

Mahon Kenyan Dispatch #04 07.15.09 Not Ashamed Of The Gospel

Pictures

1_ Sunday began with FDS. The chapter this week was Spiritual Development of Your Children. Dr. Mukolwe and I team taught throughout the day. Here we field questions after the lecture.

2_ Sunday continued with a drive across town to the African Inland Mission church where I taught on Hebrews 12:10 - 12. The emphasis was the difference between discipline and punishment in our relationship with our heavenly Father and in our relationship with our earthly children. After the morning worship service there was a half day conference covering the Marriage Covenant Seminar.

3_ "O Lord, bless now Your holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word." This is my constant prayer.

4_ El is an important part of this ministry. She took a breakout session with the ladies where she taught on "Keeping Your Marriage Sexually Exciting". She also shares Q & A times with me. During breaks the wives flock to her with questions. Here she ministers to the wife of the music minister.

QT - Because of the size of this dispatch the QTs will be sent out in three stages...

Witnessing and the Basic Doctrines of Salvation

Witnessing - Luke 7:49"...Who is this man who even forgives sins?"

Witnessing - The Basic Doctrines of Salvation Compilation

Witnessing - Not Ashamed of the Gospel (Bold Proclamation)

Witnessing - Not Ashamed of the Gospel (Content)

Witnessing - Not Ashamed of the Gospel (It's Seeming Lack of Power)

Witnessing - Not Ashamed of the Gospel (It's Polarizing Affect)

Witnessing - Not Ashamed of the Gospel (Compilation)

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In this dispatch...

- I. God continues to bless the ministry of the Word
- II. There is no salvation apart from knowledge
- III. Romans 1:16 deals not only with presentation but also with content
- IV. Some are ashamed of the audacity of the gospel (not enough man, too much God)
- V. Some are ashamed of the content of the gospel (embarrassing words or phrases in the Bible)

- VI. Some are ashamed of the practical nature of the gospel (as opposed to mystical; showmanship; etc.)
- VII. Some are ashamed because of the polarizing effects of the gospel
- VIII. Are You Ashamed - A simple test: When was the last time you said this phrase, "Would you like to pray now to receive Christ as your Lord and Savior?"
- IX. Prayer Requests: Please allow your prayers to be guided by the accompanying holy Scripture...

A. That the power of the gospel would be manifest in all our teaching and preaching

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

B. That the Word of God would be ever in the forefront of our gospel ministry as well as our teaching ministry.

1 Peter 1:23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

C. That we would emboldened others as well to not be ashamed of the gospel

1 Thessalonians 1:7-8 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.

D. That through the faithful and aggressive proclamation of the gospel, we would be used of God to gather His elect into the kingdom.

2 Timothy 2:10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen , so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

E. That God would continue to lay our ministry on the hearts of prayer warriors and financial supporters that in turn we may continue to labor in the harvest fields of the world.

Romans 10:14-15 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL

ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"

Dear Prayer Warriors,

It is 9 a.m. Thursday morning (my intention is to send this out shortly but a number of variables, including electricity will determine when it actually goes out to you). This has been a great morning. Up at 4:50 and time with the Lord. Bible study with three key leaders from 6:30 to 8:00. At the end of the first study they asked if they could meet twice a week rather than just once. One of the men has been listening to the Word of God series on our website and wanted to study the Workbook as well - the whole group agreed heartily, so we will begin meeting Fridays for that. Then some good news came in. Greg Prater who is here with me for a week of teaching and evangelism lead three University students to Christ last night. God is truly at work.

God continues to bless the ministry of the Word

I look back on our first week in Kenya with a great deal of personal satisfaction and fulfillment. It has been an exciting time of preaching and teaching the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God - one of the great joys of my life.

This past Sunday one of the churches in which we ministered had a missions team from a notoriously liberal denomination in attendance. They were going further inland to help with a water project. I took the opportunity in my Hebrews 12 message to include a clear presentation of the gospel. I thought, "Hey, what am I ashamed of?" and preached the gospel to them. Their attention was riveted on the message from start to finish and I praise God that your prayers emboldened me to present the gospel to a group of people who no doubt came to the mission field in a desperate hope to be saved by their works and instead Christ offered them the simple alternative to be saved by Grace.

There is no salvation apart from knowledge

God is continually brining me back to the simplicity of Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." That which we are not ashamed of is "the gospel". The gospel cannot be separated from knowledge. In the New Covenant church age, salvation cannot be separated from knowledge. To say we are not ashamed of the gospel is to say we are not ashamed of presenting the plan of salvation clearly from the Word of God. No one can be saved as by a cataclysmic event. No one can be saved by an angelic appearance or a so called appearance of Jesus. No one can be saved by a ecstatic or spiritist emotional experience. Man's salvation is inseparable from the facts of the gospel as revealed in God's holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word.

Romans 1:16 deals not only with presentation but also with content

When I first memorized Romans 1:16 I leapt to the conclusion that the shame of the gospel came solely from the shyness or embarrassment of speaking up. I have learned over the years that this is not necessarily true. Some very bold extroverts who regularly engage others in Christian religious and philosophical discussions are never-the-less ashamed of the gospel and rarely bring it up. They do this for a number of reasons...

Some are ashamed of the audacity of the gospel

By audacity I mean the Biblical claims. For instance Romans 1:16 makes the claim that the gospel itself is the power of God for salvation. This is just too audacious for some - no culture, no apologetics, no long term relationship, no good works, impossible!! They are not only ashamed of the gospel but they are embarrassed by and ashamed of people who on a first encounter clearly and succinctly present the gospel from the holy Scriptures.

