

Zahakiel: Let's begin. Pastor, please offer an opening prayer.

Pastor Chick: Dear Father in Heaven. We thank You for another week of sanctification. A week of living in the school of Christ. We are also thankful for the Sabbath repose and this convocation convened by Your Spirit. May our minds and hearts be renewed with spiritual and mental vigor. Pour Your sweet Spirit upon his in latter rain magnitude. In YAHSHUA's holy name, AMEN.

Barb: Amen

Lucan: Amen

Peter: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.

Elyna: Amen

Adriel: Amen

Daphna: Amen

Gloria: Amen.

Naraiel: Amen

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

Gadriel: Amen, Amen

Zahakiel: Happy Sabbath to everyone. This week, our study is entitled "The Unspoken Need."

In regard to Christendom in general, it is often the case that those who claim to be followers of Yahshua may go their whole lives thinking – believing – that they know what is in the Bible. I remember watching a Bible show that was recorded live on the Internet some years ago in which they were speaking about the Roman Catholic veneration of Mary, the mother of Yahshua. During the course of the study, one woman, clearly a Roman Catholic herself, called in. She was infuriated at what they were saying. She demanded that the Bible teachers stop speaking about Mary as if she was not sinless, as if she was not worthy of worship, and intended to be the object of our prayers. The two teachers, very diplomatically, asked the caller what the Bible actually said about Yahshua's mother. She stammered a bit, and then she said, to the best of what I can recall, "It says she was without sin, that she is infinite, and that she is praying for us before God." The teachers asked her to show them where, in the Bible, these things were said, and she hung up in a huff.

Now, it is certainly true – in Roman Catholic doctrine – that those things (or things very similar) are said. However, it is not until we investigate the Scriptures for ourselves that we come away with a clear understanding of truth, and a valid image of the character of the Creator. No authority, no tradition, no imagined beliefs, can replace the plain, "Thus saith the Lord."

I have begun tonight's study this way, with this story, for two reasons. First, I want to highlight the need for us, in our evangelism, to encourage those with whom we speak to

become investigators of the Word for themselves. Only those who have a firm foundation in the Truth, for themselves, can stand. Merely accepting the CSDA message because someone told them what it was is not sufficient to prepare them for the deceptions in the Time of Trouble. These Friday night studies, as blessed as I am to offer them, and as useful as I pray they are to you, are not a substitute for personal prayer, study, and worship.

Second, I share this story because once I was very much like that woman in a certain sense. I thought I had a pretty good handle on the Scriptures, even though I hadn't read them a lot. I thought I understood what Yahweh wanted of me and, as long as I followed the rules, and generally did "good" (in my own estimation of what that meant) then I was "Okay." I now understand that this was a works-based religion. It had no true faith in the saving power of Yahshua. My impression, as is the impression of many, was that Christ's sacrifice opened a Way, but that I must earn my way through that Way, doing good deeds that were the "steps" I was taking toward Heaven. It was not until I became an SDA that I began to have an idea of just how much Yahshua had done for me on the Cross. He not only opened the Way, but He became the Way in me, and the Walker of that Way. It was not until I became a CSDA, and came to understand the Sabbath as more than just a day, that I realized that what I needed to do was agree with the Father and Son in my spirit, and rest. Christ performs the works of Yahweh through me. That is the Gospel, and that is the NEED of every human being who has ever lived.

Adriel: Amen

Zahakiel: Everyone needs to learn this. Everyone needs to study the Scriptures and see Yah's Face for themselves, and also to be told about the true Gospel, because there are so many counterfeits available for purchase.

But now, one of the other things that I learned, after becoming a CSDA, and being introduced to both pure faith and pure doctrine, was the way that the character of Yah manifests itself in Yahshua's behavior through us. I learned principles I would have never imagined in any previous experience, or that I had never heard from any other Church. I learned the true meaning of the 10 Commandments, and (as I mentioned) the Sabbath in particular. I learned about Feast Days, and New Moons. I learned about the beauty that Yahweh has placed in the Creation, and the various rules-of-thumb that, even if they are not spelled out as clearly as Gospel Order in Matthew 18, are at least shown very clearly in the records of Yah's chosen ones.

One such implied character trait that I learned was that of allowing people to grow and develop, to learn and overcome problems on their own, if they are able to do so. The natural instinct of a "kind" and "Christian" person, one would think, is to offer as much

help as possible, as often as they can. It turns out, however, that if this tendency to be helpful falls out of balance, it becomes "officiousness," a word I had never heard before becoming a CSDA Christian. It is possible, it turns out, to over-help, to smother people with our desire to see them succeed, to the point where we actually prevent them from succeeding, or even learning how to succeed, on their own.

