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PROCLAIMING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

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SERVANTS OF CHRIST

In Romans 1:1, Philippians 1:1, and Titus 1:1, the apostle Paul describes himself as a servant of Jesus Christ. Then, in three other epistles he describes himself as a prisoner (a bond slave) of Jesus Christ. In the remaining epistles he calls himself an apostle of Jesus Christ. Through all of those epistles he would display various traits proving he was what he claimed to be. Some of these traits are found in Acts 20, and which we will show in this article.

Vs.18: *“And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,”*

This trait of a servant is: **CONSISTENCY**

Servants of the Lord Jesus Christ are to be consistent! Paul puts himself on notice: the people would know whether what he said was true or not. Paul was a man that you could count on. All the time. He was addicted to the ministry of the saints (1 Cor.16:13-15). It is a wonderful quality to be found in born again people, especially in a time when there is such inconsistency among those who profess Christ as Savior. Of all the people of the earth, it is we who should be the ones that others can count on to not only be concerned enough for their souls to actually tell them, but also to live out that gospel message daily before them.

Vs.19: *“Serving the Lord with all humility of mind...”*

The second trait of a servant is: **CONTRITENESS**

Paul was reared in the Old Testament scriptures, and applies this attitude in the ministry of servants of Christ. In Psalm 34:18, we read, *“The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.”*

Psalm 51:17, and Isaiah 57:15, also mention the same quality. Contrite meant to be bruised, crushed, or crumbled. As you read those three passages, insert the meaning into your reading, and you will see that this high and rapidly upcoming Rabbi of Judaism was taken aback by the bloody substitutionary atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ for the whole of his sin debt. Follow him through the New Testament and you will see that he never got over it. It never left him. He (the Lord Jesus Christ) took to Himself MY sins and paid them in full, while enduring MY deserved punishment for those sins – all of which were undeserved. He maintained a spirit of contriteness as he served Christ. So should we.

Vs.19: *“... and with many tears...”*

This third trait of a servant is: **COMPASSIONATE**

Psalm 126:5-6, says, *“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.”*

We use that passage for soul winning, and rightly so. But it extends beyond soul winning to teaching and preaching as well. All we do for Christ is to manifest true

(Continued on page 4)

Profiles in ... (Continued from page 3)

jumped up out of his seat and shouted, **“Saved, Saved.”** Mr. Jack Scofield, the song leader, was so moved by the exclamation that the next afternoon he sat outside the hotel where Ham was staying, and composed both the words and music for our present day gospel song, **“Saved, Saved.”**

Mordecai Ham spoke eternal truths in the day in which he lived. Many of the things that he said are as relevant, if not more, than today. He believed fervently that ‘healing’ meetings that center upon the ability of a man to use the power of Christ, rather than to be used by Christ, were **“paving the way for the world to receive the antichrist.** He also observed that **“over-emphasizing healings and dramatic effects leads to worldliness. Worldliness is more than what most folks think it is. Whenever one emphasizes the here and the material more than the hereafter and the spiritual, he is worldly.”** He later said, **“The devil’s philosophy of self-generated righteousness is as false as is that of evolution ... the devil preaches morality against immorality. The Bible does not recognize any such distinction. The Bible distinction is between spirituality and carnality.”**

Pulpits and congregations could surely benefit from some modern day Mordecai Ham’s - both in evangelism and in living the Christian life.

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Pastor Dwight Porter*

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SIN - III

By way of a short review, we know that sin originated, not from God, but from an angel named Lucifer, in heaven. This formerly unfallen angel was blessed with numerous qualities that made him what he was. Most of those qualities are retained in his present state, as Satan. It is helpful to know these, for these are what your adversary fights with, even today.

