

REMINDER

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Dr. John R. Rice
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The Sevenfold Sin of Not Winning Souls

by the late Dr. John R. Rice

(Preached at a Sword of the Lord Conference in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, 1964)

My message is on the “**Sevenfold Sin of Not Winning Souls.**” I said sin! If you are a Christian and don’t win souls, it is a sin like getting drunk, lying, hate, murder or adultery. It is a wicked, terrible sin! Every preacher and every Christian ought to win souls. Any Christian who does not win souls is sinning. And we who win a few are sinning if we don’t do our best all the time to win more souls.

A man running for office said to his business manager, “*Do you know what my opponent said about me? He accused me of lying.*”
“He ought not to have done that. That’s bad.”

“He did worse than that.”

“What’s that?”

“He proved it!”

That is what I plan to do tonight - not only to preach that it is a sin not to win souls, but to prove it by the Bible, the precious Word of God.

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matt. 28:18-20).

We call this the Great Commission, and it contains three teachings. First, go and teach all nations the Word - that means make disciples of men in all nations by teaching them how to be saved. Second, baptize them. Third, teach them to observe all things that Jesus commanded us.

Soul winning is the main thing with God. If it isn’t first with the preacher, the preacher isn’t right. If soul winning isn’t the first thing with the church, the church isn’t right. If soul winning isn’t first for a Sunday school teacher, he or she is not a good Sunday school teacher. If soul winning isn’t the main reason for a Christian school, it is not a very good Christian school. If soul winning isn’t the main thing for a Christian newspaper like the SWORD OF THE LORD, then it is off the track and not what a Christian paper ought to be. The first and main thing with God is soul winning.

In I Timothy 1:15, Paul said, “*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance....*” That sounds like it was a saying often repeated among New Testament Christians. What was the saying? “*...that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.*” Jesus came to save sinners.

Jesus said, “*I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance*” (Luke 5:32).

Again, He said, “*The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost*” (Luke 19:10). This is what Jesus came for, what Jesus died for. That is why the Bible was written, why churches are organized, why preachers are called to preach.

Some preachers say, “*But I don’t feel led to win souls.*” That means you are not led of the Lord. If God were leading you, He would lead you to do what the Bible says. A Christian ought to win souls. That is the most important thing with God.

He gave the Great Commission in each of the four Gospels with slightly different words. The same day He rose from the dead, Jesus entered into the room where the disciples were shut up for fear of the Jews and breathed on them and said, “*As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you*” (John 20:21).

Another time He came to the disciples as they were eating and said, “*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every*”
(continued inside)

creature” (Mark 16:15). Again, Jesus met the disciples on a mountain in Galilee and gave the Great Commission to them in the words of our text. Then in Luke He said that “repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things....but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high” (Luke 24:47–49).

Forty days after His resurrection when He was preparing to ascend back into Heaven, He gave the Great Commission yet a fifth time: **“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).** He had already given the command four times (and perhaps many unrecorded times during the previous forty days); but in the last minute before He went away to Heaven, Jesus repeated it. These were the last words of Jesus on earth.

When a person is departing, his parting words are likely to be about the thing that is most on his mind, the thing that is most important to him. I’m saying that this is the one main thing Jesus left for us to do in these ages after He went away. This is His Great Commission.

There is a sevenfold sin in not winning souls -

I. Sin of Disobedience to Christ’s Main Command

The first sin is the sin of disobedience to the main command that Jesus Christ ever gave. We have an all-inclusive command for every Christian in the Great Commission. Not to obey that is not to obey Jesus on the one thing He died for, the main thing He gave instructions about.

Jesus told His disciples, ‘All of you go out here and get the Gospel to every creature. Take it into all the world and make disciples in all nations.’ I can imagine they might have thought, Well, we’re only twelve men. We can’t go to every nation. If we put one in Africa, one in South America, one in the continent of North America, one in Eastern Europe, one in the Balkan states, one in Russia, one in China, one in India, one in Indonesia, one in the Philippine Islands, one in Japan and one in Australia, that uses up all twelve apostles. But He said, **“Lo, I am with you *always, even unto the end of the world” (Matt. 28:20).***

Now all the original twelve disciples are dead. But let’s see what happened because they obeyed His commission.

