

**CONCERN**

“I’m speaking the truth in Christ—I’m not lying, as my conscience assures me with the Holy Spirit: I have great sadness and constant pain in my heart. I wish I could be cursed, cut off from Christ if it helped my brothers and sisters, who are my flesh-and-blood relatives.” Romans 9:1-3 CEV

In 1858 a man laid a trembling hand on the shoulder of a young shoe clerk and said, “I am concerned about you.”

That afternoon the young man knelt in the basement of that shoe store and asked Jesus Christ into his life. He was touched by the man’s concern. The young clerk was D.L. Moody.

Later he wrote: “Now that was strange, here was a man who had known me only two weeks and he was concerned about me.

Moody became an evangelist and in 1879 was invited to England to preach. The host pastor was F.B. Meyer. Myer no sooner heard Moody preach than he regretted having invited him. Moody was uncouth and unlearned. As soon as Moody left, Meyer set about to repair the damage he supposed Moody had done to his upper class church.

The first person Meyer called on was a Sunday school teacher of young girls. As soon as he entered her home she said, “Oh Dr. Meyer, I have been under conviction ever since I heard D.L. Moody speak. I visited every one of the girls in my class and led every one of them to Christ.”

Meyer went home, fell on his knees and asked God to forgive him for his attitude. Soon Meyer began to preach evangelistic sermons. His church began to grow. His success became known throughout the entire Christian world.

Before long he was invited to America. Among his engagements was a series of meetings on college campuses. At one college meeting a student J. Wilber Chapman heard the preaching and accepted Christ as his Savior. Chapman went into YMCA work. He needed a helper so he hired a young convert named Billy Sunday.

Sunday soon began to do the work of an evangelist. On one occasion he preached a revival in Charlotte, NC. A group of local business men began to meet and pray for revival. Some months later Mordecai Hamm accepted their invitation to come to Charlotte and preach a series of meetings.

During one of those evening tent meetings a young man felt the evangelist was pointing his sermons at him. The next night he joined the choir to be behind Hamm. That night Ham turned around a preached to the choir. During the invitation a young man prayed to receive Christ as his Savior. His name: Billy Graham.

Who led D.L. Moody to Christ? Moody was a young man who had gone to Chicago and took a job selling shoes. His employer insisted that his employees go to church. Moody went and sat in on a class led by Edward Kimball. It was Kimball that prayed for Moody and went to see him that afternoon. We know of these great men, but who ever heard of Edward Kimball. Not too many, but God knows!

One person had a concern and the result was Billy Graham and we all know how God used him to reach thousands upon thousands of people with the Gospel.

How concerned are we about others?