As we moved to the earth, we saw the serpent (Devil, Satan) in the Garden of Eden with Eve. He begins to question her relationship with God, and attacks His Goodness, His Righteousness and Trustworthiness, and His Holiness. In Genesis 3:5, the serpent offers to Eve more freedom than God saw fit to give, and an understanding of more knowledge. It is at this point that we must ask what Adam and Eve knew about good and evil at this point. The answer is that they knew God personally and thus knew good by the doing of it and receiving it, and the result was happiness; they also knew the possibility of evil by God’s prohibition on eating of a specific tree, and the promise of a penalty; but they did not know evil by personal experience. That personal experience is what was offered by the serpent. Genesis 3:22, says, “*And the LORD God said, Behold, man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:*” So what happened here? Mankind desired and received a kind of knowledge that was proper and safe to only Deity. We can see this illustrated in a practical way by two examples: 1) Sex education in the government supported schools, and 2) Much of what is shown on Television or in Hollywood movies. It was as though man became dissatisfied with what God had given him and provided for him. He wanted more. He wanted to know evil, not as a possibility or symbol, which he already has, but rather, as a reality, by personal experience and freedom of choice. And he wanted it now. The deception found in verse 5, “... *and ye shall be as gods...*” was so powerful, that it was as though they would make God out to be as one of themselves, and thus, as good, as just, and as holy as God. That sounds like some of our modern cults and ‘name it and claim it’ lies, doesn’t it?

Genesis 3:6, presents 3 principles that were used on Eve by the serpent to seduce her. These were:

1. lust of the flesh (tree was good for food)
2. lust of the eye (it was pleasant to the eye); and
3. the pride of life (desired to make one wise)

And these three correspond with I John 2:15-17, as to what comprises what we know as the ‘world.’ Eve ate first and gave Adam some to eat as well – which he did.

PROFILES IN CHRISTIAN HISTORY MORDECAI HAM (1877-1961)

For over 40 years this fervent revivalist crisscrossed the south and lower Midwest conducting city-wide and local church tent and tabernacle campaigns. Both Ham’s father and grandfather were preachers and had a profound influence for the Lord’s work on him.

In analyzing Ham’s ministry in a book entitled, ‘*Biography of M. F. Ham,*’ the author stated that Ham’s “*first motive has not been additions, but always the glorifying of the Lord Jesus Christ.*” Two things were never allowed to unduly occupy his mind: the thought of past victories, and the desire for present popularity.

He was not afraid to become involved in necessary spiritual issues. He once declared, “*Wherever the apostles went, they either got souls or stones, and they either had revivals or riots, and sometimes both.*” On another occasion, he said, “*God does not get battleship material from rose gardens. Every true servant will be put through the fires.*”

Ham vigorously went after the liquor traffic of his generation. His reasons were solidly biblical and evangelistic. Ham wrote, “*I am an evangelist, called of God to preach salvation from sin through Jesus Christ, freely given to all who accept Him as their Savior by repentance and faith. The experience of several years of this work has demonstrated to me that thousands reject Christ because they are not willing to give up drink; and that other thousands, who would be glad to be freed from the appetite for*

(Continued on page 3)

Genesis 3:7, presents the immediate effects of sin! First, there was a sense of shame. They realized that they were naked, and immediately set out to clothe themselves (as in all false religions I might add). By the way, if Adam and Eve were of the world, they would not have cared that they were naked, nor tried to cover up on their own. Look at the way people are not dressing today. Do you notice the lack of shame? What does that tell you about their soul? Second, there was a dread of judgment. Genesis 3:8, says that they hid themselves from the LORD God. Vs.10, says, “... *I was afraid.*” Instead of running to Him as they had, they now run from Him. No longer is fellowship with the LORD God their greatest delight. All this came about the moment that they ate of the fruit of the tree. They died that moment, as they came under the guilt and curse of sin; and they feared a future death never before experienced. They hid from God as fast as they could. Then thirdly, they lied. Genesis 3:10, Adam’s fear was due to his sin, his disobedience, not his nakedness (which was but a symptom of his sin). Under God’s cross examination in verses 11-13, they wind up excusing their sin. Excuses serve to make things less offensive or less serious. Finally, the fourth effect, they found fault with God’s work. Vs. 12, says, “... *the woman whom thou gavest to be with me.*” And, in verse 13, Eve does the same with regard to the serpent. Amazing, isn’t it, how quickly these effects took place and have remained in place all through the history of fallen mankind. Nothing has changed. Sin brings shame, fear, lies, and finds fault with God’s work. These are bitter fruits that are to be shunned at all costs. When you come to the realization of how bad sin is, it should cause you to hate it with all your being, and we all should predetermine that we will not walk under control of the flesh, but in yieldedness to the Holy Spirit of God indwelling each of us who have been redeemed by the precious blood for our sin debt. If, in reading this series you find yourself without salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ, please realize that all you can do is sin. Come to Christ in repentance and faith, relying totally on His finished work for you, and you will not have to face the dreaded penalty of sin that all lost people will face at the White Throne Judgment.

