

The Real Business of Christians and the Church

1 Pet. 1:9

Introduction:

- A. The real business of Christians and the church is not understood by the world.
 - 1. Think it is to solve social, family, and community problems.
 - 2. Think it is to solve the moral and ethical problems of the community.
- B. The real business of Christians and the church is often misunderstood by Christians.
 - 1. Think of themselves as a social-services agency.
 - 2. Think of themselves as a “family life center”
- C. Our purpose is to:
 - 1. Remind us of our real business.
 - 2. Point to times when we lose sight of it.

Discussion:

I. Our Business Is to Save Souls

- A. It is the goal of our faith (1 Pet. 1:9).
- B. It is the same as Jesus and his apostles (Matt. 18:11; 1 Cor. 10:33).
- C. It is to save the lost.
 - 1. By preaching the gospel to them. (Rom. 1:15,16; 10:17)
 - 2. By calling them to repentance (Acts 17:30, 31; cf. 2 Cor. 7:8-10).
 - 3. By urging baptism (Acts 2:38; Matt. 28:18-20).
- D. It is to preserve the saved.
 - 1. Preach to that end (2 Tim. 4:2-4).
 - 2. Elders appointed to that end. (Heb. 13:17).
 - 3. Work to that end (Phil. 2:12)
 - 4. Live to that end (1 Cor. 8:9-13).
 - 5. Worship to that end (Heb. 10:25-29).

II. Times When We Lose Sight of Our Real Business.

- A. When means becomes the end.
 - 1. Buildings, facilities, and treasury.
 - 2. “Facts and figures” on the board.
- B. When the physical overshadows the spiritual.
 - 1. More concerned to physically sick than spiritually.
 - 2. More concerned with physical comforts than saving and feeding the souls.
- C. When the “public image” overshadows the need to “rock the boat” purify the church.
- D. When “fitting into the community” overshadows “fitting into God’s scheme.”

Conclusion:

- A. Let us not forget our real business.
- B. Let us take heed to ourselves and them that hear us – with salvation as the goal (1 Tim. 4:16)