

Zahakiel: It is time to begin. Pastor, please offer an opening prayer.

Pastor Chick: Dear Father in heaven. We seek and expect a refreshing from on high during this sacred hour. Thank you for your Presence and care for us. In Yahshua's holy name, Amen.

Zahakiel: Amen.

Adriel7777: Amen

Gloria: Amen.

Lucan: Amen

Ruth: Amen

Barb: Amen

Elyna1: Amen

Kimberly: Amen

daphna: Amen

Zahakiel: Happy Sabbath to everyone. Tonight's study is called "Bold and Humble."

In most Churches of Christendom, Evangelism consists of learning "what to say." If you can effectively make the argument that this particular set of doctrines, or that particular set of beliefs, is correct, then you can gain the intellectual agreement of someone, perhaps even to the point at which they are baptized. Many Churches will focus on what they consider the "core" ideas of Christianity... that we are all sinners in need of a Savior, that Christ is that Savior, and that by accepting Him we avoid everlasting death, and gain everlasting life. Since most people in many parts of the world hold the Bible in some esteem, various verses are used to express these with some support, and so interest, and then conversion of a sort, is obtained.

The fact that the actual Church presenting this position is rarely discussed is revealing. A Methodist, Baptist, or many of the various groups calling themselves "Evangelical" could present identical arguments, which has led many people to the very understandable conclusion that it doesn't really matter what denomination you belong to... "It's all about the Gospel." While that phrase is true, in that the words are accurate, the understanding of what it means is often critically deficient.

Those not heavily educated in Bible doctrine can find justification for not caring about labels and titles... the form of Christianity that they have accepted ("Christ Without A Covenant" might be a useful description) often actively shuns Scripturally sound words like "Religion" and "Church Organization," and so the outreach of these groups places no emphasis on some of the very things that Yahweh most explicitly directs His people to uphold.

And such is the state of the world; the religious experience of most is the spiritual equivalent of premarital or extra-marital intimacy. An unmarried woman in such a relationship may receive some of the benefits of husband, but she may not abide with him, nor does she take his name.

What Yahshua has been given by the Father is a Bride. She is faithful to Him always – consistently. This is the First Angel in marriage. She does not flirt with other men (organizations, kingdoms, false gods, idols, false doctrines) but has received a name that identifies her forever as His, with no opportunity for confusion. This is the Second Angel in marriage. In fact, she is of her husband's "mind," as the expression goes – in agreement with Him in all that pertains to life and godliness, and does not stray from Him in either beliefs or works, and thus avoids the impress of the world on either her forehead or her right hand. This is the Third Angel in marriage, in both divine and material unions.

The Everlasting Gospel is a description of Christ's Bride, and an evangelist who does not know this is not presenting words of life, but a close counterfeit... beginning well, perhaps, but falling short of that which results in a genuinely "new creature" that has ceased from sin and lives in the resurrection glory of Christ.

So then, while many evangelists of the worldly churches learn what to say, and how to present arguments in a convincing manner, they are not giving a living testimony of themselves, of Christ, or of His Bride. Evangelism in Christ is not about what to say, but about who to be. It is not doctrine that converts, but testimony, and it is important to understand the difference between these two concepts. Doctrine is good, when used for its proper purpose – to educate Christians about the truth, and to refine their understanding of the character of the Father and Son.

Testimony is also good, and has a different purpose – to appeal to the thoughts and spiritually sensitive feelings of humanity in a way that allows the Holy Spirit to bring conviction. Testimony is a revelation of the self, and therefore for the born-again, it is a revelation of the Savior who dwells within those for whom "self" is dead. Testimony is when one says to another, "This is the thing to which I bear witness... what I have seen, and experienced, for myself." And it is within the context of testimony that this verse takes on a powerful meaning:

Christ says to His disciples, "Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." (John 15:15)

Christ makes known to us the deep things of the Father, things that even the angels are not created to understand. It is written of Yahweh's prophets, which all of His people are called to be, "they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you

by them that have preached the Gospel unto you with the Holy Spirit sent down from Heaven; which things the angels desire to look into." (1Pet 1:12)

We are told that we shall judge the angels. It is not because we are mightier than they, nor older and therefore more experienced. We shall judge the angels because we share in divine wisdom when we are one with Christ, and when our testimony is therefore His testimony. And "when" shall this be? When does our testimony become the "testimony of Jesus Christ?"

