law**.
- 2.5.4. A faith that **sets men free to enjoy liberty in Christ**. - A liberty to produce the **fruits of righteousness** through a **spirit-led life-style!**
- 2.6. **3RD LONGEST SERMON IN ACTS!** (15-41)
- 2.7. To win the **God-fearing Gentiles**, Paul had to take the calculated risk of offending the **hard-core Jews**.¹
- 2.8. (17) **An uplifted arm** – mighty power!
- 2.8.1. The time of the Exodus was a period of the most concentrated displays of divine power in history.
- 2.9. (26) **Then came the shocker** – to **you** the word of this salvation has been sent.
- 2.9.1. **You...who?** – Jews yes, but **Gentiles** were mentioned also.
- 2.9.2. **God's new plan of salvation included Gentiles!**
- 2.10. **To you** – as an **email** to whom it is **addressed**; as a **diagnosis** to a **patient**.
- 2.11. (38,39) **Forgiveness of sins** – The Jews would consider this the *day of Atonement*.
- 2.11.1. Which had to be repeated **year after year**, because sins **could not** be forgiven once for all.
- 2.11.2. Never before **defined**, only **typified** by sending away scapegoat.
- 2.11.3. OT heard a lot of sins being "**covered**" now being "**taken away**"!
- 2.11.4. **Jesus saves us from:** the **penalty** of sin(past), the **power** of sin(presently), & one day(future) from the **presence** of sin.
- 2.12. **Justified from all things** – This is Christianity's most important theological truths, **justification by faith**. (justified by believing not by "doing")
- 2.12.1. This is a **legal term** that implies **full acquittal**.
- 2.12.2. Once justification takes place it **does not** need to be repeated time after time. **The record is wiped clean!!!**
- 2.12.3. **Who can be justified?** Paul was perfectly clear by repeating it twice, both **Jews & God-fearers**, aka **Gentiles** (16 & 26).
- 2.13. **Everyone can believe!** **Jews** said the message of salvation was "keep the Law"; **Paul's** new message of salvation... "believe"!!!
- 2.14. Paul was fulfilling his commission! (read 26:17,18)
- 2.14.1. [open eyes; dark to light; power of Satan to God]

¹ Peter Wagner; pg.299

- 2.15. Christians we are *to-day* accepted in the Beloved, *to-day* absolved from sin, *to-day* acquitted at the bar of God!
- 2.15.1. Spurgeon said, “We are *now* - even *now* pardoned; even *now* are our sins put away; even *now* we stand in the sight of God accepted, as though we had never been guilty. ‘There is therefore **now** no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.’ There is not a sin in the Book of God, even ***now***, against **one** of his people.” 😊
- 2.16. After the **war** with **sin** comes the **peace** with **God**!
- 2.16.1. He gives us “*pardon, life, peace, liberty, healing, cleansing, refreshment, comfort, & strength.*”

3. RESULTS! (42-52)

- 3.1. **TWICE-BORN MEN!**
- 3.2. (47) **Purpose:** I have set you as a light – Let’s take this personal!
- 3.2.1. He has called us to be “**Salt**” (make em thirsty); &
To be “**a light**” (may they see the *lack of darkness* in your life).
- 3.3. **Reason:** For salvation to the ends of the earth – Let’s take this personal!
- 3.3.1. Like an old **Standard Oil** slogan (made *John D. Rockefeller* a billionaire),
“*Get the Light into Every Dark Corner of the world.*” [Their goal, multitudes of towns & villages lighted w/the **kerosene oil** of the West]
- 3.3.1.1. Well we’ve gotten **oil & gas** into most all parts of the world...but have been a lot slower to bring them **the light of the gospel!**
- 3.4. (48) Don’t trouble yourself with **election**, encourage yourself in it.
- 3.4.1. This is sure evidence of your election.
- 3.5. **Eternal life** – Doesn’t signify an **endless existence** (though encompasses that), it speaks to **quality** of life, not just the **quantity**; to its **character**, not just its **duration!**
- 3.5.1. **Eternal life is** when He brings us from spiritual **death** to spiritual **life!**
- 3.5.2. **Eternal life is** experiencing the life of Christ! “**He who has the Son has life!**” 1 Jn.5:12
- 3.5.3. **Eternal life is** a new life! “**all things become new**”. 2 Cor.5:17
- 3.5.4. **Eternal life has** changed bondage to freedom! “**Christ has made us free**”. Gal.5:1
- 3.5.5. **Eternal life is** for “**doing the will of God from the heart!**” Eph.6:6
- 3.6. (52) **Joy** – If one thing characterized the Christians of the NT, the answer would be their **joy!**
- 3.6.1. **Is this true of Christians today? Of you today?** It should distinguish us from the world!
- 3.6.2. **Joy is** like the **peace of God** – the world can neither **give it nor take** it away.
- 3.6.3. **Joy is** a condition, a state of the soul due to being **right with God.**

- 3.7. **Story** - At the height of her fame as the other woman in the Ivana & Donald Trump breakup, **Marla Maples** spoke of her **religious roots**. She believed in the Bible, she told interviewers, & then added the disclaimer, “but you can’t always take it literally and **be happy**.” C. Colson, *The Body*, p. 124
- 3.8. **Happiness** is different from joy, it is dependent on **happy circumstances!**
- 3.8.1. **Joy is** independent of these.
- 3.8.2. We may long for a **change in our circumstances**, and sometimes that’s what we get. But a **changed life** is our deepest need. **Changed circumstances** may make us **happier**, but a **changed life** will make us **better**, for it will make us *like Christ*. Francis Schaeffer
- 3.9. **Happiness** is affected by what one **has!**
- 3.9.1. **Joy by** what one **is**.
- 3.10. **Happiness** comes from experience of **good**, as distinct from **evil!**
- 3.10.1. **Joy from** experience from God, apart from **good or evil**.
- 3.11. **Happiness** comes through things **outside**, which stir feelings **within!**
- 3.11.1. **Joy leaps within**, from God in the heart & soul.
- 3.12. **Happiness** is like the changing surface of the ocean; **Joy like** the ocean bed, untouched by change of wind or atmosphere.
- 3.13. **Story** - As a 3rd century man was anticipating death, he penned these last words to a friend: “It’s a bad world, an incredibly bad world. But I have discovered in the midst of it a quiet and holy people who have learned a great secret. They have found a **joy which is** a thousand times better than **any pleasure** of our **sinful life**. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. They are masters of their souls. They have overcome the world. These people are the Christians - and I am one of them.” Moody Bible Institute’s, Today In The Word, June, 1988, p. 18
- 3.14. **But when you are experiencing this joy...don’t forget to tell your face, Smile! 😊**
- 3.15. A conference at a *certain* church in Omaha. People were given helium-filled balloons and told to release them at some point in the service when they felt like expressing the **joy** in their hearts. This church wasn’t normally free to express themselves w/an “*Hallelujah* or a *Praise the Lord*.” All through the service balloons ascended, but when it was over 1/3 of the balloons were **unreleased**.
- 3.15.1. **Let your balloon go!**
- 3.16. **End:** Ps.16:11 “**In Your presence** is fullness of joy, at **Your right hand** pleasures forevermore.”