Personal Word



It seems as though from the time that Pastor Porter went home to be with the Lord and we transitioned the work of the ministry to Titusville, that we have been trying to catch up. It isn't that we let things go or slide by intentionally, and we want to be consistent for the Lord in our service to Him and to all of you who care enough to receive *The Challenger* or literature. We are grateful to be of whatever service we can be to whomever it is that benefits by it. It seems that all we have to do is hold our breath for a short time and then we are trying to catch up. Making this issue a July/August combination, we should be set for September, Lord willing. When you were in school and missed a day or a week for

whatever reason, when you went back you understood that the school didn't stop for the time you missed: it just kept going forward. The same is true at work, at church, or in the ministry. Your day starts packed with all kinds of important issues and continues into the evening. You felt you had to put aside your Bible reading and meditation of the Scriptures for the day, and that you would make it up the next day. But the next day was similar, and you left your devotions go again. And now, you have to try to catch up to where you should be.

It is easy to overlook that which is important spiritually and eternally for that which is temporal. And the longer you do not examine where you are going with this, the farther behind you will get. And, the harder it will be to catch up. You are not alone in this: it is happening on an epidemic scale throughout professing Christendom. People are just not where they should be spiritually, and you do not have to look very far to see why. The hymn writer, William Kirkpatrick, penned these words in *Lord, I'm Coming Home*: ***"I've wasted many precious years, Now I'm coming home; I now repent with bitter tears, Lord I'm coming home. I've tired of sin and straying, Lord, Now I'm coming home; I'll trust thy love, believe thy Word, Lord I'm coming home."*** I don't know where each of you are spiritually today, but if it is not where you should be spiritually, then it is time to catch up. The Lord Jesus Christ wants you to. It may take some time depending on how long you have just stopped doing what would encourage and help your spiritual growth. Nevertheless, you need to do it. God will give you the time and strength. Some priorities will likely have to change, and doing so will benefit you greatly. I want nothing less than to be in God's will, doing God's work in His way, and being the light and the salt that I am supposed to be in all things. I trust that you are as well, or will be.

We have received many wonderful and kind letters. All of us praise the Lord for each of you and what you have said. Below are some samples:

"Thank you so much for your continued efforts to preach God's truth without watering it down, and making it of no effect. Your appropriately named newsletter has been a great source of encouragement to me throughout the years, and I make sure it always gets passed on to someone else when I am done with it." -Sterling, Colorado

"Please accept my condolences in the recent passing of Brother Porter. He has his rewards now. He loved the Lord and served Him faithfully. I speak for many others when I say that his work of bringing the good news of the gospel to so many incarcerated individuals is greatly appreciated. I pray that his wish, on continued ministering to the incarcerated, is continued." - Whiteville, Tennessee

All of us here at The Hour of Grace and Power wish you a Godly month, filled with uncountable blessings (because of the sheer number) of His grace and mercy, as well as souls saved for His glory.

Profiles in ... (Continued from page 2)
drink, nevertheless reject Christ because they do not believe they have the strength to give it up. Being ignorant of spiritual things, they do not know or believe that Christ will give them the necessary strength when they accept Him in good faith. Hence, I am persuaded that alcohol is the greatest hindrance to the salvation of men. For that reason, I preach against it as faithfully as any other sin. I could not do otherwise and remain true to my divine call."

This man of God was also an outspoken opponent of the religious apostasy that was sweeping over the country. He believed in both personal and ecclesiastical separation. He believed and preached that separation was stamped upon our lives as a necessary word of action if we were to have the favor of the Lord in our walk and our work. He viewed Modernism (rank religious unbelief) as a deadly poison. He wrote, *"Destroy a people's spiritual faith and one has done infinitely more damage than he could do by destroying a percentage of individuals with alcohol. A devil with horns is far more easily discredited than is a devil with clerical cloth and a Bible."* Ham was quick to relate that *"Unbelief is a disease which can be treated only with the medicine of Scripture."* He never found it necessary in 60 years of ministry and service to go apart from the Bible, and within its pages, he found answers to every problem and every challenge. Amen to that!