Some are ashamed of the content of the gospel

To these individuals the Scriptures as a whole and the gospel in specific is chocked full of embarrassing terms and teachings. Examples include embarrassing phrases such as "born again" as in "Have you been born again". Others are embarrassed by doctrines such as eternal Hell, election or the emphasis of blood letting. Others are embarrassed by the exclusiveness of Christ. "Do you mean to say that my dear departed Aunt, who, though a Mormon, lived a better more chaste life than most of the hypocrites in your church is burning in Hell?" The answer being "Yes". For some it is embarrassing that God would do this. Yes, for them God the Holy Spirit and God the Father just did not think far enough ahead when they composed the holy Scriptures. For these individuals the best thing is to instead tell their "story" - no quoting of Scripture, no embarrassing Biblical phrases, no awkward doctrines, these things can all be fixed by man.

Some are ashamed of the practical nature of the gospel (as opposed to mystical)

It is hard to fill a church up with a mundane testimony of a parent leading their child to Christ. It is out of the question to call a special Sunday night service just to hear about a student who lead a classmate to Christ. No one would ever consider canceling Sunday School and having the combined classes meet in the Fellowship Hall to hear from a housewife that had lead a neighbor to Christ. Cancel the Sunday service to hear from a businessman who lead the janitor of his building to Christ - never. Yes the practical nature of the gospel is a bit embarrassing to most. But wait, there is hope. In each of the above events instead have an angel appear, or better yet have an after death experience where

they went to heaven or hell, no, wait even better, have Jesus appear!!! Now we care talking, now we can not only cancel services, lets get this thing in print, lets take this show on the road - Christian radio, Christian talk shows, Christian magazines and more. Yes some are ashamed of the practical nature of the gospel.

Some are ashamed because of the polarizing effects of the gospel

Early in the game they discovered that sharing Christ from the Word of God simply is not practical. First it does not work. Far too many people reject the gospel of the Bible - the percentages just aren't right. It is embarrassing to have a gospel that lags behind cults and popular culture. Not only this but it is caustic. Sharing verses from the Bible and doing it the "old fashioned gospel way" truly upsets people. They get angry, they get offended, using the Bible and all that fire and brimstone stuff is counter productive. Last but not least many are offended at having the Bible out or quoting the Bible out loud. It is more than simply embarrassing in a rural, parochial sort of way, it is down right offensive to some. When it comes right down to it, it is just an embarrassment to all involved.

A simple test: When was the last time you said this phrase, "Would you like to pray now to receive Christ as your Lord and Savior?"

Are you ashamed of the gospel. A simple test - when was the last time that you, after sharing clearly and succinctly from the Word of God (either with the Bible open or by the use of Scripture memory said this simple phrase, "Would you like to pray now to receive Christ as your Lord and Savior?"

We are now in Kenya. We are devoting our selves to the preaching and teaching of the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God. We strive to always keep the gospel before us in all relationships. By God's grace and by your fervent and effectual prayers we will not be found among those who are ashamed of the gospel of Christ but with Bible open, with memorized verses ready at hand we will now and always be clearly presenting the gospel - "...the power of God for salvation..."

By His mercy,
II Corinthians 4:1
Rev. John S. Mahon

Please allow me to close with dispatch with a hymn from my prayer notebook that has been especially meaningful to me...

(Psalms 104:33-34 "I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. Let my meditation be pleasing to Him; As for me, I shall be glad in the LORD.")

Take My Life

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord to Thee;
Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love, At the impulse of Thy love.

*Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee;
Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King, Always, only for my King.*

Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages for Thee;
Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold, Not a mite would I withhold

*Take my love, my God, I pour, At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take my self and I will be Ever, only , all for Thee, Ever only all for Thee*

(Frances Ridley Havergal *Born*: December 14, 1836, Astley, Worcestershire, England. *Died*: June 3, 1879, Caswall Bay, near Swansea, Wales. Daughter of hymnist [William Havergal](#). Frances was a bright but short lived candle in English hymnody. She was baptized by hymnist [John Cawood](#). She was reading by age four, and began writing verse at age seven. She learned Latin, Greek and Hebrew, and memorized the Psalms, the book of Isaiah, and most of the New Testament. She died of [peritonitis](#) at [Caswall Bay](#) on the [Gower Peninsula](#) in [Wales](#). Her sisters saw much of her work published posthumously. [Havergal College](#) in [Toronto](#) is named after her.

I Love To Tell The Story

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain

*I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.*

I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
Than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, it did so much for me;
And that is just the reason I tell it now to thee.

Refrain

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

Refrain

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

Refrain

Words: [A. Katherine Hankey](#), 1866.

This is from a long poem on the life of Jesus that was written in 1866. It is in two parts. The first part is a poem of fifty stanzas, and is titled, "The Story Wanted," being dated January 29, 1866. The second part is titled "The Story Told," and is dated November 18, 1866. It is said that the author had a serious spell of sickness just before this poem was composed, and that she occupied the long days of convalescence in writing the poem. Certain verses were taken from Part I. by Dr. W. H. Doane in 1867 to make the popular and familiar hymn beginning, "Tell me the old, old story," for which he composed the familiar tune to which those words are commonly sung. From Part II. certain verses have been selected to make the above hymn, "I Love to Tell the Story," the tune to which was composed by W. G. Fischer. This is one of the most popular of all modern hymns, and has been translated into several different languages. These and other hymns by the author have been published from time to time in different forms, sometimes accompanied by tunes composed by herself. Many of her hymns are found in a little volume which she published in 1870, titled Heart to Heart. Very few hymns written in the last fifty years have so taken hold of the hearts of the people, both the young and the old, as has this simple little song.



Picture One



Picture Two



Picture Three



Picture Four