

## Living the Gospel.....

No doubt, you have heard it said, ***“Preach the gospel every day; if necessary use words.”***

While the source of this quotation is unknown [and not at all likely to have been Francis of Assisi], it contains an essential truth for all true believers. Religious folks may like it or hate it, but true believers know that if we do not live the gospel, the words which we speak will necessarily be hypocritical and false.

The life of a true believer radiates the life of Christ. That life preaches the gospel in ways that no amount of verbiage can. That life gives substance or foundation to whatever words are spoken.

The world was aggravated at the glib religious talk of the Scribes and Pharisees two thousand years ago and it has only gotten worse in the intervening years.

At that time those same religious people hated the gracious life of Jesus when He walked among them radiating the love, compassion, mercy, power, and purpose of God. They HATED the One in Whom ***“all the fullness of the Godhead dwelt bodily form...”*** [Col.2:9] BUT.....but the poor, the hurting, and even the sinners received Him gladly.

His life preached the gospel that God loved them and that very real love was ever-reaching for even the worst of them..... always reaching, loving, touching, healing, receiving..... His life preached!!!

**Particularly** in death.....**His life preached the gospel**. Perhaps His most powerful words were among the last when He said, ***“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”***

WHAT A MESSAGE!!! But even that message was vital because it was being powerfully manifested as His life was ebbing away as a sacrifice when He spoke them. Even today, the most powerful messages of the gospel are preached by the lives of true believers in the most difficult circumstances. And then, sometimes they also speak words which carry additional strength and vitality **because of the difficulty**.

To preach the gospel with ones life requires that one to be deeply committed to the Source of the gospel message. God Himself is the Source; **it is HIS life that preaches the gospel**. Religious performance offers the same message of death and judgment that the Scribes and Pharisees presented both in the way they lived and in what they said.

The world simply does not need more religion! We already have more than enough death-by-religion from the many diverse religious persuasions!

The world needs the manifested presence of the Living Loving Savior.....in and through believers who allow **Him** to radiate His life in and through them. *They are the ones who can 'preach the gospel' without words*. They are the only ones who can preach the gospel with legitimate life-giving words.

A few years ago, a quasi-religious popular song rang out with these words...

What the world needs now, Is love, sweet love,  
It's the only thing that there's just too little of.  
What the world needs now, Is love, sweet love,  
No, not just for some but for everyone.

That song goes on to tell the LORD what we don't need and then rehearsed that cry for "Love, sweet love..." again and again. It is interesting that Jesus came displaying and conveying that "Love, sweet love..." and they crucified Him. They - religious folks still crucify Him whenever He appears in the life of His disciples. But .....but the cry still rings.....and weeps with longings too deep for words....."*What the world needs now, is love sweet love.....It's the only thing that there's just too little of.*"

So, again I say....."Preach the gospel every day; if necessary use words."

There is a whole world out there longing for.....crying for.....dying for.....the manifested Life and Love of God.

Let your life preach today.... and if ....and when .....and *as you are instructed*..... use a few words.....

Love and blessings,

George