

Free Short Sermons

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ALLOWING THE BIBLE TO SPEAK

We live in an age of information; and yet, in light of all this information and technology, we still do not have all the answers to life. Moreover, as we experience life, we are continually confronted with many difficult questions and situations. In fact, people are always looking for answers to difficult questions and situations. Where do you look for answers?

When faced with difficult questions or situations in life, some people look within for answers, others simply look to the sciences for answers, but still others look to God and His word to find answers. Aerospace engineer Dr. Malcolm Cutchins writes, "I have found the God of the Bible and His Scriptures to hold good and always appropriate advice for any problem in life: for death of loved ones, for a resource to develop the fortitude required to endure suffering (what better example than Jesus), and for preparing for one's own demise, something that will come to all of us."

Agricultural scientist Dr. Brian Sindel said, "Christianity makes sense of the world in which I live--the environment, my personal relationships, my moral failures, conflict, suffering, the existence of good and evil, human dignity and equality, sexuality and work. All are given perspective in a world created by God but ravaged by the consequences of human sin."

In short, the Bible is our text book on life. After all, the Bible speaks about sin, life, and death (see Romans 5:12-14). At the same time, these three important issues give meaning and understanding to our existence on this earth. Allowing the Bible to speak will help us understand the world we live in, it will give us meaning and purpose as we journey through life and it will

prepare us for that final challenge that we all must face, death. Will you allow the Bible to speak to you?

THE POWER OF A CHANGED LIFE

Sometimes, I believe we underestimate the power and potency of a changed life. In 1979, Leslie Stodel became a Christian and modeled her faith in such a way that it influenced her atheistic husband Lee to begin his own search for God. In his book *The Case for Christ*, he tells of his years of intensive research that finally led him to receive Jesus as his Savior. With a law degree from Yale and an award-winning career in journalism at the Chicago Tribune, Lee had the ability to answer tough questions raised by unbelievers and cynics.

The change in his life also influenced their 5-year-old daughter Alison, who said, "Mommy, I want God to do for me what He's done for Daddy." In short, a changed life has tremendous power and potency. The old adage, "Don't tell me; show me" stands true, even today. In that sense, our greatest witness for Christ may not be the things we say, but more so the things we do. Let's not underestimate the power and potency of a changed life.

When we look at the life of the apostle Paul, we see this principle in action in a mighty way. The changed life of Paul had tremendous power and potency, and he was able to influence many for the kingdom of God. Paul's changed life led to Christ being magnified in his body, in his life, and in his ministry (See *Philippians 1:19-26*). Yes, Paul's life and ministry magnified Christ in every way. May we Christians follow his lead!

DISPLAYING A CHRISTLIKE ATTITUDE IN THE CHURCH AND THE COMMUNITY

It has been said that once when Muhammed Ali was on a plane that was about to embark, a Flight Attendant reminded him to fasten his seat belt. Ali replied, "Superman don't need no seat belt." The Flight Attendant snapped back, "Superman don't need no airplane either." In response, Ali fastened his belt.

On the one hand, man in his sinful state has this same attitude. Who needs God when I can control my own life and destiny? In many ways, we have come to expect this attitude from people who reject God, who seek to serve and exalt themselves. On the other hand, Christians should have a totally different attitude toward self and others. How we see ourselves and how we respond to others should reflect a Christ-like attitude. For the apostle Paul said, "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus" (See Philippians 2:5). After all, if we are going to serve the Lord in the church and the community, then we need to have a Christ-like attitude.

Therefore, the apostle Paul encourages Christians to imitate Jesus' selfless and humble attitude (See Philippians 2:6-8). In Jesus' case, God honored His selflessness and humility by exalting Him (See Philippians 2:9-11). In that sense, God will honor us (His people) when we model selflessness and humility.

May God show us (His people) the importance of having a Christ-like attitude in the church and the community!

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

They say winners or gridders. It seems there is something special about winning or belonging to a winning team. An article in a Sunday paper told of the difficulty of luring Bronco players away from the club. The reason being was that the Broncos are winners. As one footballer explained, there is something special about winning and a winning team. A winning team oozes confidence, enthusiasm, and optimism. It is very difficult to leave a club that generates that type of atmosphere. At the same time, the Commonwealth games reinforced this truth that winners are gridders and there is something special about winning or belonging to a winning team.

Likewise, Christians are winners. After all, Christians are on the winning side. As the apostle Paul said, "In all these things we (ie. Christians) are more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:37). Do we see ourselves as winners? Do we see ourselves as more than conquerors through Jesus who loved us? We should because this passage of Scripture in Romans 8:31-39 oozes with confidence, enthusiasm, and optimism. Do you know why we are winners? Do you know why we are more than conquerors through Jesus who loved us?

We are more than conquerors because God is on our side (Rom. 8:31), God has chosen us in Christ (Rom. 8:33), and God has secured us in His love (Rom. 8:35). In light of this, we can face life's most difficult circumstances (see Rom. 8:35, 38-39) and come out as winners because we are more than conquerors through Jesus who loved us. Do you have the winner's smile? By the way, the winner's smile begins when we place our trust and faith in Jesus Christ. As Jesus Himself said, "The time is

fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). When we place our trust in Jesus Christ, we gain the winner's smile and we become more than conquerors through Jesus who loved us.