He said to Peter, “Go get people saved.”

“All right, Jesus, and then what?”

“Now get them baptized and grounded.”

“All right, Jesus, then what?”

“Then send them out to do just what I am telling you to do—observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”

Jesus is saying, “The command I give you today, you pass on to everybody you get saved.” So the Great Commission is as much to everybody here as it was to Peter or any one of the twelve.

But you say, “I’m not called to preach.” You’re called to be a Christian, though, and this is a part of being a Christian. If you were taught what Jesus said, then you were taught you ought to be a soul winner. In Revelation 22:17 we read, **“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come.”** If you’ve heard it, then you are supposed to tell it.

Have you been scripturally baptized? If not, you have missed a joy and a blessing. If you have, then they ought to have told you. “Now, I’m passing on to you the Great Commission that Jesus gave the twelve apostles.”

Somebody says, “The Great Commission is given to the church.” Is that so? Chapter and verse, please! We are to get people saved, and we are to get them baptized, and we are to teach them to do what Jesus told the apostles to do. The Lord Jesus didn’t save church houses or have them baptized or call them to preach.

The Lord Jesus didn’t call denominational headquarters or baptize them or give them the Great Commission. Why doesn’t somebody say “Amen”?

Every preacher, if he is saved, has this Great Commission. If you don’t win souls, you have failed in your Christian life. No one is a good Christian who doesn’t win souls. You are not doing the first things He said you were to do after you got baptized. Those who do not win souls are disobedient in the main command of Jesus Christ, and that is not a small matter.

II. The Sin of Lack of Love for Christ

Sin Number Two is the sin of lack of love for Jesus Christ. You say, “I love Jesus so much.” **Oh, do you?** Let us see what the Lord says about it. **“If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15).** Isn’t that a fair, honest statement? He says in verse 21, **“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me.”** And then verse 23 says, **“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words.”**

So in proportion to your love for Jesus Christ, you will win souls. Not winning souls is proof of the coldness of your heart.

“Brother Rice, I don’t know much Bible.” That isn’t your trouble. “But don’t you use the Bible in soul winning?” Can you learn John 3:16? I have won hundreds of souls with John 3:16. **Your real trouble is heart trouble.**

You say you don’t have gifts. Well, do the best you can with what equipment you have. When I was called to preach, I said, “Lord, I don’t have a great voice like Dr. Truett, and I don’t have a personality like some other people, but I will do the best I can.” Your trouble is not poor equipment. It is heart trouble. You don’t love Jesus enough to do what He said. The Lord Jesus said three times in this chapter that if we love Him we will keep His commandments.

“Well, I’ve been taught different.” Yes, I know. You are talking about your head, but your trouble is not your head; it is your heart. You don’t love Jesus Christ enough to do what He said.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if God would give us such a

floodtide of love in our hearts, shed abroad by the Holy Ghost, that we would beg Jesus for power to win souls?

In the letter to the Ephesians in Revelation 2, the Lord said, 'I know you have worked. You have been patient. I know you have borne burdens and didn't faint in hard times. But I have somewhat against you because you have left your first love!'

Wouldn't it be good if you had the honeymoon again—you and Jesus? Wouldn't it be good if you just came back to the first wonderful love you had when you were first saved?

I remember when I went down the aisle and trusted the Lord and was converted at the First Baptist Church of Gainesville, Texas. My dad was preaching out in the country that day. I went home and told him I wanted to join the church. I didn't say I had been converted—I didn't know what you called it.

He said, "Son, when you are old enough to be really convicted of your sins and repent and be regenerated, then there will be time enough to join the church."

Well, I guessed so. All of those were nice big words—only I didn't know what they meant. My dad didn't know I'd gotten saved, and I didn't know how to tell him. So the next morning as I went to school and crossed the creek, I knelt under a willow tree in the sand and prayed, "Lord, maybe I'm too young to join the church or get saved, but So-and-so is not, and this one is not, and that one is not." I cried and prayed under that tree for other people to be saved.

I didn't know it then, but that was mighty good evidence the Lord had done a work of grace in my heart. I had the first love that Christians ought to have. You are backslidden if you don't have that first love that makes you concerned about lost sinners.

