

On-Mission Class #8

Christ Proclamation Church; Sunday, April 29, 2018; Steve Thiel

I. Welcome

- Tonight's Goal – Charles Spurgeon – “The Soul Winner” – chapters 6-15
- Next Month's Plan – Wayne Grudem and Don Whitney – May 20th at 6:00pm
 1. Wayne Grudem – Chs. 14-15 – Justification, Adoption, Sanctification, and Perseverance
 2. Don Whitney – Ch. 11 – Journaling

II. “The Soul Winner” by Charles Spurgeon

A. Chapter 6 – How To Raise The Dead – (p.63)

1. Spiritual resurrection is the goal – To raise the dead is our mission!
 - Introduction – 2 Kings 4:29-37 – Story about Elisha raising a physically dead child.
 - If we yield to unbelief, we shall be staggered by the evident fact that the work to which the Lord has called us is quite beyond our own power. We cannot raise the dead.
 - I trust we are all of us already aware that the man who lives in the region of faith dwells in the realm of miracles.
2. Elisha was no common man now that God's Spirit was upon him.
 - And you, devoted, anxious, prayerful teacher, remain no longer a common being; you have become in a special manner, the temple of the Holy Ghost, God dwelleth in you, and you by faith have entered upon the career of a wonder-worker (p.64-65).
 - You are sent into the world not to do the things which are possible to man, but those impossibilities which God worketh by His Spirit, by the means of His believing people. You are to work miracles, to do marvels. (top of p.65)
3. Follow the example of those that have gone before you (p.65)
 - It would have been well if Elisha had recollected that he was once the servant of Elijah and had so studied his master's example as to have initiated it.
 - Only by imitating the spirit and manner of the Lord Jesus shall we become wise to win souls. (p.65)
4. When we fail at one attempt, we must not therefore give up our work.
5. The unconverted must be heavy on our hearts – They must be near and dear to us
 - Notice where the dead child was placed: “*And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead and laid upon his bed.*” (p.67)
 - Oh, that the dear boys and girls in my class might become the children of God!
6. We must pray to God for the blessing of spiritual life
 - “*He went in, therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the Lord*”
 - The great secret lies, in a large measure, in powerful supplication.
 - If we do not pray to God for a blessing, if the foundation of the pulpit be not laid in private prayer, our open ministry will not be a success. So it is with you; every real teacher's power must come from on high. If you never enter your closet, and shut the door, if you never plead at the mercy seat for your child, how can you expect that God will honor you in its conversion? (p.67)
 - May we offer such violent, God-constraining, heaven-compelling prayers, and the Lord will not permit us to seek His face in vain!

On-Mission Class #8

Christ Proclamation Church; Sunday, April 29, 2018; Steve Thiel

7. Prayer and means must go together – There must be prayer and action
 - A dying man is needed to raise dying men (p.68)
 - “*I did preach in chains to men in chains*” – John Bunyan (p.69)
 - If anything difficult be required of you, you must do it, and not think it difficult. God will not raise a dead child by you, if you are not willing to become all things to that child, if by any possibility you may win its soul.
8. We must be willing to exercise all of our abilities to save the lost
 - We were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel only, but our own souls.
9. We must desire, NOT just more conviction, BUT conversion (p.70)
10. We must have an urgency and intensity about people coming to faith (p.70)
11. We must continue the process until we see spiritual life (p.70)
12. We must be encouraged by any true sign of grace and spiritual life (p.71)
13. We must rejoice and be overwhelmed the goodness of God’s grace to save any!

B. Chapter 7 – How To Win Souls For Christ – (p.72)

1. What is it to win a soul? (p.72)
2. In What way, since the winning of souls lies here, can we hopefully expect to be endowed with the Spirit of God, and to go forth in His power?
 - a. We win souls to Christ by acting as witnesses (p.74)
 - b. We win souls to Christ by being pleaders of the Lord Jesus Christ (p.76)
 - c. We win souls to Christ by being examples (p.77)
 - d. We win souls to Christ by surrounding ourselves with others who desire to win souls to Christ. So we depend on the kind of people that are around the preacher (p.77)
 - e. We win souls to Christ by being committed to labor and hard work (p.79).
 - f. We win souls to Christ by being earnest in many private conversations (p.80)
 - g. We win souls to Christ by having evangelistic material available and handy (p.80)
 - h. We win souls to Christ by writing letters to individuals about the gospel (p.81)

C. Chapter 8 – The Cost Of Being A Soul Winner – (p.82)

- An ordinary person may rest in his bed all night, but a surgeon will be called up at all hours; a farming man may take his ease at his fireside, but if he becomes a shepherd, he must be out among the lambs, and bear all weathers for them; even so doth Paul say, “Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. (p.82)
- Men are usually won to Christ by suitable instruments, and this suitability often lies in the power to sympathize. A key opens a door because it fits the wards of the lock; an earnest address touches the heart because it meets the state of that heart. (p.83) – [1 Cor. 9]
- Are you not willing to pass through every ordeal if by any means you may save some?
- We would do anything, be anything, give anything, and suffer anything if we might but bring you to Christ? (p.85).

