

Sermon Notes - October 10, 2016
Austin Evangelical Fellowship
Diplomatic Briefing
Carl Teichrib

We are ambassadors of God's foreign service. You are a representative of the King; right here, right now.

Paul's use of comparative language: farm labourers, runners in a race, athletes, soldiers, farmers

1 Cor 3:6-9 - "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building."

1 Cor 9:24-26 - "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air."

2 Tim 2:3-6 - "Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops."

AMBASSADORS:

2 Cor 5:20,21 - "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Role and Duty - What does it mean to be an ambassador?

- official and legal representative of your government - the King - to a foreign land.
- to know your king's power and position and to represent his interests; not your own.
- to understand the customs and cultures of the foreign land; you are set apart from it but cannot be uninformed as to its character and composition.

1. To effectively communicate the king's message.
2. To recognize challenges to the king's interest and alert those in his service to the points of concern.

Examples:

Acts 17:16-34 - Paul at Mars Hill
- knew the culture

- quoted their philosophers

1 John - a warning to the church regarding Gnosticism.

Reminder of our King's Position:

He is Utterly Incomparable...

Isaiah 40:12-18

"Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has measured the Spirit of the Lord, or what man shows him his counsel? Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust. Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering. All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness. **To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him?"**

12 - to nature

13-14 - to human wisdom

15 - to nations

16 - to our models of worship

18-20 - to dead idols

21-24 - to princes and nobles

25-26 - to finite creation

27-28 - to personal despondency

29-31 - to youthful strength

Who do we serve?

Col 1:15-20 -

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. **For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell**, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross."

The King of kings

Lord of lords

First and the Last

Beginning and the End

Christian missions is truth-telling.

John 14:6 - "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Jesus in the only way. Is 40 - utterly incomparable

Call to truth telling:

Mark 16:15,16 - "And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

Acts 1:8 - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

1 Peter 3:15,16 - "but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame."

Rethink Christian missions.

- often viewed as overseas, but it's both.
- as an ambassador you are always engaged in missions.

The Core of Your Task:

Ps 96:2-3 - "Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!"

Different Faces of Missions: Truth-telling to all

- non-religious unbelievers
- religious non-Christians
- Christian community

Examples of missions:

- LDS Mormon friendship and Passion play invite in Indiana
- Christian missionaries at the Parliament of World Religions
- Burning Man festival, pass out water, help with vehicles

Our culture has turned away from Jesus and is looking for a substitute.

Two views:

- humanity valued above nature
- earth as a living organism

Transhumanism: technology as a way to save ourselves; become as gods. "We are god-men and will develop a god-like civilization."

Every facet of life touches the issue of truth.

(YouTube link to video)

Luke 23:34-43 - Jesus with the thief on the cross. What didn't He tell him to do?

Trust in the One who is true and who died for you.

Matt 5:13-16 - "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Acts 17:16-32 Paul as an ambassador at Mars Hill. Knew the culture well enough to leverage it.

- character of God
- nature of man
- God's work

1 John 5:20 - "And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life."