

Holding Forth the Word of Life

Sunday, February 10, 2019

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Straight Paths Bible Church

Phil 2:15-16 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

- I. It is the duty of all Christians to hold forth the Word of life.
 - A. No one else will do it.
 - 1. Fools are not going to warn other fools; the scoffers will not warn each other; the careless and thoughtless will not rescue each other, but will all perish together.
 - B. No one else has anything to offer.
 - 1. To answer the questions of life.
 - 2. To offer hope for a better day.
 - 3. A way of escape from the prison of sin.
 - C. The Gospel is the only thing that promises life and can deliver what is promised.
 - 1. Therefore, it stands in great contrast to all the human religions on earth which offer nothing but bondage and enslavement.
 - 2. If Christians don't warn and rescue sinners they will be lost forever.

- II. The knowledge of the gospel must be made known to others.
 - A. The responsibility falls on us.
 - B. The knowledge of the gospel must be kept up in the world.
 - C. Not so much through grand schemes and plans, but through personal contact and daily interactions with people.
 - 1. These are what really count with people anyway.
 - 2. Just as Jesus touched the leper we must touch those of the world on a personal level and not through some corporate monstrosity or organization.
 - D. We can hold forth the Word of life by displaying it where we can.
 - 1. On our letters, bills, and other correspondence.
 - 2. On the walls of our house and our yard, mailbox, or wherever.
 - 3. Not in a way that leaves them with the impression that we are a fanatical nut, like a car full of bumper stickers.
 - 4. There is a time for confrontation, but it is not normally in our daily interactions with others.
 - E. We can hold forth the word of life by example and being faithful in the things of God.
 - 1. Church attendance, faithful giving to the work of God, seeking the kingdom of God instead of things of the world – they will take notice and remember.

- III. “...that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.”

- A. If we don't leave something after us to continue giving light in this world for God, then all we have done has only a temporary effect.
- B. We need to hold forth the word of life and then we need to know someone is going to hold it forth after we are gone.
- C. If our children and those we have influenced with our life do not hold forth the word of life to others then our work has been in vain because it will end when our life ends.
- D. We should do our best to win our children, our loved ones, and whoever the Lord gives us the opportunity to influence.
- E. We can also take a pen and paper and write down things that will be here when we are gone that will keep giving light.
- F. We can do things for people that they will not forget that will remain in them for a memorial and that will keep giving light.