Mordecai Ham was also a man of great prayer. Day after day he could be found on his knees in prayer. The Western Kentucky Herald, in the Feb. 12, 1904, edition, gave its impression of Ham: ***"He is a man of prayer. Sometimes he spends hours in his room wrestling with God in prayer. He is also a very humble man ... that is one of the things that makes him right with God and man."***

One story might serve to show how he was used of God, and then we will close with a couple of quotes that bear on our day. During a campaign in Gonzales, Texas in 1910, he preached one night on ***"Christ Our Refuge."*** Present in the audience was a man who had killed four men and despaired of ever being saved. He listened as Ham explained that Christ is a refuge for sinners of every stripe, and that the cities of refuge in the Old Testament were a type of Christ, the haven of refuge for all who will flee to him.

Midway through the message, a man
(Continued on page 1)

Servants of Christ (Continued from page 1)

compassion on our part.

Jude 22, says, **“And of some have compassion, making a difference.”** In Luke 19:41,42, our Lord wept over Jerusalem. Have you ever wept over your city? Your family? Your local church? Your country? Paul was a man that was kind and considerate, methodical and loving. He wanted his nation to be saved, and he showed it. In Acts 20:31, he reminded the leadership of the church of Ephesus that even in his warnings over the last three years, they were not without compassion.

Vs.19: **“... and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:”**

The fourth trait of a servant is: **CHALLENGED**

If you can show me a servant of Christ that has not been challenged, then I can show you a Spirit-indwelt lost person. All who follow Christ and serve Him will be sorely challenged. Everywhere Paul went his reputation would precede him. Every town and synagogue would know about him. He was to be the next big name in Judaism: Rabbi Saul. Sometimes it is just in the title, but people would be taken by him and desire to be part of this new movement . . . but without Jesus Christ. Single women would be sure to make themselves available as marriage material. The challenge, or temptation toward PRIDE would be ever present. Even the great men of the scriptures were subject to temptations (James 5:17). And the way of escape comes with the temptation (I Corinthians 10:13). In our verse, Jewish unbelievers wanted to rid this man off the face of the earth. The challenge would be to carry on in the work of Christ and not lay low for a time, or stop for awhile, or just plain quit. Listen, if we are called to serve (and all of the saved are called to serve), then the Lord will equip us and strengthen us to do just that, no matter the circumstances. Christian, don't quit.

Vs.20-21: **“And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, Testifying both to the Jews and to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

The fifth trait of a servant is: **CHARITABLE**

Paul said that he didn't hold back anything that would be profitable to them. I take three areas therefore, that Paul brought before everyone he dealt with:

I Corinthians 13:1-3. He taught the importance of right and wrong in the context of Biblical love. If it was just a matter of being right or being wrong, and love wasn't involved, it was wrong and unprofitable.

II Timothy 3:16-17. He taught the whole counsel of God, not just pet doctrines or hobby horse ideas only. He even said so in Acts 20:27. There are more things in God's Word than any of us have the lifetime to bring before others. Why do we avoid them when they are just what others can profit from?

I Timothy 4:8. He taught them about godliness and holiness. Wherever he went, he willingly and readily taught these things, as well as much more, both privately and in public. A good servant of Jesus Christ won't hold back that which is profitable for others.

Vs.24: **“But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.”**

The sixth trait of a servant is: **COMMITTED**

Paul stated that he was a bond-slave, a prisoner of Christ. Thus, His will was Paul's will, and Paul's will was the Lord's will. Isaiah said that he had 'set his face like a flint,' in Isaiah 50:7. It was a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ's commitment to seek and save that which was lost. Nothing was going to deter Him. Nor should anything deter us. Ever. A servant of Jesus Christ is to be committed to God's will and God's Word and God's business.

We all have the same calling to manifest these traits in our service to our Lord and Savior. These things are our responsibilities. Brethren in Christ, let us be busy as servants of Christ right now.

Dwight Porter, D.D., Founder
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abounding in the work of the Lord . . .
You know your labor is not in vain in
the Lord” I Corinthians 15:58*

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