

## The Light of Jesus Christ breaks through Darkness

October 12, 2014

Last Sunday night I turned on the radio while I was sitting in the car waiting for my husband to finish his errands. The radio program was a man was being interviewed with questions about his faith and his life. I was fascinated with his story. Bert had been a salesman for a boot and shoe company in his younger days. He never had heard the gospel message and his life was motivated by the desire to make a lot of money. He testified that he was very involved with pornography and his language was crude and vulgar. He was in his 30's when his work took him through a town where there was a tent meeting set up in a field with a large sign on the outside which read, "JESUS SAVES." He made jokes, mocked and ridiculed the preacher, never dreaming that he would one day be working with that minister setting up the tent and leading people to Jesus Christ. One night he was invited to hear a Christian comedian that was holding a special service in his area. Bert always figured that people went to church for lack of anything better to do with their time. He was a workaholic and that is all he lived for. He didn't have a family and in fact didn't even like kids. He attended that service and Jesus Christ got a hold of his heart and he gave his life to Jesus Christ. His life changed; some things fell away right away and other things took longer, but it wasn't long before people began to ask him what had happened to him. His language changed; his work habits changed and he began to get involved in Christian ministry. Before long, he felt called to start a youth center and he built up that for over 20 years and then passed it on to a young man who had worked alongside of him ministering to youth. Then he went into missions and began to travel to other countries building orphanages that were operated by Christian missionaries. He began to build networks and raise funds for Christian ministries around the United States and abroad and God has blessed him and added to him as he reaches out to equip others to minister for the Lord. As I listened to this man, I could feel the anointing that God has placed on his life and he is happy and excited with what God has enabled him to accomplish through faith and trust in Jesus Christ. I was encouraged as I heard the story of how God called him out of a life of sin and darkness and gave him a desire and the means to spread the gospel to share with those that God has placed around him. The Book of Acts has never stopped being written for the power of God is just the same today as it was in the days of the Apostles. Lives are changed when the Holy Spirit draws a person and he commits his life into the hands of Jesus Christ. God takes the sin filled selfish life and creates a new heart and a new spirit within the person and fruit of righteousness is produced and God is given the glory.

In Acts chapter 19, Paul passed through Ephesus and came upon some disciples who had heard the gospel that John preached. Paul asked them how they were baptized and they said unto John's baptism. Paul baptized them in the name of Jesus Christ. Paul explained that John's baptism was a baptism of changed hearts and lives. He told people to believe

in the one who would come after him and that one is Jesus. Paul asked them if they had received the Holy Ghost since they believed and they had not heard of the Holy Ghost. Paul laid his hands on these ten men, prayed for them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. Paul then went into the synagogue spoke boldly for 3 months disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. When the people with hardened hearts refused to believe the message and spoke evil of Paul before the multitudes, Paul departed and separated the disciples and disputed daily in the school of one Tyrannous. This continued for 2 years so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus both Jews and Greeks. God wrought special miracles through the hands of Paul so that people brought handkerchiefs and aprons to him and from his hands they were taken to people who were sick and the diseases departed from them and evil spirits were cast out of them. There were some exorcists, vagabond Jews, who tried to imitate Paul's miracles. They began to use the name of Jesus Christ to cast out evil spirits by saying "By the same Jesus that Paul talks about, I order you to come out!" Sceva, a leading Jewish priest, had seven sons who were doing this. However, one time an evil spirit spoke to them saying, "I know Jesus and I know about Paul, but who are you?" The man with the evil spirit attacked and overtook them, tearing off their clothing and they ran out of the house.

All the people in Ephesus both Jews and Greeks learned about this and were filled with fear and gave great honor and glory to the Lord Jesus. Many of the believers began to confess openly and tell all the evil things they had done. Some of them who had used magic brought their magic books and burned them before everyone. Those books were worth about 50,000 silver coins. (One coin was enough to pay a worker for one day's labor). So in a powerful way the word of the Lord kept spreading and growing. Paul didn't allow conflict to stop him from spreading the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. When people told him that he should stay away from Jerusalem as he would be persecuted and bound there, he told them that he was not only willing to suffer for the cause of Christ, he was willing to die for his faith. Everywhere he went he encountered those who believed, those who considered what he said, those who procrastinated and those who didn't believe. We encounter the same types of people today. There are those who listen and put it off for a more convenient time. Others believe and the Lord works wonders in their lives for they are changed and God delivers them from the sinful lifestyles that they were immersed in and then there are those who reject it and fight against the truth that is written within the pages of God's holy word. We all make choices every day, and I am thankful that I have committed my life to serving Jesus Christ. I am not ashamed of the truth that is written in this book and I will proclaim it regardless of those who are offended by the message of the cross. Trouble came to Paul in Ephesus because he preached Jesus Christ and tore down the idol worship of Diana, the goddess. The silversmith was losing his trade and rose up against Paul. We also will face God's enemies. The message of the cross is foolishness to those who don't believe. 1 Cor. 1:18.

## **1 Corinthians 13**

### **King James Bible**

#### **Love**

**1**Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

**2**And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. **3**And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

**4**Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, **5**Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; **6**Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; **7**Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

**8**Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. **9**For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. **10**But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. **11**When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. **12**For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. **13**And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

#### **1 Corinthians 1:18**

#### **Christ the Wisdom and Power of God**

**18**For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.