

The Major Menaces

by

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For the entire period since I began preaching and serving the Lord there has been a question which I have asked: “If God wants all men to be given an opportunity to accept his invitation and He has paid the price for all, and if He had provided an adequate means for teaching all of them, why are there so many lost today?”

Accordingly, the answer to the above question is two folded; however, the first factor is largely beyond our ability to change:

- Firstly, many hear the truth and reject it today even in the first century.
- Secondly, many never hear because God’s children or servants fail to reach them.

I wish to present some major menaces to the accomplishment of our Lord’s mission. “...*My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.*” (John 4:34-35).

“*Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.*” (Luke 10:2).

- The lack of vision: there was a large and a growing church with several preachers at Antioch. The Holy Spirit graded that church into the realization that it was that work was growing at home there was a need to send some of his workers into the harvest of the world (Acts 13:1-3). Too often we feel that as long as there is some good work to do at home, it really does not matter that people in other places do not have a chance to hear even one lesson about Jesus.
- Evangelism is often menaced because of misled emphasis in our work. When missionaries are sent out the emphasis should not be only to start a congregation, then to make it self – supporting; that is wrong. Let us keep our eyes on all the lost of the world. Building programs and personnel are only good as means to reach the lost, not the end itself.
- The third menace is holiness. For most of us nothing is more dreaded than to be alone (Matt. 4:1; 1 Kings 19:10). At the first hearing of Daniel’s last trial in Rome everyone forsook him; no man stood by him (2 Timothy 4:16-17). However in that lonely moment, the Lord stood by him and strengthened

him so all the Gentiles might hear the gospel of Jesus. Therefore, all Christians should know that the Lord is with them always as they travel all over the world to spread good news. (Acts 17:6; 1 Thess. 3:1-8).

- Disillusionment. Some individuals and churches find that the evil world does not turn to God so easily; they thus forsake the task in discouragement. We fail to reach people many times because we preach doctrines that are true but ignore other truths which meet local needs. Whatever the needs of any people, Christ meets them.
- Selfishness is a menace which often leads to division in the work force. Some workers try to develop the concept of creating a personal empire. They protect with various jealousy. Sometimes they even fear contact by the converts with other preachers whom the young Christians might admire more highly than they. Selfishness in any form will defeat; example is Diotrophes who desired the pre-eminence of the church and was very jealousy of John (3 John).
- Working for a wrong master is yet another menace. Some feel they are working for the church back home, because they are paid salaries by those churches. They are working for the Lord. we must always remember that we are working for God who is our employer (Acts 4:19-20).
- An attachment to material things is hindrance and menace to world evangelism. The will to become rich is very dangerous (1 Tim. 6:5). Paul says it is a trap, a man drawing in last, and a man pierced with sorrows as an arrow to show its dangerous. Pursuit of material wealth causes believers to rationalize in variety of ways. For example, some argue that they can do more good making and giving money than teaching.
- A lack of faith is a major menace to outreach. When we have faith we have trust. Faith is the acceptance of God's word on the basis that he said it. We have faith in God because he says that sin kills and that all are dead (Rom. 6:23, Rom. 5:12). We should not say to ourselves and reason that the neighbor next door and the stranger far away will be saved without Jesus.
- The last menace is perhaps the greatest of all. This is simply not going. God does not say for us to try to do his work because we feel that we can do it. He wants us all to do His

work because it needs to be done, and then He will help us. We must remember that if we will use our abilities, then God will use us.

To conclude, let us all remember, the day of judgment. The Lamb of God lands in the clouds before all people of all ages, color, tribe, race, etc.

The books will be open. The life of each person will be examined in the life of the beautiful story of God (Rev. 20:12, 2 Cor. 5:10).

There are those who reject Jesus openly. They refuse the offered grace of loving Father.

Millions who never heard look in awe at the glory of the Lord. They struggle to understand this scene — God’s Judgment — eternally. Many others consider themselves believers and stand waiting for his eternal companionship. But Jesus says to them “*Depart from me...I never knew you*” (Matt. 7:21).

God, our mighty Father, help us and give us more wisdom, strength, and above all, the love of Your word.

Yours in the Love of Christ

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