On-Mission Class #8

Christ Proclamation Church; Sunday, April 29, 2018; Steve Thiel

D. Chapter 9 – The Soul Winner’s Reward – (p.86)

- When we endeavor to lead men to God, we pursue a business far more profitable than the pearl-fisher’s diving or the diamond-hunter’s searching. No pursuit of mortal men is to be compared with that of soul-winning. (p.87)
- 1. Partly, the reward lies in the work itself (p.87)
 - Men go hunting and shooting for mere love of the sport; surely, in an infinitely higher sphere, we may hunt for men’s souls for the pleasing indulgence of our benevolence. To some of us, it would be an unendurable misery to see men sink to hell, and to be making no effort for their salvation. (p.87)
- 2. Soul-winning brings great benefit to the individual who consecrates himself to it. (p.88)
- 3. The gratitude and affection of those who you bring to Christ (p.88)
- 4. The richest reward lies in pleasing God and causing Christ to see of the travail of His soul
 - That Jesus should have His reward, is worthy of the Eternal Father; but it is marvelous that we should be employed by God to give to Christ the purchase of His agonies. This is a wonder of wonders! O my soul, this in an honor too great for thee! (p.89)
 - It is a great pleasure to be doing a kindness to an earthly friend, but to be doing something distinctly for Jesus, something which will be of all things in the world most pleasing to Him, is a great delight! (p.90)

E. Chapter 11 – The Soul-Winners Life and Work – (p.91)

- We ought to regard the Christian Church, not as a luxurious hostelry where Christian gentlemen may each one dwell at his ease in his own inn, but as a barracks in which soldiers are gathered together to be drilled and trained for war. We should regard the Christian Church, not as an association for mutual admiration and comfort, but as an army with banners, marching to the fray, to achieve victories for Christ, to storm the strongholds of the foe, and to add province after province to the Redeemer’s kingdom. (p.91)
- View yourselves as grains of wheat predestinated to seed the world. (p.92)

1. The Life of the Believer is Full of Soul-Blessing (p.92)

- A. The believer’s outward life comes as a matter of fruit from him (p.92).
 - The fruit of a mans life is NOT a thing fastened to him but something that grows out of him. It is NOT a garment which he puts off and on, but it is inseparable from himself. The sincere man’s religion is the man himself, not a cloak of concealment.
 - When God gives a new nature to His people, the life which comes out of that new nature springs spontaneously from it. (p.93).
- B. The fruit which comes from a Christian is fruit worthy of his character (p.94).
 - We are justified by faith alone, NOT works. But that faith isn’t alone, BUT works.
 - We cannot judge men’s hearts, and we must not try to do so. We can, however, judge their lives, and I pray God we may all be ready to judge our own lives, and see if we are bring forth righteous fruit, for if not, we are not righteous men. (p.94)
- C. Fruit in a Christian’s life is always the work of grace, and the gift of God (p.94).
 - If a man fails, he blames himself; if he succeeds, he glorifies God.
- D. Fruit in a Christian’s life is always a blessing to others (p.95).

