

Bryan Station Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT

MISSIONARY

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

ORGANIZED 1786

VOL. 16, NO. 11
AUGUST, 1985

"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

THE LAST WORDS OF THE SAVIOUR

By DR. C. D. COLE

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28: 19-20.

The last words of people are usually of great interest. The last words are usually sincere. Men may peddle light talk in life but in death their words are usually sober. The last words of infidels are their sanest. Last words of loved ones are cherished and kept. Last words about the funeral are carried out to the letter.

The words before us were spoken by the Saviour between His resurrection and ascension. They were not exactly the last thing He ever said, but are among His last instructions to His people. They are the words of a once-suffering Saviour and soon-to-be ascended Lord. Last words of a universal sovereign. We call this the great

or final commission. It is the church's program thru all the age. As we study them we note three things, I. The claims of Jesus; II. The command of Jesus; III. The promise of Jesus.

I. The claims of Jesus.

A. Amazing. All authority in heaven and earth. This is authority with power to enforce His will. Nobody else has ever made such claims. Jesus Christ must be more than mere man or else He is a bad man making false claims.

B. Accredited. His claims to sovereignty were fully accredited. He had already shown his power in laying down His life and in taking it up again. Leader of a sect complaining that he was not have the attention from his followers he deserved. He was told that if he would lay down his life and then rise again from the dead he might expect better success.

II. The command of Jesus. Authority gives the right to command. We have

here not some suggestions; not mere advice; not even exhortation; but a command. Three things commanded: A. To make disciples; B. To baptize them; C. To teach them.

This is not a command to send our foreign missionaries. It is not a command to preachers only. It is a command to the people of Christ in successive generations to the end of this age. It is a command to each of us to bear testimony to Jesus Christ. Each one as he goes is to tell those he meets about the Saviour. The first generation of Christians did this--they went everywhere preaching the Word. Each follower of Christ is to make other followers. Each follower is to be baptized. This is the first thing he does to show that he is a follower of Christ. How can a man be a follower of Christ and refuse to do the first thing Christ commended? In baptism the believer's faith in Christ is dramatized. Baptism speaks of the believers legal union with

Christ. Union in law-baptism speaks of death. The believer is dead to the guilt of sin; he is alive and must be raised out of the liquid grave. In Christ the believer is dead to sin and alive unto God, and this is exemplified in baptism. And if your baptism is not a picture of burial and resurrection it is not Scriptural in form.

Now the baptized are to be taught--taught to observe--taught to do all things Christ commanded. This is not a command to merely teach the doctrines--it is a command to teach people to practice the things commanded. It is vocational learning--learning by doing. The church is a sort of trade school where believers learn by practice the ways of the Christian life. Theory and practice must not be divorced.

III. The promise of Jesus. "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

This promise is astounding. Nobody else will even dare make such claims. Our loved ones are not with us always. We have to give them up--they leave us.

We do not have to work alone in this task of making disciples. His presence and power are with us. And this guarantees that we shall not fail. This does not mean that we shall have conversions every day or every time we have a meeting. But it means that wherever we go and work at the task of making followers of Christ we shall not labor in vain. There is no nation or race of people where disciples cannot be made. You may be cast in the providence of God in a most wicked community but it will be possible to make disciples there.

Some of the most unlikely people will respond to the Gospel story and be saved. Nobody should be considered as impossible to us. Illustration: The son of a preacher enrolled at an eastern university. This son was an intellectual genius. He graduated with highest honors. The father was proud of his son, but also grieved because at the university the young man had been robbed of his faith in God and the Bible thru companionship of his campus buddy. The son had intended to be a preacher, but instead joined a theatrical party. He worked hard to make a success on the stage, but remained sad and dissatisfied. He lost contact with his campus buddy. At last he grew tired of the theatrical life and decided, like the prodigal, to go home. It was in the days of the stagecoach and he had to stop overnight at a country inn. He did not sleep well that night, for someone in an adjoining room was in great agony. Upon inquiring he learned that an atheist was dying and was crying in great despair as he faced eternity. The atheist died during the night. And to his amazement the son of the preacher learned that the atheist was his college chum who had so arrogantly disputed the teachings of the Bible. Horrified, the young traveler turned to the Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness of his sins. The name of this young man was Adoniram Judson, one of the greatest missionaries of all time.

THE BLESSING OF MOTHERS

"He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children." Psalm 113:9a.

Oh, appreciate a mother's love. If heretofore you have been negligent of such a one, and you have still opportunity for reparation, make haste. If you could only look in for an hour's visit to her you would rouse up in the aged one a whole world of blissful memories. What if she does sit without talking much; she watched you for months when you knew not how to talk at all. What if she has ailments to tell about; during fifteen years you ran to her with every little scratch and bruise, and she doctored your little finger as carefully as a surgeon would bind the worst fracture. You say she is childish now; I wonder if she ever saw you when you were childish. You have no patience to walk with her on the street; she moves so slowly. I wonder if she remembers the time when you were glad enough to go slowly. Do not begrudge what you do for her. I care not how much you do for her, she has done more for you.

You will miss her when she is gone. I would give the house over my head to see my mother. I have so many things I would like to tell her, things that have happened in the twenty-four years since she went away. Morning, noon, and night let us thank God for the good influences that have come down to us from good mothers.

T. DeWitt Talmage

PLEASE

If you are moving send us a change of address. It costs more postage to have one paper returned to us than to mail you the paper for a whole year.

True friends are like diamonds.

Precious, but rare.

False friends are like autumn leaves,

Found everywhere.



THE HEATHEN LOST WITHOUT THE GOSPEL

Christianity is a missionary religion. Its vital breath is missions. The church that is not missionary minded has the death rattle in its throat. Missions is preaching the gospel to the lost and in this way Christianity is propagated and perpetuated.

The gospel to every creature is predicated upon the fact that every human being is lost. The gospel is for the lost people and is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.

The Bible emphasizes that all men everywhere are sinners exposed to the wrath of God. And men are lost because they are sinners. If the heathen are not lost then they do not need the gospel. If rejecting Christ is the cause of their being lost, then we should not send the gospel to them because many of them will reject the gospel and thus become lost. In this way the gospel would not be unto salvation but unto damnation. Missionaries would not be in the saving business but in the business of damning people.

The heathen are not lost because they reject Christ, but because they are sinners. When a person hears the gospel he remains lost because he does not trust Christ. Just as a sick person remains ill because he does not take the medicine, but refusing to take the medicine was not what made him ill.

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36). Rejecting Christ is the crowning sin but it is not the only damning sin.

The heathen are lost and will remain lost without Christ; but they will not have to answer for the sin of unbelief - they will have to answer for the sins they do commit, such as theft, murder idolatry, etc. It will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment because they did not hear Christ preach as did the people of Capernaum and Bethsaida.