The Scriptures do not actually say, "God helps those who help themselves." Against the spiritual and cosmic forces set against us, there is not one who can truly "help" himself. However, the Word does say, "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat." (2Th 3:10) There is also, "Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep, and an idle soul shall suffer hunger." (Pro 19:15)

In an eternal sense, where salvation is concerned, Yahweh helps the helpless who turn to Him. When it comes to the affairs of daily life, however, we are not to be idle or slothful. From a practical perspective, we must work to earn a living. From a spiritual one, we are called to employ our talents and our time in revealing Christ's excellent character in our labors. (Mat 25:14-30) We ought not to – through officiousness – prevent this character from being revealed in the works of others. Where help is truly needed, we should offer it. Where help (and by this we may also include advice and suggestions) is neither desired nor requested, we should let providence have its good pleasure.

So in light of this understanding, here is an issue that is worth considering: If officiousness is offering advice and help that is neither requested, nor wanted, how do we deal with the issue of proselytizing?

The native inhabitants of various countries did not request, nor did they often seem to desire, the missionary services of (largely) European and then American ministers sharing with them the Word of Yahweh. In fact, I once heard a university religion teacher (a rather liberal one) saying that, for all their good intentions, she considered missionaries to be rather arrogant, to think that they were helping to improve the quality of life of those whom they considered to be "lesser" than themselves.

Of course, one who is a true follower of Christ evangelizes because of love for those whom he loves as himself, and does not consider anyone to be "lesser." The question that the statement raises, however, is worth considering, for by doing so we learn more about the Savior who instructed us to teach the Gospel to every creature. We are driven to teach everlasting life to everyone, but we well know that not everyone "wants" to be taught. We need merely look at the stereotypes of Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons to realize that many people resent those who are offering them a (near) Biblical perspective on life. Further, it is very rare (although quite pleasant when it happens) that someone comes up to us and says anything at all like, "Please, show me where I am wrong. Teach me the real Gospel." If, then, people rarely seem to want the Gospel, or to request it, how do we

square the drive to evangelize with the principle of avoiding officiousness? To this I would say there are three answers:

1) First, and most obviously, we are given a direct command by Yahshua. He said, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." (Mat 28:19, 20) That is clear enough, and a clear instruction always overrules applications of a derived principle. We may "figure out" what the Bible teaches us to do as a rule of thumb, as a righteous course of action under most circumstances, but this will never have higher authority than the very words of Scripture, and even more so when reading a direct quotation from the Son of Yahweh. In this matter, we are to acknowledge His words as Spirit and Life, (John 6:63) and do them with all eagerness and effort.

2) The preaching of the Gospel is not actually a violation of the principle at all. When help is truly needed, especially in an emergency, we must act. If we see someone about to step off of a cliff, we must shout a warning. If they cannot hear us, we must rush over and be prepared to stand between them and disaster. If their response is to push us out of the way, that is their choice, but we would not love them if we did not tell them that they were heading for death. All men need the Gospel, whether they know that they need it or not. It is written, "And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, even in His Son Yahshua the Messiah. This is the true God, and eternal life." (1 John 5:19, 20)

The world lies in wickedness. All have sinned and come short of Yahweh's glory. The wages of this sin is death, and death everlasting. These are things that we, who "are of God," and who are "in Him that is true," know. As such, we know that which the world needs to know, and with this knowledge comes the responsibility, and the privilege, to speak the truth in love, for the salvation of men's souls. Yahweh has given us a way to know the truth, as John writes above, so that those who reject the work of the Gospel messengers are not responding to officiousness. They are turning away from life, and are without excuse.

3) With regard to stated reactions... not only might many not acknowledge their need, but they might not even realize, at least not consciously, that such a need exists. As I said above, they have been given the ability to recognize truth, to understand the love of Yahshua calling out to them. At the same time, there is an Enemy, a liar and the Father of Lies, who might manipulate this potential recognition, and make his victims believe that they are hungering for something else. This is the reason why tonight's study is called "The Unspoken Need."