It is not when judgment ends, and probation closes. Two thousand years ago, the apostle said to the "ordinary, average" Christian, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Yahshua:" (Phil 2:5)

This was written by Paul, not to prophets. It was not written to elders, or to His fellow apostles. This was written, to quote the beginning of his letter, "to all the saints in Christ Yahshua which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:" (Phil 1:1)

All the saints, every one of really every congregation, are told to "let", to permit the mind of Christ to be in them. It is not a thing to be figured out, earned, or won in a conflict. It is a gift of the Father and Son, this "mind of Christ," and it is not forced. It is something we "let," choose to receive; this is a truth that rebukes both those who say we cannot be Christ-like on earth, and those who say that free will is an illusion created by a God who does not respect the choices of His creation. Those who "let" the mind of Christ alight upon them speak with the Spirit of that very Savior. All that He has said of His character, and His relationship to the Law, we say also.

This is evangelism.

Evangelism, true evangelism, is inviting someone to bear witness to your heart and mind. It is saying, "If you have seen me, you have seen the Son." It may involve a discussion of doctrine... the purpose of Yahweh giving His people a name, after all, is to draw the attention of sinners to often-neglected obligations to the Creator, and thus, because of OUR name, we know the things that Yah would have us explain to the world:

Creation, the Seventh-day Sabbath (and by extension, all of the divine Law), and the rapidly approaching Advent of the Son. And yet, once the attention is arrested by some sensible explanation of a Biblical concept, this is no guarantee that the heart is won. This is a particular risk in these days of the Independent Ministry and the Independent Atom. Those who learn a new truth are more likely to incorporate it into their personal set of beliefs... than to give thanks to Yahweh for a people who have been called to share those truths as a united spiritual nation.

Again, it is the mindset of Christ without a Covenant that causes people to see "truth" as a cloud of information from which they may select a customized set of facts. The idea that salvation is an individual experience has been taken to an extreme that resists the Biblical call to unity, and causes people to stumble at the clear, simple expression of the Three Angels' Message.

When the heart and mind of Christ is revealed through the words of the true evangelist, whose words express the principles of the Three Angels' Message, the Spirit works on the heart and mind of the hearers, framing the experience as an invitation. The questions may be asked, "What is it about the experience that draws people near? What takes them past the point of merely learning new things to a desire for fellowship and unity?" The best way to answer the question is to go to the source. What was it about Yahshua's public ministry that impressed His hearers? I would suggest that there are three things, two of the mind and heart, and one of the spirit directly.

The first is this: "And they were astonished at His doctrine: for He taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes." (Mar 1:22)

The second is this: "And when He was accused of the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then said Pilate unto him, 'Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee?' And He answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly." (Mat 27:12-14)

The third, spiritual factor is recorded in passages like this: "And it came to pass, as He sat at meat with [two disciples], He took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened; and they knew Him; and He vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, 'Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the scriptures?'" (Luke 24:30-32)

Here we see the interaction of the Holy Spirit's direct influence on the hearers with the words of the evangelist that reflect two key characteristics of Yahshua's nature:

Boldness and Humility.

The servant of Christ is bold, but bold like Yahshua, not bold like the world. The boldness of the evangelist is not rooted in self-esteem or self-importance. It is not based upon an individual's wisdom, or skill at speech and writing. It is not based on reputation, or individual merits of any kind. This is why Paul could say to "all the saints," "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Yahshua." He did not say, "Choose your best speakers, and send them into the cities to reveal the mind of Christ." He did not say to those of impressive stature, "Go forth and show the people what Christians look like." No... every tongue has a word to speak, and every hand has a work to do, to glorify the Father in the name of the Son.

Boldness in Christ is the certainty that we are called to serve our Father and our fellow man, and a willingness to "let" the mind of Christ reveal to us the manner of that service. Thus, men like Peter who were once rash and impulsive may stand before a crowd and reveal heart-cutting truths. Men like Matthew who were once reviled as Rome's tax-collecting oppressors may speak to Jews and Gentiles without being ashamed of his past. Men and women once shy, uncertain, and hesitant, may be moved by the Spirit that dwells within them, the Person of Christ Himself, to encourage righteousness and rebuke sin.

