

## Hands Empty ~ Hearts Warm

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-4 Larry: HS Info Mtg. Father/Son. Prayer Guides.
- B. Slide5 Sun Night of Prayer: Tonight 6:30pm.
- C. Slide6 Children at Risk: Cory Nickols/Destiny Rescue (JM). Chris Lick/Esc PD, recent trip to Thailand to help w/rescues.
- D. Prayer: *teach us how to love the people in front of us. Teach us not to try to control their conduct but love them w/o an agenda.*

### II. Slide7 Intro: Hands Empty ~ Hearts Warm

- A. We will see this chapter unfold by Paul dealing with our salvation (1-11). Our sanctification (12-16). And then our glorification (17-21).
- B. Paul answers a very important...*Is life about what we achieve or what we receive?*
  - 1. Listen to this quote by someone you know, [Good Housekeeping, 9/1991] *I discovered I didn't feel worth a damn, and certainly not worthy of love, unless I was accomplishing something. I suddenly realized I have never felt I could be loved just for being.* Oprah Winfrey<sup>1</sup>
  - 2. Is life about what we achieve or what we receive? [what we've done or what He's done?]

### III. Slide8a PAUL'S WARNINGS (1-3)

- A. Rejoice - (be glad in God) If you cannot rejoice in your circumstances...
  - 1. You can always rejoice **in the Lord** who controls your circumstances.
  - 2. Fix your attention on Him. *He may not change your situation, but He will change you; & that is even better.* Warren Wiersbe
- B. (2) Beware of - look out for...(3 x's) These: Joy stealing, evil working, ankle biting, **legalists** were always fast at his heals...*barking legalism wherever he taught Grace.*

<sup>1</sup> Good Housekeeping, Sept, 1991, p. 63.

1. **Slide8b Beware of dogs** - Don't picture pets. Think...diseased, flea bitten, wild, mangy, mutts. [they bark, bite, & travel in packs, seeking to lure others away to roam with them] Despised & unclean.
    - a) *These dogs weren't on leashes & could be very dangerous if they traveled in packs. They sniffed out new converts to devour w/their strict laws.* Swindoll
  2. **Beware of evil workers** - Evil Workers **in contrast to** Good workers.
    - a) **The difference?** Those who worked **for** their salvation **vs.** those who worked **out** their salvation.
  3. **Beware of the mutilation** - play on word's for a *botched circumcision*. **Ouch!**
    - a) Paul moves from **peritoMe** (**circumcision**, *cut around*) **to** **katatoMe** (**mutilation**, *cutting to pieces*). [the preposition **kata** giving it the *pejorative* sense]
    - b) The mutilation meant...the circumcision on which they insisted was **harmful rather** than **helpful** to *spiritual well-being*.
    - c) *Circumcision* was once **the badge of obedience** to the law, **NOW a pin of pride** for the Judaizers.
  4. **Slide9** Basically then, **beware of Religion & Religious people**.
    - a) Religion basically shouts, *clean up your act*. Some say it louder than others.
    - b) **Wait, is religion good or bad? Yes! Positive:** *Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.* James 1:27. **But** Paul uses it in the **negative** by calling it *self-imposed religion* in Col.2:23.
    - c) **So**, self-imposed Religion basically shouts...*clean up your act*. **But**, they don't tell you how to. They don't empower you to be able to do so. **And** they usually don't give you any time to work through your former life/ways.
      - (1) Jesus says, **I** would like to *clean up your act*. **I** would like to *empower you* to do so. **And I will be patient with you** as you grow.
- C. (3) **Paul sees 3 differences between true believers & the Judaizers:**
1. **Worship God in Spirit** - focus is on **God** not on their *own achievements*.
  2. **Rejoice in Christ Jesus** - not boast in *their works* but glory in the work of **Jesus**

3. **Have no confidence in the flesh** - Can't trust in their own works for salvation - Only confidence in Jesus.
  - a) Never rely on it. Don't ever trust it. Flesh will always steer you wrong.
    - (1) No Christian **arrives**...till he arrives in glory.

#### IV. Slide10a **PAUL'S PEDIGREE (4-6)**

- A. **Wow, nice Resume** - Rabbi Paul says **you want to talk confidence in the flesh?...**Let's go, *Check out my wall of Degrees & Plaques, Certificates & Trophy's.*
  1. This is *Greek Trash Talk*...Think you can match me...**bring it on!**
  2. When Paul was Saul, he was a proud Pharisee. **The best of the best.**  
**Then** Saul ran right into *The Yard Stick*, **Jesus** himself. [That changed everything]
  3. **Slide10b Circumcised the 8th day** - he bore in his body **the badge** of the chosen people.
  4. **Stock of Israel** - a member of **the nation** in covenant w/God.
  5. **Tribe of Benjamin** - The only tribe that aligned with **Judah** & remained faithful to King David's dynasty. **Israel's first king, Saul, was from of Benj** [his namesake?]
  6. **Top Hebrew** - He had the pure-blood line of his fathers. [*He was a Hebrew National!*]
  7. **A Pharisee** - He was more than a devout Jew, he was a **separated one** keeping the Law Blamelessly.
- B. **Slide10c (6) Picture an old doctors scale here** (sliding one weight at a time over)...
  1. **Concerning the Law** (slide). **Concerning zeal** (slide). **Concerning Rt** (slide).
- C. **Loss - note:** it wasn't the **bad** things that kept Paul from Christ, **but** the **good** things.
  1. **Family heritage, social status, biblical knowledge, religious activity, moral lifestyle.** My good things, my best things...*my devo's, my bible readings, my bible studies, my family life, my moral life...***I count as loss for Christ (7)...****if** I'm counting any of them as a type of **my own righteousness (9).**

