

SERMON NOTES: February 14, 2016
WHY BOTHER? BE ONE I MAKE ONE
“Good News”

Matthew 24:14

¹⁴ ***And this gospel of the kingdom . . .***

THE MESSAGE

Taught and modeled by Jesus; proclaimed by the apostles

will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations,

THE MISSION

God’s purpose gives life its meaning.

and then the end will come.

THE MOTIVATION

Rev. 21:4, ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes.

There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain,
for the old order of things has passed away.

. . . I am making everything new!

QUESTION: What immediate good is accomplished by proclaiming this gospel?

1 Corinthians 15:20–26 (NIV84)

²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴ Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶

The last enemy to be DESTROYED is death.

*This is the mission of God’s Kingdom: to abolish **death**. God’s Kingdom must also destroy every other enemy, including **sin** and **Satan**, for death is the wages of sin (Rom 6:23) and*

it is Satan who has the power over death (Hebrews 2:14). Only when death, sin and Satan are destroyed will redeemed men know the perfect blessings of God's reign.¹

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM PRONOUNCES . . .
VICTORY OVER DEATH

Hebrews 2:14–18

¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might **DESTROY** him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM PRONOUNCES . . .
VICTORY OVER SATAN

Romans 6:6, ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be **DONE AWAY WITH**, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM PRONOUNCES . . .
VICTORY OVER SIN

¹ George Ladd: The Gospel of the Kingdom: Winter, Ralph; Hawthorne, Steven (2014-08-28). Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: Reader and Study Guide - eBook (Kindle Locations 8110-8112). William Carey Library. Kindle Edition.

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION: February 14, 2016

WHY BOTHER? BE ONE I MAKE ONE

“Good News”

OPENING

What went through your mind as Pastor Bruce shared the story of Dot and the restaurant manager? Did you find it uplifting? Were you taken back by the manager’s initiative?

GOING DEEPER

The ministry of Jesus has resulted in significant victories. These victories were meant to produce results in the present. Review the passages of scripture used in the sermon notes and then reflects on the implications they have for our faith today.

How does Christ’s victory of death serve as a source of hope for believers?

Leader’s Guide: Below are a few answers to the above question to help you in your preparation and group discussion:

- 1. It serves as our hope that, by faith in Christ, we too will experience the same victory over death through “a resurrection like his.” (Romans 6:5)*
- 2. It serves as our hope that one day we will be reunited with our believing loved ones who have went on before us in death. (1 Thess. 4:15-17)*

For more insight read also John 14:1-3, 1 Peter 1:3-5 and 2 Cor. 5:1, 5-8.

Jesus freed us from Satan’s hold over us. Can you offer some concrete ways this truth can be of comfort to us today?

Leader’s Guide: Below are a few answers to the above question to help you in your preparation and group discussion:

- 1. The devil continues to attack God’s church, yet He will not overcome it (Matthew 16:18 – “the gates of Hell”).*

- *For an interesting read on Jesus use of the phrase “the gates of hell” read this article by Rev. Kevin DeYoung:
<http://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/the-gates-of-hell/>.*
- 2. *Christ defeated the Devil and his hold over us. Therefore, we are simply called to hold fast and resist the Devil, not attempt to defeat him ourselves (Ephesians 6:11-18). The exciting thing is that Christ has shown us that, by God’s power, we can overcome Satan’s attacks (cf. Matthew 4:1-11).*

Sin, its power and its effects, are experienced by everyone. At times, I see the strangle hold of drug addiction as a fitting illustration of a life lived under the influence of our sinful nature. When a person is set free from their addictions, they can then begin to live in greater freedom. This is the work Jesus has accomplished for us.

Read Romans 6:6, 17-23. How would you describe your current walk of faith? Are you seeing victory? What do your actions communicate?

Leadership Guide: The trouble with self-evaluation is that without the Lord’s help, we only see ourselves from the lens of “self.” Therefore, before answering the first two questions, ask the Lord to give you eyes to see your current Christian walk and subsequent victories from His perspective. For the third question, ask Him to help you see yourself from the perspective of those around you.

CHALLENGE:

The proclamation of the “gospel of the kingdom” to the whole world requires an understanding of the victories Jesus has won for us. **Will you live your life based on these truths? Will you share these truths with others?**