

New Affections

I. Slide1 **Announce:** Rom: AV.

A. Slide2-7 Lar/AL: ComGroups. CMCS. REAL. Ladies Xmas. Turkeys. Thanksgiving Eve.

B. Slide8 Veterans Day: This Wed. We as a church **seek to honor our veterans.**

We understand that many still suffer for their country even though that they're back home. *Jeremy Stalnecker* will be sharing on *hope for hurting veterans and their families*. He will have *resources available* from mighty oaks. Join us!

C. Slide9a How did Jesus deal w/politics? He invites both sides on His team, *Red/Blue*.

1. Jesus loved, called & invited both **Matthew a Tax Collector, as well as Simon a Zealot**. (no 2 more *polar opposites* in politics)

a) Zealots **despised tax collectors *even more than*** they despised the Romans (they collected taxes from Jews on Rome's behalf, & enhanced their income by charging more & keeping the difference).

For this reason, *Zealots sometimes assassinated* tax collectors.

2. **Yet** Matthew and Simon *ministered for 3 years alongside Jesus*.

No doubt they must of had some interesting *fire-side chats* about *politics*. **But** they worked together alongside Jesus *to advance the kingdom of God*

3. **Yet** we never hear a word in the gospels about *their political opinions*. **Nor** Jesus' take on their radical *kingdom of this world* views.

This silence suggests *in following Jesus*, Matthew & Simon had something in common that **dwarfed their individual political differences, as **extreme** as they were.**

4. Slide9b We see a distinction between *the kingdom of God* from **every** version of *the kingdoms of the world*.

5. **As the reign of God** took hold in their lives **the tax collector** would no longer cheat his clients, & **the zealots** would no longer kill his opponents.

6. Jesus invited them **both** to *follow Him as they were*, prior to their transformation. **And** their *wildly divergent political views* were never a point of contention with Jesus. [excerpts from Gregory Body *The Myth of a Christian Nation*]
7. **Conservatives and liberals within the same kingdom???** **Yes!** we are a **kingdom people**, a people of **love** not might, a people of **feet-washing service**, a people of **sacrifice** for those we disagree with, a **humble** people who **seek first His kingdom of God**, and not our own!

D. **Prayer:** unity.

II. Slide10a **Intro:** *New Affections*

A. **Christianity** isn't just adopting a few religious practices **or** adding a new book to your shelf, **it's** getting a **new heart & new affections**. *Things that used to interest you don't interest you anymore, at least to the same degree.* You get **new loves, new desires, new interests**. Our friends in Ephesus will show us this.

1. **Eg:** a teenage boy who drives, meets girl, falls in love. He starts showering, using deodorant, washes dad's car w/o being asked... **what's changed?** He **knew to do** these things. Was **told** to do them so many times. **What changed?** **His affections changed**. **See, behaviors change when affections change.** He has a new love.

B. **Jonathan Edwards:** Learned *Latin, Heb, Gk* at age 5. Entered **Yale** at 13, graduated at 17. Became a pastor, married, had 12 children. **Plagued by ill health yet spent 13 hours each day in his office**, studying in the Scriptures, praying & counseling his congregation. **Sole recreation was horseback riding**. Known as 1 of America's greatest thinkers. **Pres of Princeton Univ 1957.** When **Smallpox** became a killer in the colonies, when other pastors were **preaching against the vaccine**, Edwards didn't preach on it, instead simply offered himself as **a candidate for the vaccination**. Due to his frail condition, he contracted the disease & died at age 55...*just 5 weeks after accepting his Presidency at Princeton.*

C. Jonathan Edwards, wrote his *Religious Affections* in 1746. Its thesis was, **Slide10b** *"True religion, in great part, consists in holy affections."*

D. What does Edwards mean by *affections*? Edwards understood **the human soul** to have **2 faculties**:

1. **The understanding** (by which **the soul** perceives, speculates, discerns, views, & judges things).
2. **The inclination or will** (by which **the soul** is inclined or disinclined, pleased or displeased, approves or rejects).
 - a) The **affections** have to do with the 2nd faculty.
 - b) **Affections** are “*strong inclinations of the soul that are manifested in thinking, feeling, and acting.*”

E. Slide10c What we see here is **new affections**. *Behaviors change when affections change*

III. Slide11 Section Intro:

- A. **Ephesus** was known as the *premier fetish factory* of the Roman Empire.
 1. Fetish, **not** an obsession over something; **but** a fetish being a magical object [a charm, a talisman, a rabbits foot, or a *fetish*]
- B. **Ephesus** was also known for its *Ephesian Letters*, i.e. *documents containing spells & formula to be placed in small cylinders or locket worn about the neck or elsewhere about the person.*
 1. It was **engraved** on the image of Artemis/Diana’s crown, girdle & feet.
 2. This **magical gibberish** was considered to have great power. [*abracadabra*]
- C. To those who think *the bible is boring*, no way, **this is a great story**. ***READ**

