

The QBC Daily Nugget April 1, 2013

“The Rules of the Lord are true and righteous. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold” (Psalm 19:9b-10a)

PSALM 67:1-2 – May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, *Selah*² that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.

THEME OF THE DAY: THE SOURCE OF GOSPEL ZEAL. What motivates us to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus with people? I am referring to all people – believers and unbelievers alike for everyone needs the Gospel – for the unbeliever, it is the message of reconciliation to God; for the believer, it is the message of fellowship with God. If we are Christians today, when is the last time we thought on the gospel for our soul’s sake? Think with me along these lines - what stirs our hearts, warms our affections, and empowers our lives with the joy of the Lord? The Gospel. And for the clearest definition of the Gospel, we go to the Apostle Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians – “*Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve*” (1 **CORINTHIANS 15:1-5**). The Gospel is daily food for our souls. It alone is the answer to fear, anxiety, stress and pressures of living in a fallen world. Every Christian knows this truth, yet, few Christians consistently share this truth. A survey conducted by Campus Crusade for Christ estimated only 2 percent of Christians actively share the Gospel. Lifeway also conducted a survey. Their research found 80 percent of those who attend church one or more times a month, believe they have a personal responsibility to share their faith, but 61 percent have not told another person about how to become a Christian in the previous six months. Where do you and I fall into the data? Would we be in the 98 percent of “silent Christians” coming from the Campus Crusade for Christ survey? What about the Lifeway research? Would we be in the 61 percent who have not intentionally and clearly shared the Gospel with anyone in the past half-year?

My objective is not to “guilt us” into the work of the Gospel. Please don’t run off to your local Christian bookstore to buy a ton of tracts or empty your churches’ tract rack and begin to cover your neighborhood. Use tracts, but don’t let guilt drive us to the privilege of sharing the Gospel. There is a motive and source for sharing the Gospel that is really the only sustaining motive and source for sharing the Gospel and it isn’t guilt. It is found in today’s scripture – fellowship with God. In the opening verse, the Psalmist offers a desire for himself and his audience – “*May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us*”. Obviously, this isn’t a literal seeing of God. It is a plea for intimate fellowship with God. Like what we read of with Moses and the Lord – “*Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend*” (**EXODUS 33:11a**). And what we read of with Peter and John – “*Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus*” (**ACTS 4:13**). The way to avoid being a fearful and thus silent Christian when it comes to sharing the Gospel is to spend time – a lot of time – seeking the face of God. It will be impossible to remain silent about Jesus Christ and His Gospel when we enjoy Him and His Gospel. Fellowship with God produces loving boldness for God and the Psalmist links this fellowship with proclamation of God’s saving message to the world – “*that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.*”

So, when it comes to being vocal and active in the work of the Gospel, let’s not be guilt-ridden to the work. Instead, let’s be love-driven to the work by seeking consistent fellowship with our God. From that place will come a heart AND tongue proclaiming the glorious Gospel.

PRAYER: “Lord, draw me near Your heart to enflame my heart for those to know You.”