In a campaign in Spearman, Texas, a French girl came night after night. She spoke in very broken English with a French accent. When I would ask, "How many are Christians?" she would hold up her hand. She had gone to mass regularly back in France and said her prayers, "Hail Mary, mother of God," etc.

One night I preached on "You Must Be Born Again." That was news to her. When I asked, "How many of you know you have been born again?" she didn't hold up her hand. Then when I asked, "How many want to be saved?" she did hold her hand up; but when we gave the invitation, she didn't come.

The next morning her husband brought her to the home where I was. She wanted to be saved, and I showed her how. She said, "There were a lot of churches in France; why didn't anyone ever tell me I needed to be born again?"

I said, "Are you ready to ask Jesus to save you?"

She said, "I don't know English very well. Can I pray in French?"

"Yes, God understands French just as well as English."

I prayed in English, and she prayed in French and trusted Christ. I read to her **John 3:36**: "**He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life.**" We shook hands and cried and laughed. But I said, "Now, I'm glad that's settled. I have to go now to see

two young men I promised to meet."

As we parted, she said, "Oh, Brother Rice, I do hope you save those boys!" She had that first love that is normal for a good Christian. She had what the Lord Jesus was talking about.

If you don't have it, then you don't love Jesus like you ought. Lack of love for Jesus is one of the sins of not winning souls. God forgive us for a cold heart.

- more next week

Eternal Security of the Believer

by the late Dr. Harry A. Ironside

(continued from last week)

We're continuing our discussions of common questions raised by people who object to the Bible doctrine of Eternal Security:

❑ **Question 9: Romans 6:16 -**

What about Romans 6:16? "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

I have already spoken of that. Romans 6 is like the book of Exodus. When the children of Israel were in Egypt they obeyed Pharaoh because they had to; when they were brought to God in the wilderness, Pharaoh's power was broken and they became the servants of God. We, in our unsaved days, were servants to sin; now, as Christians, we are servants of God and we are to walk before God in holiness and righteousness.

❑ **Question 10: II Peter 2:20-22 -**

What about II Peter 2:20-22? "***For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.***"

Does it say, "***But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The sheep is turned to its own vomit again***"? No, it does not. It says, "***The dog is turned to his own vomit again.***" How many of these dogs there are! They escape the pollution of the world temporarily by the knowledge that comes through the Lord Jesus Christ. If you were brought up in a Christian home and taught the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ from your youth, you escaped a great deal of the pollution of the world. But after you have known all these things, you can turn aside; you can take your own way into the world and live in its filth and pollutions. What does that prove? That you used to be a Christian and are not now? That you used to be one of Christ's sheep but are no longer? Oh, no. What then? It proves that "***the dog has gone back to his own vomit again, and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.***" The remarkable thing about this doctrine of the

Eternal Security of the Believer is that many of the greatest men of God who have ever lived have believed in it. C. H. Spurgeon, D. L. Moody, Dr. R. A. Torrey, Dr. A. C. Dixon, and scores of others whom we revere believed in it. C. H. Spurgeon said very beautifully, "If this dog had ever been born again and gotten a sheep's nature, it never would have gone back to its own vomit; and if this sow had ever been regenerated and had the heart of a lamb put in it, it never would have gone back to its wallowing in the mire." It is not a question of a sheep of Christ perishing. The devil has a lot of washed sows, but they are not, and never have been, Christ's sheep. - more next week

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Mary Byars
 Cradle Roll 2: Larry Byars
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Rebekah White
 Cradle Roll 2: Nathaniel White
 Wed. Evening Service ---- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White
 Cradle Roll 2: Charity Crawford

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of August 21, 2011

Sunday School ----- 19
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 33
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 26
 Wed. Eve., 08/24/11 Service ----- 25

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of August 21, 2010

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 668.00
 Insurance Fund ----- \$ 89.00
Total Received for Week of 08/21/11: \$ 757.00

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

INSURANCE FUND REPORT FOR AUGUST:

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 273.08
 Amount Received during August thusfar ----- \$ 91.00
Amount still needed by Sept. 5, 2011: - \$ 182.08



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. **Admit that you are a sinner.**
2. **Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.**
3. **Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.**
4. **You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).**
5. **By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.**

Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!



As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go *up*. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start *today* - OK? Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,
 Dwayne English, Lou & Vicki Martin, Don Diehl ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White