

THAT'S MY JOB

There was a song that was somewhat a hit a number of years ago by Conway Twitty called "That's My Job". In the song, as a young child and then again as he aged, he voiced his fears of how he would manage, to his father who responded, "That's my job, that's what I do". He went on to explain it was his job to keep his son safe.

When one becomes a child of God, whether he realizes it or not, he has a new job. It is to spread the seed of the kingdom to the lost world of humanity. Occasionally, those who actively take part in the work that has been set before them, are accused of being fanatics because they bring up Christ and the salvation that can be found in learning the truth and obeying it. However, the truth of the matter is, "that's our job, that's what we do", if we are faithfully following the commands of the Lord.

The Bible teaches that God has provided salvation for man by way of His inspired word. It is the seed of the kingdom (Luke 8:11). It will save our souls (James 1:21). It is that by which we will be judged in the last day (John 12:48; Rom. 2:16). It is the power of God unto salvation and reveals all the righteousness of God (Rom. 1:16-17) and it is the means of "faith" (Rom. 10:17). The scriptures also teach that God has chosen to use Christians as the sowers of His seed. Paul wrote, "...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (Rom. 1:21). To the Romans Paul said, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 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?" (Rom. 10:13-14).

We are faced with these two truth, God's word must be taken to the lost and it is man that God intends to take it to them. The question might be asked, "what men?". Certainly, we would not expect the atheist to take the saving gospel of Christ to the lost. We can't even expect those who do believe there is a God, but have no intention of serving Him themselves to deliver God's message to those who have not heard it. Really, by process of elimination, we can see that the only reasonable answer to the question is--it is the job of Christians to plant the seed of the kingdom. No matter what others (maybe even some of our own brethren) call us, "That's our job, that's what we do!" Now, the question is...Are you doing your job?

Tilis

THE MESSENGER IS NOT THE PROBLEM

Ahab was probably the most wicked king that Israel ever had. His wife's name was Jezebel, whose very name is often used to denote a female of an utterly wicked nature. During the wicked reign of Ahab, there were several prophets that spoke out concerning the idolatrous practices as well as other wickedness promoted by king Ahab. One of those prophets was Elijah. At one point, Elijah went to king Ahab to speak to him face to face about his sinfulness. "And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim" (I Kings 18:17-18). It was not the messenger of God's word that was the problem, but the actions of those who violated God's word.

Many years later, Stephen proclaimed to the high priest of Israel and the whole council, "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which showed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murders" (Acts 7:51-52). Just a couple of verses later Luke records, "When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth" (Acts 7:54). They went on to stone Stephen to death. It seems that the Jews were still attacking the messengers of God as if they were the problem.

Not all those "Jews" of old have passed from this present life. There are multitudes of people today who attack the messengers of God's word, when the problem is with them rather than the one that is simply pointing out what God commands of them in order to have salvation. They fail to understand the same thing that Ahab and the Israel of his day, as well as the high priest and the Jews of Stephen's day failed to understand. That is that neither Elijah, Stephen nor those presenting the true gospel of Christ are seeking anything other than to help these individuals with the real problem, their presently lost souls. As Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10), so the one who is teaching the simple gospel of Christ is seeking to "snatch them out of the fire" (Jude 23) and save a soul from death (James 5:20). Let's not attack the messenger, the messenger is not the problem.

Tilis