

Manifestation of the WORD

American's most loved president Abraham Lincoln, in his earlier days of life worked as a successful lawyer. Someone asked Mr. Lincoln: "Is it true that you won all the cases?" The honest man answered that it is not true, because in one case they had settled out of court. Having achieved such score, because he knew how to prove his case. In the course of "law-reading", he constantly came upon the word "demonstrate", which means "manifest", or "proof beyond possibility of doubt".

We Christians, not only need to preach the word, but to "demonstrate" it, that is to manifest the Word, to proof what you preached .

Paul talked about such a church:

We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.... For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak anything. (I Thes. 1:2-8)

The church of Thessalonica was established by Apostle Paul during his missionary journey. Paul & his team could stay in all about "three sabbath days" (Acts 17:1-4). By God's grace, this young church grew into such an exemplary church, their faith, love & hope, made known to everywhere. Thus is proven their "election of God", which means it is confirmed they are chosen by God, in other word, their salvation is sure without doubt. At the same time, their testimony & good report is spread far & wide, viz., manifested, or published, and need not to have any more publication. How wonderful!

How could this happen?

1. When Jesus entered Capernaum, He met with a great crowd, so that there was no way to approach Him. But, there were people who need His attention. So, four friends bore "one sick of palsy" to Him. They not only had a will, but had also faith, and walked in the same steps. They tore the roof & let down the bed with the palsy in front of

Jesus. “When Jesus saw their faith, He said unto the sick person: ‘Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.’”(Mk. 2:5)

Jesus “saw” their faith. The faith that could be seen was faith manifested: by the bold action.

2. At the time when Jesus was facing the cross, He had His last discourse with His disciples, He gave His “new commandment” by saying: “Ye love one another, as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples.” (John 13:34,35)

“By this” people shall know? Love is in one’s heart. How could it be able to be known by others? Because that love is being manifested: the Christ-like love, sacrificial love, which is the banner of the church, not the pure doctrine, even not “contend for the faith”— though these are important, but the true mark of Christianity is the manifested love.

3. Again, Apostle Peter charged the church: “Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.” (I Peter 3:15)

Have you ever faced anyone asking you that what is the reason of your hope? If so, you shall be happy; it is the time of your testimony. Because “the hope that is in you” is manifested, no longer in the heart only, but in action, so it can be seen by others.

The living faith, the real love, and the glorious hope, all must be manifested by action.

When “the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:14), He manifested God, “which no man can approach unto, whom no man hath seen, nor can see.” (I Tim. 6:16) As the Bible says: “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him.” (John 1:18) The word “declared”, means made known, or explained; not only by words, but “both to do and teach”(Act 1:1).

As disciples of Christ, we are encouraged,

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. (Phil. 2:15-16)

That is to say, we have to manifest “the true Light” (John1:9), to bear witness for Him.

May we all remember :

*Preaching is by the spoken word,
Based on the written word,
To manifest the incarnate Word.*

Paul talked about the centre of our message, even our purpose of life, no other but to manifest our Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom we all belong to: “Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man, in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” (Col. 1:28) Amen.

作者：于中旻
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