#### V. Slide11a **PAUL'S P&L (profit & loss) STATEMENT (7-9)**

- A. (7,8) **But** - Then *Paul ran right into perfection.*

1. Paul went from *the worlds crows nest* looking down on all, **to** the *oceans depths* looking up.
- B. **Slide11b Loss for Christ** - Lesson: *Hold Things Loosely*.
1. **Like the Toddler** w/a new toy, we grip things too tightly.
  2. **Like the proper grip of a golf club**, like holding a tube of toothpaste.
  3. **With relationships** we're often better at **smothering rather than loving**.
    - a) Whether it's a girlfriend cutting off a relationship that you don't want to let go of; or a son/daughter heading off to college/mission field.
    - b) *The greater the Possessiveness, the greater the Pain.*
  4. We don't want to give up our **treasures** **for** fear of our **safety**.
    - a) **Slide11c YET** remember everything which we commit to Christ...**is Safe** [In fact nothing is safe outside of Him]
      - (1)*No Child, no Job, no Romance, no Friend, no Future, no Dream...is safe outside of Him.* [Playing it **safe** isn't necessarily bad, it just isn't **faith** anymore]
      - b) **Need some proof?** See Abraham w/his son Isaac. *Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.* Gen.22:2
        - (1)**Slide12** Abraham had to open his hands wider than any earthly man ever had to.
- C. **God wants to reign w/o a rival.** *Keep your hands empty & your hearts warm.* Swindoll
1. **Can you name 1 person, or object, you need to loosen your grip on?**
  2. Jim Elliot, *He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.*
- D. **Do you feel you've made sacrifices to follow the Lord?**
1. Paul didn't feel he **lost** anything worthwhile by trusting Christ. **Instead, he gained** everything really worth having.
- E. (8) Paul had *not failed* at his religion. *The point of his testimony is that he found a better way & choose to follow it.*
- F. **Rubbish** - (used only here) could be speaking of *excrement or scraps from the table thrown to the dogs.*

G. Slide13 (9) *Faith in Christ* is the sole ground of acceptance with God. Luther called it, *The great exchange*.

1. **The Bible**, the **only** inspired & authoritative **Word of God**.
2. **Justification** (being declared right by God), is received **by faith only**, without any mixture of or need for good works.
3. Salvation comes by **God's grace not** as something merited by the sinner.
4. **Christ** is the only mediator between God and man, and that there is salvation through no other.
5. **All glory** is to be due to **God alone**, since salvation is accomplished solely through **His will and action**.

H. Here we have a *Previously Proud Pharisee*, now a *humble bankrupt believer*.

1. Righteousness is either *from the Law*, or through *faith in Christ*. Note it's defined as *from God & by faith*.
2. We asked in the beginning, is life about what we *achieve* or what we *receive*?

I. *To be found in Him*, is *Salvation truth*. **Christ found in us**, that's *Sanctification truth*.

1. To be **found in Him** means that when God looks at me He sees Christ.
2. To have **Christ found in me** means that when other people look at me they see Christ.

## VI. Slide14a **PAUL'S ASPIRATION (10,11)**

A. (10) Notice this naturally leads to *Sanctification from* vs.9's *Salvation*.

B. Here lies 3 Secrets of a Holy Life:

C. **Know Him** - Not just know *about* Him. [*not self-realization*]

1. **Knowing Him** requires genuine interest. Spending quality time w/Him.
2. Having a *progressive relationship* where each person reveals Himself to the other...  
*both listen, both talk, both respond.*

D. **Know His Power** - The Power of His Res (a dynamic power which operates in the life of the individual Christian).

1. Look how the Resurrection changed *Peter's* life.

E. **Know His Suffering** - Know Him more personally.

1. Paul seems to recognize that **suffering** - especially for the gospel - brings deeper fellowship with Christ. Paul sees his ministry as an extension of Jesus' ministry.
2. **So, Know Christ personally. Experience His res power dynamically. And Partner in His suffering willingly.**

F. (11) **Attain** - To arrive at a destination, finish the race.

G. **I may attain to the resurrection** - Paul anticipates that being conformed to Christ's **death** will lead to new life in the power of Christ's **resurrection**.

H. **Communion:**

1. **Bread** - no confidence in the flesh. loss. rubbish.
2. **Cup** - rejoice in the Lord. rejoice in Christ Jesus. gain. found in Him.
  - a) There is a **legend** of an artist who had found the secret of a **wonderful red** which no other artist could imitate. The secret of his color died with him. But after his death an old wound was discovered over his heart. This revealed the source of the matchless hue in his pictures. The legend teaches that no great achievement can be made, no lofty attainment reached, nothing of much value to the world done, **save at the cost of heart's blood.**