

"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him. Luke 8:39

"I Love To Tell The Story"

Dan Henderson

Store In My Heart

Philippians 1:3-5

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

The thanksgiving and joy expressed by Paul regarding the relationship he had with these brethren is evident throughout the letter. Even his imprisonment could not keep him from these feelings.

This joy was a result of the continued support and communication he received from these brethren. From the time he first worked with them until his story ends it seems these brethren were in contact with help and encouragement. It is good to have brethren who are willing to help one another and this was certainly the case with those in Philippi. We do well when we emulate such brethren today.

"I Love To Tell The Story". So goes the song we sing in worship. Preachers urge us in sermon after sermon to tell others of Christ. Our Bible class teachers emphasize the need to tell others of Christ. To one another Christians emphasize the need to teach Christ and His sacrifice. For the most part we heed this teaching. We invite others to worship with us where they can hear the Gospel. We discuss Bible topics with our neighbors, friends, and family. We talk with our children about Jesus and God. We help spread the Word through TV, radio, even the Internet. Yet, are we demonstrating this same need in our daily actions? Are we living in such a way that we "tell the story" of Jesus in our attitudes and actions. Or do those around us see the same things in us that are present in their own lives? Are we living as part of the world or as one passing through the world? Paul urges, *"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"* **2Corinthians 6:17** Can we please God when we make ourselves a part of the world? The Scriptures teach otherwise. We as children of God are to be separate from the world even in our daily life. Peter tells us we are to be as "strangers and pilgrims."

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation." **1Peter 2:11-12**

Through the ages, many have taken these passages and concluded we must physically withdraw ourselves from society. Cults, communes, etc. have been formed to pull people from the works of the world. Some only participate with society in a very limited manner. Others have completely isolated themselves from the rest of



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For Our Information

Annette Gray is still having some stomach issues.

Theresa and John LaValla are in Mississippi.

The Simpson Family is in Star City.

Dan's Mom, Dottie Henderson is home and doing much better. She has been taking it easy since her hospital stay.

Jessica Keisler is home and doing well. She has several weeks of recovery.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

the world. While some of these have been successful to a certain extent, most have discovered it to be almost impossible to completely remove society's influence over their members.

As we noted above, the Scripture requires a certain separation between the Christian and the world. But does it require complete isolation? The Word left by God is not hard to understand. God has given us a simple plan to follow that we may please Him. Jesus prayed to the Father in this manner,

"I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world."

John 17:15-18

With this prayer Jesus clearly shows us that we must interact with the world even while remaining separate from it. How do we do this? By living differently from those around us. We are taught to live righteous and God-like lives. Paul instructed the young man Titus to live properly "in the present world"

"Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;" **Titus 2:12**

The Word teaches that we must live as a servant of Christ and the Father. Paul informed the Galatian brethren that it was no longer he but Christ living in him.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." **Galatians 2:20**

When you get up in the morning do you prepare yourself to teach others with your influence? Our day should begin with a prayer to God that we will "tell the story" of Jesus to everyone we meet. Whether we talk with someone or not we should be able to show them Christ. Our neighbors and co-workers should see us in a different light than the others they see from day to day.

Every day we tell a story to the world. If we truly "love to tell the story" of Jesus it will show in every part of our life. Our story will stick out like a sore thumb in some areas of our life, at other times it will blend with the other stories being told around us. We need make certain that we are telling the same story all the time, no matter the surroundings.

(Like some recent sermons, this article is too long to fit in one spot. Thus next week's bulletin will continue these thoughts. The second half will look at some specific areas of life where we may have difficulty. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!