IV. Slide12 EXTRAORDINARY MIRACLES (11,12)

- A. We’ve all seen religious hucksters. We are not going to start a *sweatband ministry* or hand out *hankies*. Even Luke calls these miracles **extraordinary/unusual**. **So** we shouldn’t be asking why aren’t we seeing these used today.
- B. This is about **God** doing this. **God** decided to display His power. *What God does in certain settings, for His own purposes, is to condescend/stoops to people to communicate to them, to attract them to the Gospel.*

V. Slide13 **SECONDHAND JESUS (13-17)**

- A. If you find this picture of Jesus *disturbing*, that's a good thing. How do you picture Jesus and why? Is Jesus someone you've *just heard of* before, or the Jesus you know *personally & intimately*? Be careful of *Secondhand Jesus*.
- B. *Illust*: you can watch *Chicago Med*, *Chicago PD*, & *Chicago Fire*, & you can say you *know* about *medical practice*, *police enforcement*, & *putting out fires*.
1. **But**, you don't really know about them. You have this **secondhand knowledge** about *life in a hospital*, *in the police station*, or *firehouse*.
 - a) **2nd hand knowledge** is good, it's helpful, it's interesting...**but** it is *no substitute* for *1st hand knowledge and experience*.
- C. *Slide14* In the name of the Lord Jesus – was the issue here. [was in John/Jesus' *baptism*]
1. Jn.14:14 **If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.**
 2. Mark 16:17 **And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons.**
 3. **Examples**: Ambassadors do not go to other countries *in their own names*; they go *in the name of* the President of the U.S.
 - a) **And** only those *designated* by the president can use his name effectively.
 - b) If **I** went to a foreign country & announced that *I had come in the name of the President of the U.S.*, they would laugh at me.
 - c) That's exactly what happened here to the **sons of Sceva**.
- D. *The name of Jesus* is **no magic formula** like the *secular Ephesian Letters* were.
- E. *Slide15a* **7 sons of Sceva** – fake exorcists who claimed to be sons of Sceva, (whom they declared to be high priest) [no such priest ever existed, according to best records]
1. They had *no formula*, *no talisman*, *no rabbit foot*, **except a stolen one**.
- F. Jesus had **not** authorized the **7 sons of Sceva** to use *His name*, & therefore **the power** was absent.
1. **In the end** some will come to Jesus & say, **have we not cast out demons in Your name**, & He will respond, **I never knew you**.
- G. *Slide15b* They bypassed the Lord's authentic **power** & imitated Paul's *method's*.
1. **But** note, they're **called out** by an evil spirit. **Even demons** know a cheap substitute. [knew Jesus & Paul, *unbel beware!*]

H. So because they used *the Lord's name in vain*, the 7 sons opened themselves up to a ferocious spiritual backlash, that they would not soon forget. [talk about *naked & afraid*]

1. **Beaten up, stripped & chased out of the house naked.** [1st streakers]

2. **These guys took a whooping.**

a) Matt chandler said, *if you start a fight with your pants on, and the end of the fight your pants are off...you lost!* [instead of the demon cast out, they were]

b) **You don't use** His name as a magical incantation. **You don't misuse** His name. **You don't cash-in-on** his name. You **extol/magnify** His name.

c) **Slide15c** Our Gospel does have **power**, but it's not **magic**.

I. **Spiritual warfare in Ephesus:** This is why the book of Ephesians contains a substantially higher concentration of **warfare terminology** than in any other epistle by Paul. [to show Christ's power over *disease, demon-possession & magic*]

1. **Slide15d** Eph.6:12 **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**

VI. Slide16a **FINDING FREEDOM (18-20)**

A. Through their dramatic actions, the believers demonstrate *the gospel's influence in every area of their lives.*

B. **Book Burning?** To the tune of about \$4 million today (commentators estimate).

C. Guaranteed, some will think *that's kind of extreme*, why don't you **sell** the books?

D. **Slide16b** Remember the **process of sanctification** takes place over a period of time.

E. Maybe it's **not books** for you. Let's call it **Emptying your closet**. Making a **clean break** w/your secret sorceries.

1. **What do you need to throw away? What do you need to walk away from?** Maybe it's *moral habits, social habits, relational sins*.

2. **What sin do you need to kill, flush, burn, throw away, delete, destroy from your life?** Or maybe, just ask yourself *what am I hiding from my spouse, parents, friend?*

3. **Slide16c** Burn it on the *bonfire* of God's altar.
 4. Maybe its flushing pills? Maybe its canceling a certain pay channel on Cable? Maybe its cutting up a credit card? Maybe its selling something that has now engulfed your life? [my box of paraphernalia I threw away]
- F. **Slide16d** If you're not sure **what to burn** *burn it all*, cuz all that is eternal is *fireproof*
1. How freeing to release your **worldly attachments**, your **worldly souvenirs**, & your **preoccupation** with them.
 2. **Slide16e** The bonfire is **painful & costly**, but it is also **freeing & gloriously life-changing**.
- G. (20) **So the word** of the Lord continued to increase & prevailed mightily - It's not about preaching or giving a sermon it's about *meeting God in His word*.
1. Christianity isn't just adopting a few religious practices or adding a new book to your shelf, it's getting a **new heart & new affections**.
 2. **Behaviors** change, when **affections** change.