TITLE: A message worth proclaiming!

TEXT: Mk. 16:15-16; Ro. 10:13-15 & 1:16-17;

2nd Co. 3:3

INTRODUCTION: This morning I am going to take a little break from the series I have speaking on the past couple weeks about the Ten Commandments. Unless the Lord directs otherwise I we will be back there next week.

 When we first come to the Lord, we come with empty hands, empty of anything that could commend us or get us into His kingdom, the kingdom of heaven. It is with empty hands that we embrace His cross and trust in His redeeming work to save us from our sins and ultimately deliver us to heaven to be with Him forever.

 But when that day comes, when it is our time to go and be with the Lord, when we enter heavens gate, will we come before Him on that day with empty hands or will they be full to overflowing with the souls we’ve led to Christ?

 Or, if you were to go to Heaven and meet Christ today, what would you hold in your hands to offer Him? Would you enter His presence with hands still empty or would they be full of salvation received by others through your life’s witness?

 Charles Luther once wrote: Must I go, and empty handed, thus my Redeemer meet?...Not one soul with which to great Him: must I empty handed go?

 If we are a Christian, if we have accepted Christ into our life then we all have been given a charge from the Lord....

 The Charge is to proclaim to others what we have received from Him.

 Jesus, after he had been crucified and after He had been raised from the dead, but before He ascended to Heaven, gave us these instructions.....

**Mark 16:15 (NKJV) And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.**

**16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.**

 This command, this charge that the Lord has given is not just to the preacher, to the evangelist or to the missionary---it is a command that has been given to the Church.....To you and I as Believers!

 **"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.**

The phrase, "go into" :

**{por-yoo'-om-ahee}**

**1a) to pursue the journey on which one has entered, to continue on one's journey.**

When we come to Christ for the forgiveness of our sins we start out on a new journey! Or should I say, He starts us out on a new journey.. A journey that will lead us to heaven!

 We are commanded to pursue the journey on which we have entered! The journey will lead us to Heaven but its path will first take us through the world in which we live..

So, God gives us this charge as we go along on this journey that he has placed us upon in this life...

 **"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.**

 As we are on this journey that leads ultimately to Heaven, we have been given the charge to preach the Gospel to every creature along the way!

 We are to take the gospel into all the world---

the **Kos'-mos**

 Kosmos can mean the earth as the planet, the firmament itself but that is not the way that it is used here! Here it means:

**5) the inhabitants of the earth, men, the**

**human race**

**6) the ungodly multitude; the whole**

**mass of men alienated from God,**

**and therefore hostile to the cause of Christ.**

 This is an important understanding here!

 Because If we come to understand the Kos-mos the world as the people on the planet instead of the planet itself it makes what we have been called to do a lot simpler task!

 If we view the world here as the planet on which we live it becomes a big place in our thinking...Much to large for us to handle...It becomes an intimidating thought to personally take the gospel to that large of an area!

 But if we understand the world to simply be the people that reside on the planet, the people that we come in contact with every minute of every day, then the task we have been called to do becomes a lot more manageable for us! We can comprehend it with these finite minds of ours!

Each of us has been called to **"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.**

 OK, so we know what the command "to go" means,

*to pursue the journey on which one has entered!*

 The journey that we began when we came to Christ for the forgiveness of our sin! The journey that God set us upon the moment we were saved!

 And We know what the world is that we have been called to go into, not the planet itself but the people on the planet! The world that we are to go into is simply the part of the world where we are right now!

 So, what does it mean for us to preach the gospel?

 Again, this can sound like an intimidating task!

 We usually associate the word preach with --ministers, evangelists, missionaries and the like...

 But the word preach here:

{**kay-roos'-so}**

 Certainly this encompasses all these offices of the Church but it basically means

**1) to be a herald, 1a) to proclaim after the manner of a herald**

 It means to proclaim something to someone!

That which we are to proclaim to those in the part of this world that God has placed us in is the Gospel!

**2098 euaggelion {yoo-ang-ghel'-ee-on}**

**2) good tidings**

**2a) the glad tidings of the kingdom of God soon to be set up, and subsequently also of Jesus the Messiah, the founder of this kingdom.**

**2b) the glad tidings of salvation through Christ**

**2c) the proclamation of the grace of God manifest and pledged in Christ**

In short, the Gospel, the message we are to proclaim to those around us is the birth, the life, the death, the resurrection and ascension of Jesus!

 And the hope that we have in Him! The Hope of

salvation and eternal life!

 Jesus then goes on to give us the real motivation for our proclaiming this gospel!

**16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.**

He who believes will be saved! He who does not believe will be condemned!

 He who hears and believes will inherit the kingdom of God, will inherit Heaven! He who does not believe will be condemned eternally to hell!

 Granted it is a choice that each man must make for himself but before someone can make the choice they have to know of the options!

 The world will never accept the message if they aren't first given the opportunity to hear it!

**Roma 10:13 (NKJV) For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."**

**14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?**

**15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:**

**"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,**

**Who bring glad tidings of good things!"**

How can someone call on Jesus as savior if they don't believe in Him?

 How can they believe in Him if no one has ever told them about Him?

 How can they be told unless someone is sent to them?

 Church, each and every one of us has been sent to proclaim the good news of the gospel!

 The question is: Have we been obedient to that call to go? Are we being obedient to that call to go?

**How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"**

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is good news! The Gospel of Christ is a good thing!

 It is a message worth proclaiming!

 To those who receive its message, the feet of those who bring it to them will be seen as beautiful!

 Example: Terminally ill and someone comes into your room with the cure for your illness---Their feet, that which brought them to you become a beautiful thing in your sight! They cared enough to come and offer you a chance at life!