The servant of Christ is humble, but humble like Yahshua, not humble like the world. The humility of the evangelist is not rooted in denying the gifts that Yah has given him, either through natural talent or practice. It is not based upon downplaying the glory of the Father and Son that rest upon those who unite with Them in character and purpose. It is a humility that lets "each esteem others better than themselves," (Phil 2:3) and rejoices in the blessings and gifts of other brethren without envy. It is a humility that does not prevent honest utterances in due season and, while according to the world humility and boldness are opposing principles, in Christ they find their pure and harmonious balance. When the evangelist is of this order, then his words come forth, not from a script, but from the Spirit. There may be inspired tools available to initiate conversations, and the CSDA Church has produced a number of studies and articles that may serve this purpose quite effectively... but ultimately it is the testimony of the one who uses the tools that opens the door to the operation of the Holy Spirit. It is the boldness and humility of the servant of Yahweh that will cause the world to be "astonished" at our doctrine, and to "marvel greatly" at the fruit of our spirit. It is then that the Divine Advocate can work to bring about that third element, that burning conviction that causes not merely a change in mind, or temporary joy at learning some new truth, or having some confusing verse finally explained... but there will be a certainty that there is a people, a Family, waiting for them in which the truth finds its everlasting expression.

When I first became a mainstream Seventh-day Adventist, my newly converted SDA friends spoke as I had never heard them speak before. They revealed the meaning of the Book of Revelation and the Mark of the Beast in ways I had never considered. When I heard their words, I felt that burning in my chest, and could not deny that the divine was involved in what I was experiencing. Their understanding of the Gospel was incomplete, and their teachings about the Sunday Law as the Beast's Mark was out of date... nevertheless, Yahweh used their evangelism, their earnest efforts to save my life and soul, to bring me into a position to later find the rest of the story, and to hear the Gospel in its fullness.

As Creation Seventh Day Adventists, we have the great blessing of the complete picture. There are things yet to learn, and to unlearn, and characters to polish for a final display to the universe, but those things that Yah has given to us to share with the world: Victory, Purity, Unity... Creation, Sabbath-rest, and the Covenant of

Fellowship among those awaiting Christ's return... in these things we are supremely confident. Through these doctrines we share the glory of the Father and Son. Through the testimony that accompanies them we open hearts and minds to the invisible ministry of the Holy Spirit, causing eyes to light up with new insight, and hearts to burn with new conviction.

Through our boldness in Christ, and our humility in Christ, we bring into the world an impossible brightness that both confirms our value as vessels, and at the same time swallows us up entirely... so that Dearest Yahshua is seen, revealed to the spiritual eyes and ears of those who bear witness to us, and not the mere human messenger.

All that we have, we have been given by our Father... and so we are humble, claiming no merit of our own. All that we reveal, we have chosen to reveal, being given freedom by our Creator and Savior to act according to our sanctified desires... and so we are bold, claiming no sin or weakness that would hinder the invincible testimony that overcomes the world.

We are blessed above all men and women who have ever walked this earth, to be called evangelists, cooperators with the Father and Son in the winning of souls in this last and most wicked generation. We are blessed above anyone we have ever known or heard of, to be called the Children of the Most High, and those who are invited to follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth, to stand before the Father without a Mediator, nor a need for One, because the Father Himself loves us, and has sent His Son to bring forth a people perfected, fit for service in the everlasting ages to come. Let the sure knowledge of this holy purpose guide our testimony to the world by the mind of Christ with which He has gifted and blessed us all.

Are there any questions or comments about the study tonight?

Adriel7777: Amen!

Naraiel: Amen

Elyna1: Amen.

Lucan: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Lucan: I appreciated the emphasis on "LET this mind be in you" as an illustration of Sabbath rest. On my drive home today, I was given a similar thought regarding "Let not your heart be troubled," and other various "Let nots..." Ultimately, we are servants, whether of sin or righteousness; every person is "letting" a thought, or mind, or spirit direct them... We are blessed to be conscious of this, and able to use it to our salvation by "letting" the correct mind and Spirit dwell within us...

Adriel7777: Amen

Elyna1: Amen

Lucan: And, this comes with the necessity of "letting not" the alternative; which may require examining the thoughts to 'update the database,' so to speak. 😊 <end.>

Zahakiel: Thank you for sharing that insight, yes 😊

Marie-kadeth: Amen 😊

Zahakiel: Are there any other thoughts to share? All right, then I'll ask Bro. Luke to offer a closing prayer.

Lucan: Dear heavenly Father. We thank you for reminding us in new language of the marriage covenant You have established between your Son and your people. We are blessed to boldly proclaim that which we have humbly received. May your Spirit guide us individually and as a people, as those who have covenanted to let the mind of your Son dwell in us fully. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

Zahakiel: Amen.

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Barb: Amen

Ruth: Amen

Adriel7777: Amen

daphna: Amen

Kimberly: Amen

Marie-kadeth: Amen😊

Elyna1: Amen.

Gloria: Amen.

Naraiel: Amen