

Ambassadors

For Christ

Ephesians 6:19-24

II Corinthians 5:10-21

By Mark Hatfield

Many of us have heard the terms “Ambassadors for Christ”, but in most cases, never fully appreciate the meaning of this powerful position of privilege that has been given to the child of God. In the Greek language the word for ambassador is presbeuo (pres-byoo'-o) and ultimately means to act as a representative (figuratively, preacher). In our case, we who are saved are to be representatives (ambassadors) for the gospel of Jesus Christ. Below are two passages that capture our responsibility as those who are “representatives” of the Lord, Jesus Christ:

Ephesians 6:19-24

- 19 ... {pray} on my behalf, that **utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,**
- 20 **for which I am an ambassador** in chains; that in {proclaiming} it I may speak boldly, **as I ought to speak.**
- 21 But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you.
- 22 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.
- 23 Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 24 Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible {love}

2 Corinthians 5:10-21

- 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
- 11 **Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men,** but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.
- 12 We are not again commending ourselves to you but {are} giving you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you will have {an answer} for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart.
- 13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you.
- 14 **For the love of Christ controls us,** having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;
- 15 and He died for all, **so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.**
- 16 Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know {Him} {in this way} no longer.
- 17 **Therefore if anyone is in Christ, {he is} a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.**
- 18 **Now all {these} things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,**
- 19 **namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.**
- 20 **Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.**
- 21 He made Him who knew no sin {to be} sin on our behalf, **so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

Looking at these two passages above, answer the following questions:

1. In order for the utterances of God to be of any value, what must His ambassadors do with their mouth? (Compare **Acts 8:35**)

- _____

2. In what way should the children of God desire to speak the words that have been entrusted to them as the Lord's representatives?

- _____

3. Noticing that Paul was an ambassador "in chains". Do you feel you could endure such persecution for the cause of Christ? Explain.

- _____

4. What motivates us to continue telling others about the salvation that is available in Christ?

- _____

5. What did Jesus show us in His death that controls us? How should we live based on what He has shown us?

- _____

6. What does it mean to be "in Christ", and how does one get there? (Give scripture reference) What do we become "in Christ"?

- _____

7. Once we are "in Christ" and we are living for Him, how does Paul describe the "ministry" that we have from God? How does this ministry work? (**II Cor. 5:19**)

- _____

8. Paul concludes, "**Therefore, we are _____ for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God**" (**II Cor. 5:20**) Who are the "**we**" in this verse? _____

9. When God gave His Son as the sacrifice for sins, what did He intend for us to become in Christ?

- _____

10. **T / F** I am doing everything that I can to be an effective "**ambassador**" for Christ

An ambassador is a person sent from one sovereign power to another; and is supposed to represent the person of the sovereign by whom he is deputed. Christ while on earth represented the person of the Sovereign of the world; his apostles and their successors represent the person of Christ. Christ declared the will of the Father to mankind; apostles, etc., declare the will of Christ to the world. We are ambassadors for Christ. We execute the function of ambassadors in Christ's stead. He came from the Father to mankind on this important embassy. He has left the world, and appointed us in his place.

The word that is used in this passage literally means to act as an ambassador, or sometimes merely to deliver a message for another, without being empowered to do any thing more than to explain or enforce it. An ambassador is a minister one who has a special mission and is employed by one prince or state at the court of another, to manage the concerns of his own prince or state, and representing the dignity and power of his sovereign. He is sent to do what the sovereign would himself do were he present. They are sent to make known the will of the sovereign, and to negotiate matters of commerce, of war, or of peace, and in general everything affecting the interests of the sovereign among the people to whom they are sent.

At all times, and in all countries, an ambassador is a sacred character, and his person is regarded as inviolable. He is bound implicitly to obey the instructions of his sovereign, and as far as possible to do only what the sovereign would do were he himself present. All ministering saints are ambassadors for Christ, as they are sent to do what He would do were He personally present. They are to make known, and to explain, and enforce the terms on which God is willing to be reconciled to people. They are not to negotiate on any new terms, nor to change those which God has proposed, nor to follow their own plans or devices, but they are simply to urge, explain, state, and enforce the terms on which God is willing to be reconciled. Of course they are to seek the honor of the Sovereign who has sent them forth, and to seek to do only His will. They go not to promote their own welfare; not to seek honor, dignity, or emolument; but they go to transact the business which the Son of God would engage in were He again personally on the earth.

---Information gathered from Bloomfield, Webster, Adam Clarke and Barne's Notes

It is vital that we all become what we were intended to be "in Christ". Read the following passages and underline key phrases in the passage that emphasize the main responsibility of the work of the "**ambassadors for Christ**"

RECEIVING THE CALLING TO BE AN AMBASSADOR

II Thessalonians 2:13-15

- 13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.
- 14 It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 15 So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word {of mouth} or by letter from us.
- 16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace,
- 17 comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

LEARNING THE MESSAGE OF THE SOVEREIGN

2 Timothy 2:15

- 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.
(See also **Acts 17:11**)

PROCLAIMING OUR MESSAGE AS AMBASSADORS

Matthew 28:18-20

- 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

PREPARING OTHERS TO CARRY THE MESSAGE

2 Timothy 2:2

- 2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
(See also **II Timothy 1:5**)

DECLARING A NON-HYPOCRITICAL MESSAGE

Philippians 1:27

- 27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel...
(See also **Ephesians 4:1-6**)

REMEMBER THE REQUEST OF THE SOVEREIGN

John 17:14-26

- 14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
15 "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil {one.}
16 "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
17 "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.
18 "As you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.
19 "For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.
20 "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in me through their word;
21 that they may all be one; even as you, Father, {are} in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you sent me.
22 "The glory which you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one;
23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.
24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation

of the world.

25 "O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me;

26 and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

Jesus Christ, the ambassador of the Father, has chose His apostles to be His ambassadors, which is a work that now has been entrusted to us as ministers (servants) of Jesus Christ. Are you a faithful ambassador of the Christ? Remember that Jesus said, **"As you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."** Paul said, **"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us..."** (John 17:18; 2 Corinthians 5:20)

Are you a faithful ambassador of Jesus Christ?

Let us encourage one another to do the work that has been entrusted to us by our Sovereign!