We read, "The fool hath said in his heart, 'There is no God.'" (Psa. 14:1) "Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? Who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon Yahweh." (Psa. 14:4) "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9)

In the flesh, mankind is foolish, and easily deceived. This is especially true when it comes to spiritual things; the things of Yahweh are "foolishness" to the natural man, it is written. (1Cor 2:14) Satan takes full advantage of this in his Great Controversy against the Almighty. All men feel a longing for the truth, but may not recognize what it is, and seek to fill it with riches, power, human affection, and so on. Satan works with this natural tendency of the flesh, and thereby holds all men but the Redeemed as prisoners. Any addiction – let the truth be told – whether it be for drugs, or food, or anything else, is merely a perversion of mankind's desire for Yahshua.

I say this again, the Spirit bearing me witness: Any addiction that a man may experience, whatsoever the object of that addiction, the truth behind it, perverted by Satan, is the desire, the need, for Yahshua. Because of the flesh, and because of the Enemy, the need is often unrecognized, unspoken. It is the work of the Gospel messenger, the Evangelist, to open up the truth to Satan's victims so that, perhaps, they may come to recognize what it is they are truly seeking in this life, and then they can make an honest choice. The Evangelist, therefore, is not officiously offering help where none is requested or desired. He is responding to the genuine, but unspoken, need. He is allowing those with whom he speaks to understand that help is needed. Help is needed, and if they come to understand this, and ask for the help they need, then they will receive it according to the promise of the Creator.

As evangelists, we must balance even the application of good principles. If someone is about to fall off a cliff, as I have said, we do not wait for them to ask us to help them. Sometimes the need is obvious, and with the Gospel, we know for certain that this is a need all men have. The fact of the matter is, the world as a whole is about to go off a cliff. Some might say it has gone off already, and is just waiting to hit the ground and shatter. However we state the analogy, all of humanity is in extreme danger, and in the case of an emergency, the worst thing we can do, the worst hostility against Yahweh who loves all of humanity, is to do nothing. The truly "kind" and the truly "Christian" thing is – and must be – to act.

To the Brethren I say, then, Be bold in evangelism. Be bold in speaking the truth with love. When all else fails in our attempt to grasp the perfect, balanced application of any principle, look to Christ, the perfect Example. Consider that the Sadducees and Pharisees did not ask for His criticism of their hypocrisy and doctrinal failings. Yet He offered it to them – lovingly, but forcefully – because they needed to hear it. Consider that His followers did not request that He rebuke them in any of the events recorded in the Gospel

Record, but He did, knowing that they needed to hear His loving, but direct, words. Perhaps best of all, consider that the multitudes did not ask Him to teach them of Everlasting Life, but when He, seeing their need, began to speak of His Father, with such grace and power, they drew near.

So then, for us, when speaking in person, or by telephone, or sending emails, or submitting messages to mailing lists, or sending studies to those we think could use them, and links to our websites, or forums, or whatsoever else we do... do not wait to be invited. Do not wait to see a particular need expressed. Do what is placed upon your heart, and then, because we do not wish to truly be officious, nor to be oppressive, IF we are asked not to share any further, then only must we withdraw.

Satan stole this world from mankind. Yahshua died that men should have a chance to hear the truth, and to reclaim their intended inheritance. Because of Yah's people, because of us, Salvation may become an "opt out" arrangement. We once heard a sermon, "It is easier to be saved than lost." Here is another example of the truth of that sentiment. Grace, love and power are mankind's for the taking. They may have it, freely given, if only they will accept. They must, praise be to Yah, specifically declare – by either word or deed – that they do NOT want the salvation of Yahshua, for such is the love of Yah to all mankind, that He has given All Things to meet mankind's unspoken need.

The grace of Yah has appeared to all men (Titus 2:11) for their eternal good, and we, the Bride of Christ, the CSDA Church, are the appointed means by which that grace has appeared in this generation.

Are there any comments or questions about tonight's study?

Adriel: Amen!

Zahakiel: All right, if there are none, then I will ask Bro. Luke to offer a closing prayer.

Lucan: Dear heavenly Father...

Elyna: Amen!

Lucan: We thank you that, having been healed, we have been blessed with the eyesight to see the disease of sin for what it is. We know the need of others, as we know the need we have once had, that is now filled in your Son. As we depart into a world filled with the wandering and confused, we ask that your Spirit guide our words and examples, that they might see the better Way available to them, and embrace it for themselves. In the name of Yahshua we pray, amen.

5-27-2016 The Unspoken Need

Gloria: Amen.

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

Gadriel: Amen, Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.

Barb: Amen

Adriel: Amen

Elyna: Amen.

Peter: Amen

Daphna: Amen

Pastor Chick: Amen

Naraiel: Amen