



THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD
Living Faith Chapel, Calgary

Bible study:

Tuesday, August 27, 2013

Theme: Count the Cost

Topic: **The cost of doing nothing**

Text: Example -Phil. 3:7-14, Exodus 14:8-15, Num 13:1-33

Introduction

The cost of maintaining the status quo is enormous. Luke 14:28 says “For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it? While some of us count the cost of doing something, we have come to accept doing nothing as a safe and acceptable alternative. We even make it the default solution. Believe me or not, there is a cost for doing nothing.

For the purpose of our bible study today, “doing nothing” is defined as “failure to accept the gospel of Jesus Christ or failure to grow in the work, doctrine, faith and the principles of the Kingdom of God.” To qualify as a child of God, an individual must do something i.e, he must be born of the spirit and of water. Jesus Christ, the Author and the Finisher of our faith declared to Nicodemus in John 3:3Most assuredly, I say to you unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. He reiterated this in verse 5 of the same chapter that, “ unless one is born of the spirit and water, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. This implies that in order to receive eternal life and reign with Christ in heaven, one must first do something, i.e become born again.

Christ, “the Messiah” came to give a life that is full and good. A decision not to accept the gospel of Christ or failure to grow in Christ leads to an absence of the New Life which He only can give .This futile decision produces a life of crisis, anxiety, depression, suicide, failures, hopelessness, lack of joy, destruction etc). Brethrens, when a child of God neglects the words or works of God, the cost could be great and alarming.

We shall look at few biblical examples where the children of God did nothing about His words or works and the consequences that followed:

Example 1.....This shows the failure of the Israelites to do as God had commanded them and the consequences of their actions. Book of Judges 6: 1-7.

- a) In Verse 1, the children of Israel did what was wrong in the sight of the Lord. They did not trust Him!
- b) Verses 1- 6 bad things happened to them which includes: they were oppressed by their enemies (the Midianites). They were driven out into mountains clefts, caves and strongholds. Their crops and animals were destroyed resulting in famine, poverty, sorrow and impoverishment.
- c) Verse 7.....They remembered the Lord and did something (prayed, trusted the Lord, renewed their faith in God, cried out for help). Therefore, the Lord heard their cries and saw that their hearts had turned to Him, He sent divine help to them.

See! How much sufferings they could have avoided by doing something for the Lord everyday!

We learnt to trust the Lord daily as we walk with Him. Even though this may not necessarily mean that we would not experience troubles or difficulties. But, God will strengthen us through them.

Example 2. This showed how Jabez cried to the Lord as a result of sorrow and pains that characterised his life because of his name. (1 Chronicle 4: 9 - 10).

The mother called him Jabez because of the pains and sorrows she suffered during childbirth. When he became a man, Jabez called on God to change his destiny. He trusted in the ability of God to change life and his prayer was answered.

This is an example that showed that when believers do something to God or for God, the Almighty God who sees all things reward their labours of Love in His own ways (2 Chr 7:14).

According to Isaiah 60: 15-16, those who trust in the Lord and call on His Holy name, He promised to give them peace, joy and make them great.

Example 3. The Story of the Talents: Matt 25: 14 - 30

This scriptures described the blessings that came upon the servants who invested their talents and multiplied them. These two servants did something with the talents that the Master gave to them. Therefore, each one of them was blessed and encouraged. However, the third servant did not do anything with the talent that was given to him. He hid the talent under the ground until the Owner came back. As a result, the Master took away the talents and gave it to the servant with the ten talents. The third servant was rejected and became poor and sorrowful.

What can we learn from these stories?

1. God has given everyone a gift or talent.
2. It is the desire of God that we must wisely and profitably use the gift He has given to us.
3. The Lord blesses those who use their gifts.
4. There are consequences on those who fail to use their talents or skills.
5. God is looking for true worshippers to worship and trust in Him. God keeps covenant with people who can keep a constant relationship with Him.
6. As a sovereign God, He can chastise the beloved ones who disobey or fail to honour Him in prayers, praises, worships, adorations, soul winning etc.

There is a need to do something.

- Do something about your faith (Heb 11:6, Prov 3: 5-6)
- Do something about your calling (Matt 20:16; Matt 7: 13-14)
- Grace (Eph 2:8)

- Family (Eph 6: 1 -4)
- Characters/speech etc.....(Gal 5:13, Phil 4:8-9)
- Do something about your health. Obedience to God produces sound mind and good health (3 John 1:2)
- Do something about your children
 - Perspective about children Psalm 127: 3 - 5 ; Exodus 18:20; Prov. 22:6.
 - Teach them, 2 Timothy 1:5 ; Eph 6:4
 - Provide for them 1 Tim 5: 8 (But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever)
 - Discipline them. Prov 23: 13-14; Prov 29:15, 17
 - Love them (Discussion Point, Parents what else can we do about our children?)
- Children Do something about your parents..... Proverbs 15:20, Eph 6:2
- Keep pressing towards the goals. Don't say I have tried something.....Don't give up. Don't say, I have prayed enough.....PUSH(Pray Until Something Happens). Refuse to be discouraged. Learn to forget the past and strive to press forward (Phil 3: 12-13)

What are the consequences of doing nothing?

- 1) Loss of soul: John 3:3 (...unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God)
- 2) Spiritual immaturity (Heb 5: 12), curse (Heb 6: 8)
- 3) Fruitlessness: John 15:5, 7
- 4) Spiritual death: Matt 3: 10.
- 5) Poverty: Prov 14:23 (In all labour there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty)
- 6) Worries: Phil 4:6-7
- 7) Sins (David and Bathsheba)
- 8) etc

Conclusion:

A life that is devoid of Christ is a life in crisis and without meanings. God has created us to serve His purpose. When the children of God fails to do something for God, then the life becomes empty, worthless, unfruitful and without values. Today, we pray that the spirit of the Lord will strengthen you to fulfill the purpose for which He has called you to His kingdom. Arise, stir up the gift of God that is given to you through Christ Jesus. For we have not been given the spirit of fear but of power, love and sound mind. Arise and shine!