 Folks, that is the message of the gospel that we carry! It is a message that offers the lost of our world a chance for life. A chance to receive for themselves, eternal, resurrected life!

Of those that I have shared this gospel message with that have accepted it and received Christ as their personal Lord and savior, I have not had one say, "gee, I wish you would never have told me!

Why? Because it is good news! It contains glad tidings! You don't have to live a life separated from God any longer! You don't have to live enslaved to sin any more! You don't have to go to hell!

 The Gospel offers you something better!

 It offers you victory in this life and an assurance of eternity with Jesus in the next one!

 That is good news! It is a message that people are literally dying to hear!

 One of the biggest lies of Satan is that the world, the lost don't really want to hear the message that we have to proclaim!

And the sad thing is that a lot of us as Christians have bought into that lie!

Be honest, how many times have you thought---

 What is the use! They won't listen anyway!

 They don't really want to hear!

Example: Jail---Starving for this gospel message!

 They who have no hope will jump at chance to receive some!

 I think that the other main reason that we don't speak up and out for Christ is fear!

 What will people think of me!

 I may end up looking foolish! They may call me a holy roller or something!

Example: Mr. Heinz

Almost everyone has heard of Mr. Heinz whose steak sauce with ‘57’ varieties" of spices and probably as many various kinds of pickles have distinguished his name.

 One day after an evangelistic service the speaker turned to him and said, "You are a believer, but with all your energy why aren't you up and at it for the Lord?" Heinz went home in anger. That night he couldn't sleep, and at 4 o'clock in the morning he prayed that God would use him to lead others to the Lord.

 A day or so later at a meeting of bank presidents, he turned to the man next to him and told him of his joy in knowing Jesus. His friend looked at him in surprise and said, "Because I knew you were a Christian, I've wondered many times why you never spoke to me about salvation." That gentleman became the first of 267 converts -- people of different varieties, from all walks of life -- that Mr. Heinz eventually won to Christ!

 What had kept this successful Christian businessman silent for so many years?

 Most probably fear! Fear of what others might think!

 We hear the good side of the story but I wonder how many souls that he could have reached, people that the Lord had brought across his path for their last chance to receive Christ and he remained silent.

 How many people has the Lord led to us and we have failed to share Jesus with them when we may have been their last chance to hear the gospel message!

 Scary thought! I believe we will be held accountable for our silence!

**Example:** man from Oregon

 Are we doing that which we have been commissioned by the Lord Himself to do? To share Jesus with a lost world that so desperately needs him!

Church, we have been called to be fishers of men not just keepers of the aquariums."

 What is our primary concern?

 Is it Going to Church on Sunday and maybe Wednesday nights and keeping up the Church building or is our primary concern for lost souls?

For telling others the good news of the Gospel!

Telling them how they too may be saved!

By our silence are we proclaiming to the world around us that we are ashamed of the message that we have been given?

**Mark 8:38 (NKJV) "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."**

 The apostle Paul, when he had the opportunity to go to Rome, a cross cultural society, the seat of the civilized world, renowned for its wisdom and intellectually enlightened people, by the worlds standards, the message of the Gospel that he had was seen as foolishness!

 By the standards of the world Paul had much he could have been ashamed of!

 He had given up all to follow Jesus! His wealth, his family, his position.....This would have been seen as a foolish action by the world at large!

 In the sight of the world his message may have been seen as foolish---Paul may have looked the fool for proclaiming it....

 But Paul says this in:

**Roma 1:16 (NIV) I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.**

**17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."**

**I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes!**

Church, we have nothing to be ashamed of!

 The Gospel message that we bear contains the power of God for salvation!

 The message that we bear has the power to take someone who is destined for hell and change their destiny to Heaven!

 We need not be ashamed because the power of Salvation that is within our message is greater than any power that this world has to offer!

 It is greater than wealth, it is greater than health, it is greater than prosperity, it is greater that possessions, it is greater than position, it is greater by far than anything this world has to offer , because it is the only thing that offers us salvation, forgiveness of sin, a resurrected body and eternal life!!

 Paul understood this!

 He knew, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that what he had to say was worth listening to! That what he had to say was the most important message that could ever be heard!

 He knew that the world in which he lived was suffering from a terminal illness and he had the cure for what ailed them!

 So, he proclaims **I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes!**

Church, we could all learn a lesson from the ant!

A man once laid a piece of chocolate candy on a table. Then, picking up an ant, he put it near the candy. He was surprised to see it take a single bite and then hurry off to inform the rest of the colony.

Soon the little creature returned, followed by a long train of other ants who enjoyed the treat with him. We as Christians who have tasted that the Lord is good, we who have experienced the goodness of salvation, can learn a lesson from the ant.

Having found God's rich supply of grace, we ought to spread the glad tidings, the good news of it to others so that they can enjoy its blessings also.

 Like the Apostle Paul we need to come to realize the value and the importance of the Gospel we have received and boldly proclaim its message to the world in which we live by sharing it with those around us!

 Most often we do that by simply sharing with others what God has done and is doing within our own lives...

 For once we are saved our personal testimony, what Jesus has done for us, becomes a part of the Gospel!

 **2Cor 3:3 (NIV) You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.**

As a Christian we are a letter from Christ!

We are a letter that Jesus has written to a lost world!

 A letter, not written with ink on tablets of stone, but a letter written by the Holy Spirit of God upon our hearts....

 Are we proclaiming the message that God has penned within us?

 It is a message that is truly worth proclaiming!

When your time comes to meet the Lord will you enter His presence empty handed? Enter His presence with nothing to offer Him for the grace that you have been given?

 Or will you enter His presence with hands full of salvation? Hands full of souls being safely delivered into His Kingdom?

 Let these words be a challenge to all of us this morning.....

 **I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, because it is the power of salvation for all who come to believe its message!**