On-Mission Class #8

Christ Proclamation Church; Sunday, April 29, 2018; Steve Thiel

- E. The completeness and development of the holy life will be seen above (p.96).
- The tree of life is a heavenly plant, and so the fruit of the Christian is a thing of heaven; though not transplanted to the glory land, it is getting fit for its final abode.
 - What is holiness, but heaven on earth? (p.96)
2. **The Pursuit of the Believer Should be Soul-Winning (p.96)**
- A. There are souls that need winning (p.96).
- But here is the mercy – these lost souls can be won (p.97).
 - They may yet be delivered, but the phrase hints that it will need all our efforts, “*HE that winneth souls.*” – What do we mean by that word win?
- B. What do we mean by that word *WIN*? – We use it in love-making (p.97).
- We speak of the bridegroom who wins his bride.
- C. What do we mean by that word *WIN*? – We use it in military fashion (p.97).
- We speak of winning a city, a castle, or a battle.
 - We do not win victories by going to sleep.
- D. What do we mean by that word *WIN*? – We use it in reference to making a fortune.
- We all know that the man who becomes a millionaire has to rise up early, and sit up late, and eat the bread of carefulness, and it takes a deal of toiling and saving, and I now not what besides to amass immense wealth.
 - We have to go after winning souls with as much ardour and concentration (p.98).
3. **Let me show you why a soul-winner is wise (p.98)**
- A. He must be taught of God before he will attempt it (p.98).
- B. He is a wise man to select such a pursuit (p.98).
- We speak of the bridegroom who wins his bride.
- C. He will have to be very wise if you succeed in it (p.98).
- Because the souls to be won are so different in their constitutions, feelings, and conditions, and you will have to adapt yourselves to them all (p.99).
 - You will have to be very wise, and become all things to all men, and your success will prove your wisdom (p.99).
- D. He is wise because he has engaged in a business which makes wise men wiser (p.99).
- E. He who really wins souls, however he wins them, is a wise man (p.100).
- Let eloquence be flung to the dogs rather than souls be love.
 - What we want is to win souls, and they are not to be won by flowery speeches.
 - “Give me converts or I die” (p.101)
- F. **Chapter 12 – Soul-Winning Explained – (p.102)**
- “*He that winneth souls is wise*” – Proverbs 11:30 (p.102).
 - He who actually, really, and truly turns men from the error of their ways to God, and so is made the means of saving them from going down to hell, is a wise man; and that is true of him whatever his style soul winning may be.
 - He that winneth souls is usually a man who could have done anything else (p.103).

On-Mission Class #8

Christ Proclamation Church; Sunday, April 29, 2018; Steve Thiel

1. Let us consider the metaphor used in the text – Proverbs 11:30 (p.105)

- A. We use the word “WIN” in many ways – we use it in warfare (p.106).
- B. We use the word “WIN” in many ways – we use it in a wrestling match (p.106).
- C. We use the word “WIN” in many ways – we use it when we deal with hearts (p.107).
- D. We use the word “WIN” in many ways – we use it in taking birds or fish (p.107).

2. Some of the ways in which souls are to be won (p.108)

- A. When the preacher or sharer believes that souls are won instantaneously (p.108)
- B. When the sharer keeps closest to the soul-saving truth (p.109).
- C. When people are committed to bringing others to hear the word (p.109).
- D. When people try after the sermon to talk to the visitors who hear the Word (p.109).
- E. When people understand the art of button-holing the acquaintances (p.110).
- F. When people write gospel-driven letters (p.110).
- G. When people live out the gospel in front of others (p.110).
- H. When people are masters of prayer and asking God for souls (p.111).
- I. When your own soul has already been won by the Lord – you’re a Christian (p.111).

G. Chapter 13 – Soul-Saving Our One Business – (p.113)

- It is a grand thing to see a man thoroughly possessed with one master-passion. Such a man is sure to be strong, and if the master-principle be excellent, he is sure to be excellent, too.
- Such a man was Paul (p.113).
- Paul’s great object in life was to “*save some*” (p.114).

1. What was Paul’s great object in his daily life and ministry – to save some (p.114)

- A. I fear that there are some who preach with a view – of amusing men (p.114).
- B. I fear that there are some who preach with a view – to educate men (p.114).
- C. I fear that there are some who preach with a view – of moralize men (p.115).
- D. What did Paul mean by saying that he desired to save some (p.116)?
 - That they should be born again (p.116).
 - That some might be cleansed from their past iniquity through the merit of the atoning sacrifice of the Son of God (p.116).
 - That they may be purified and made holy (p.117).

2. The apostle had great reasons for electing such an object in life (p.117)

- A. Reason #1 – If they be not saved, how is God dishonored (p.117)
- B. Reason #2 – The extreme misery of this our human race (p.118).
- C. Reason #3 – Because of the terrible future of impenitent souls (p.119).
- D. Reason #4 – Because of the extreme contrast between heaven and hell (p.119).
- E. Reason #5 – Because you have a deep desire for ever one to be saved (p.120).
- F. Reason #6 – Challenge – How many have you brought to Christ? (p.120).

3. The great methods that the apostle used to bring people to faith (p.120)

- A. Method #1 – Simply preaching the gospel of Christ (p.120)
- B. Method #2 – Paul spent much time in prayer (p.122)
- C. Method #1 – Paul had an intense sympathy that made him willing to adapt (p.122)

