Ambassadors

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday August 28th, 2022

Text: II Corinthians 5:20 *Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:12-17*

### Intro

1. II Corinthians 5:20: Paul said of reconciliation (5:18-21) to God, “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”
   1. Eph. 6:20: Paul said he was an ambassador of the gospel in chains *(6:18-20).*
2. What is an ambassador?
   1. A diplomatic official sent by one nation to another as its resident representative.
   2. An authorized messenger or representative, or promoter of a specified activity.
   3. An ambassador of the country he/she represents often resides in the host country.
   4. (<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/ambassador>)
3. What are the roles (or duties) of ambassadors?
   1. **Representation:** Representing their own government to the people of the host nation at public events in that host country and being the most visible symbol of their own country.
   2. **Policy:** Ambassadors relay, and must follow, their country’s policy at all times, even if they do not agree with it on a personal level.
   3. **Protecting Citizens:** An ambassador's function is to oversee the safety of citizens in foreign countries.
   4. **Administrative:** Overseeing operations at the embassy and of other diplomats and staff members. Plenty of mundane duties fall to an ambassador's lot.
   5. (<http://work.chron.com/general-duties-ambassador-17594.html>)
   6. (<https://www.quora.com/What-are-the-duties-of-a-diplomatic-ambassador-to-a-foreign-country>)
4. Acts 10:38: Jesus, anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power, went about doing good!
   1. Matthew 5:16: Jesus said His disciples should do “good works.”
   2. God designed through the church (Eph. 3:10) that after Jesus left the earth, “little Jesus’” would be found in every country, in every home, in every business and workplace, in every community, city and village! (Gal. 2:20)
   3. Saints are called, “Christians,” designating them as “followers of Christ” or “Christ-like.”
5. Christians are to represent Jesus and be ambassadors for His will!

#### Representation

* 1. While an ambassador for a country represents that nation and their goals, saints represent Christ and His will!
  2. I Cor. 11:1; Eph. 5:1: We are to be imitators of Christ and God!
     1. *Acts 10:38; Mt. 5:16:* Christ did “good deeds” and wants saints to do “good deeds!”
     2. Eph. 2:10: We are “created in Christ Jesus for good works.”
     3. Titus 2:7, 14: Titus was to be “an example of good deeds,” saints to be zealous!
     4. Titus 3:1, 8, 14: “Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs.”
  3. Col. 3:17: Saints, whether “in word or deed,” are to do all things “in the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Let our lights shine! – Mt. 5:16; Phil. 2:15)
     1. Heb. 1:3: Christ is the “exact representation of His (God’s) nature”
     2. We represent Him to others in “word or deed!”
  4. As ambassadors for Christ and the gospel we are to represent Christ to others!

#### Policy

* 1. While ambassadors relay their representative country’s policies to the host nation, saints must adhere to the doctrine (or teaching) of Christ!
  2. I Pet. 4:11: “Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God.”
     1. Acts 20:27: Paul had declared “the whole counsel of God” (NKJ) to the Ephesians *(Acts 20:17: The elders from church at Ephesus)!*
     2. Titus 2:1, 7: Titus was charged with speaking “sound words” and being an example of “purity of doctrine.”
     3. Gal. 1:6-9: Those who teach a different doctrine (gospel) are accursed!
     4. II John 9-11: Those who leave the doctrine of Christ no longer have God! *(They no longer represent Him!)*
     5. Just as an ambassador who no longer abides by the policy of the nation he represents will be replaced, anyone who teaches differently will be accursed!
  3. Plan of Salvation as delivered by Jesus:
     1. John 5:24: Hear
     2. John 3:16-18: Believe
     3. Luke 13:3-5: Repent
     4. Matthew 10:32: Confess
     5. Mark 16:16: Baptism
     6. John 8:31: Obedience
  4. As ambassadors we are unable to alter or insert our opinions to the word of God, but to teach the gospel, the word of truth that can save souls! *(Col. 1:5; Js. 1:21)*

#### Protection

* 1. While ambassadors are responsible for the safety of their citizens in the host country, saints are residing in foreign territory and look for the spiritual safety of souls!
  2. Phil. 3:20: “Our citizenship is in Heaven!”
     1. Jn. 17:15; I Cor. 5:9-11: We are to live in the world but not be part of the world! (II Cor. 6:17)
     2. I Pet. 2:11-12: Saints are “aliens and strangers” and are to “keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles.”
  3. II Cor. 5:10-11: “…knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men…”
     1. II Tim. 2:24-26: We teach the gospel to help men escape the snare of the devil!
     2. I Pet. 3:3-5: Saints have an inheritance “reserved in heaven.”
  4. As ambassadors we teach the gospel in order for souls to secure their inheritance in heaven!

#### Administrative

* 1. While ambassadors work with their staff to accomplish the mundane tasks associated with their day-to-day jobs, saints work together with the members of the body of Christ!
  2. Rom. 12:4-5: Many members, one body, differing functions!
     1. Rom. 12:6-21: We are to use the abilities we are given & be devoted to each other!
     2. Eph. 4:14-16: The body is to build itself up in love, “by what every joint supplies.”
  3. Col. 3:12-15: Saints are to love and forgive as Christ forgave!
     1. II Tim. 2:15; II Pet. 3:18: Saints are to study and grow in knowledge of Christ!

## As ambassadors for Christ we are to live day-to-day being Christ-like and doing His will!

## Conclusion

1. There is responsibility in being an ambassador for Christ!
   1. Colossians 3:16-17: We must speak and act as He would have us!
2. As ambassadors we need to remember we represent Christ to others, and wherever we go, whatever we do and say, others ought to see Christ in us! (Matthew 5:16)
3. Does the world around you see Jesus in you? (Gal. 2:20)
4. As ambassadors we live in a foreign land, we represent Jesus to the world to save all who will obey the gospel, and we eagerly wait for Christ’s return where we will be with Him forever! *(Phil. 3:20; I Thess. 4:17)*
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
6. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!