

The Power of The Cross

I. THE BANNER CALL FOR MORAVIAN MISSIONARIES

- A. The famous story that has inspired many in the missions movement for over the last 250 years occurred in December 1732, when Leonard Dober and David Nitschmann (both in their early twenties) were sent out as the first two Moravian missionaries. They departed from Herrnhut, in Germany, for St. Thomas Island in the West Indies. They sold themselves into slavery to reach the 3,000 slaves who worked the sugarcane fields owned by an atheist landowner who vowed to never allow Christianity to reach his property. Their families knowing they would never see them again wept as they asked them **why** they must go as they departed from Hamburg to sail through the North Sea. One of them cried out what became the banner call for all Moravian missionaries, ***"May the Lamb that was slain receive the reward of His suffering."*** Over the next 150 years, the Moravians sent out 2,000 missionaries to neglected areas of the earth.
- B. The Father is seeking people who worship (love, relate to, and serve) Him in spirit and truth. This prophetic statement by Jesus is a plumb line to measure our lives and our understanding of the nature of the kingdom. It answers the growing crisis of compromise in the Church today.
- ²³ ***True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him...*** ²⁴ ***Those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. (Jn. 4:23-24)***
- ⁹ ***The eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. (2 Chr. 16:9)***
1. ***In spirit***: to have a deep response that involves our spirit, the very core of who we are
 2. ***In truth***: refers to response rooted in the truth, or on God's terms, as seen in Scripture
- C. In understanding the gospel, we can think of the "big picture storyline" that pertains to the ***eternal commitments that Father and Son*** have given each other and the "temporary storyline" that we each have related to in ***our individual lives in this age***. What was the joy that motivated Jesus to endure the cross (Heb. 12:2)? The principles of Christ provide the framework upon which we build our life goals, dreams, and expectations.

II. THE POWER OF THE CROSS

- A. We are called to love God with all our heart as His first priority and our greatest calling. When we truly behold Jesus The Lamb of God, everything else fades in comparison. It brings us to the end ourselves, and causes us to love Him with all of our heart, with all your soul, with all our mind. This is the power of the cross!
- ³⁷ ***You shall love the Lord...with all your heart...*** ³⁸ ***This is the first and great commandment. (Mt. 22:37-38)***

- B. When Ezekiel prophesied about the new covenant, he identified some of God's motives for sending Jesus to save His people (Ezek. 36:22-26). One reason that God sent Jesus and established the new covenant was to sanctify or vindicate His name by telling the truth about Him. God promised to put the Holy Spirit in His people to empower them to obey God's word.
²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes...³² Not for your sake do I do this...let it be known to you.'" (Ezek. 36:22-32)
- C. Jesus died to purchase people for God so they would be filled with obedience and love for God.
- D. The Father sent Jesus because God so loved the world; Jesus came to seek and save the lost.
¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (Jn. 3:16)
- E. **God is self-sufficient:** He desires us, but does not need us. God does not need our worship to meet a need within Himself. His insistence on our worship is not because He is an insecure narcissist looking for human affirmation. Only by fully loving Him are we able to experience the fullness of what it means to be human, by relating to Him as our Father and our Bridegroom.
- F. The Father committed to give Jesus the preeminence or first place in everything. In other words, the Father works so that all creation obeys and honors Jesus as all the saints love and adore Him.
⁹ God has...given Him the name which is above every name (Phil. 2:9-11)
- The Saints and Angels cry: "*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!*" (Rev. 5:12)
- G. Jesus gives all to the Father that His Father would be all in all in the hearts of all the redeemed.
²⁴ Then comes the end, when He [Jesus] delivers the kingdom to God the Father...²⁸ Now when all things are made subject to Him [Jesus], then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him [the Father] who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. (1 Cor. 15:24-28)
- H. What is the reward of Jesus' sufferings? Why do the angels rejoice when someone repents (Lk. 15:10)? What was the joy set before Jesus (Heb. 12:2)? The answer includes three things:
1. **Concerning the Father:** He came to purchase men for God and vindicate God's name. His salvation empowered people to be filled with obedience to and affection for God.
 2. **Concerning the Son:** He came to receive His inheritance from the Father, which includes His Bride as His eternal companion and to rule all nations as the King of kings (Ps. 2:8; 110:1-3; Isa. 45:22-25; Rev. 19:15-16).
 3. **Concerning the saints:** He came to save the lost so that the redeemed could walk in the full dignity and purpose for which the Father created us.