H. Chapter 14 – Instruction in Soul-Winning – (p.124)

On-Mission Class #8

Christ Proclamation Church; Sunday, April 29, 2018; Steve Thiel

- When Christ calls us by His grace, we ought NOT only to remember what we are, but we ought also to think of what He can make us. It is *“Follow Me, and I will make you.”* We should repent of what we have been, but rejoice in what we may be (p.124).
 - We are NOT made all we shall be, nor all that we ought to desire to be, when we are ourselves fished for and caught (p.124).
 - God will made you a fisher of men (p.125).
1. **What we must do to... “Follow Me, and I will make you a fisher of men!” (p.126)**
 - A. Be separate unto Christ (p.126).
 - B. Abide with Christ (p.127).
 - C. Obey Christ, and then you shall know what to do to save men (p.128).
 - If we desire, as fishers of men, to be largely used of God, we must copy our Lord Jesus in everything, and obey Him in every point. (p.128).
 - We must get back to apostolic practice and to apostolic teaching: we must lay aside the commandments of men and the whimsys of our own brains, and we must do what Christ tells us, as Christ tells us, and because Christ tells us. Definitely and distinctly, we must take the place of servants; and if we will not do that, we cannot expect our Lord to work with us and by us (p.129).
 - D. Imitate Christ-like holiness (p.130).
 2. **What God must do to... “Follow Me, and I will make you a fisher of men!” (p.130)**
 - A. He will make us fishers of men – by all our experience (p.131)
 - B. He will make us fishers of men – by distinct monitions in your heart (p.131)
 - C. He will make us fishers of men – by giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit (p.132)
 3. **Instruction on how to be a great fisher of men (p.132)**
 - A. A fisher of men is a person who is very dependable and trustworthy (p.132)
 - B. A fisher of men is a person who is very diligent and persevering person (p.133)
 - C. A fisher of men is a person who is very intelligent and watchful (p.133)
 - D. A fisher of men is a person who is very hard working person (p.133)
 - E. A fisher of men is a person who is very daring person (p.134)
 - D. A fisher of men is a person who makes fishers of men and is very successful (p.134)
- I. **Chapter 15 – Encouragement to Soul-Winners – (p.136)**
1. **A special case to deal with (James 5:19-20) – A Professing Christian (p.137)**
 - A. This passage must be dealing with a backslider from the visible Church of God
 - The person erred in some vital doctrine (p.137)
 - There are some truths which must be believed; they are essential to salvation and if not heartily accepted, the soul will be ruined.
 - Spurgeon argues against people being too accepting of lots of viewpoints (p.137)
 - B. Man erred non only in doctrine, but he erred in his life as well (p.138).
 - Every error has its own outgrowth, as all decay has its appropriate fungus. It is in vain for us to imagine that holiness will be as readily produced from error as from truth ... when truth is dominant, morality and holiness are abundant. (p.138)
 - C. The point aimed at with regard to this sinner in thought and deed was his conversion

On-Mission Class #8

Christ Proclamation Church; Sunday, April 29, 2018; Steve Thiel

- I fear many professed Christians do not look upon backsliders in this light, neither do they regard them as hopeful subjects for conversion (p.138).
 - D. The text gives clear indications that we are to aim at the conversion of erring brethren.
 - Look after strangers by all means, but neglect not your brethren.
 - E. The attempt to convert a man who has erred from the truth is a hopeful one.
 - Verily, it is a great joy to capture the wild, wandering sinner; but the joy of joys is to find the lost sheep which was once really in the fold and has sadly gone astray.
- 2. A Professing Christian – General Fact (p.141)**
- A. He who converts a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death.
 - B. He who converts a sinner from the error of his way covers a multitude of sins
 - It will be enough for us to have been the pen in the Savior’s hand with which He has written the covenant of His grace upon the fleshly tablets of humans hearts. This is golden wages for a man who really loves His Master; Jesus is glorified, sinners are saved (p.143).
 - C. He has saved a single soul from death (p.143).
 - Be happy to bring one sinner to Jesus Christ (p.143).
 - Let us long to be used in the conversion of sinners (p.143).
 - God must use us; but, oh, let us long to be used, pray to be used and pine to be used! Dear brethren and sisters, let us purge ourselves of everything that would prevent our being employed by the Lord. If there is anything we are doing, or leaving undone, any evil we are harboring, or any grace we are neglecting, which may make us unfit to be used of God, let us pray the Lord to cleanse, and mend, and scour us, till we are vessels fit for the Master’s use (p.143).
- 3. James 5:19-20 – A Particular Application – The Conversion of Children (p.144)**
- A. Children may be saved while they are children (p.144).
 - It is the highest wisdom and the truest prudence to pray for our children that, while they are yet young, their hearts may be given to the Savior (p.144).
 - B. This gives the church the hope of having the best of men and women (p.145)
 - Young men and women who will become pillars in the house of our God (p.145).
 - Teach them the whole gospel and the doctrines of grace intelligently, and let them pray over the children, and never be satisfied unless the children are turned to the Lord Jesus Christ, and added to the church (p.145).
 - There must be pleading and praying for the immediate conversion of the children.
 - Great questions (pp. 145-146).
 - I would not wish to go to heaven alone – would you? (p.146).

III. Closing Comments

- Next Meeting – Sunday, May 20th – 6:00pm to 8:30pm