

*April 17, 2016*

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**TIME OF REFLECTION**

“The Christian is a person who makes it easy for others to believe in God.”

~Robert Murray M'Cheyne (1813-1843), Scottish minister

“I don't respect people who don't proselytize. I don't respect that at all. If you believe that there's a heaven and hell and people could be going to hell or not getting eternal life or whatever, and you think that it's not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward.... How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?”

~Penn Jillette, famed atheist, illusionist and comedian

“Our 'ego' or self-conception could be pictured as a leaking balloon, forever requiring the helium of external love to remain inflated, and ever vulnerable to the smallest pinpricks of neglect. There is something at once sobering and absurd in the extent to which we are lifted by the attentions of others and such by their disregard.”

~Alain de Botton, Swiss-born philosopher and writer

“‘Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom,’ says Paul. And we are most in line with the Spirit, most faithfully obedient, when instead of trying to manipulate people into faith, we simply live in that freedom and let the Spirit do the work of transformation.”

~Mark Galli in *Chaos and Grace*

“In an era of mass media, it is easy to believe that the more eyeballs, the more impact. But radio, television, and tracts accounted for a combined total of less than one-half of 1% of the Busters [becoming Christians.]”

~David Kinnaman, *Unchristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity...and Why It Matters*

“The gospel of submission, commitment, decision, and victorious living is not good news about what God has achieved but a demand to save ourselves with God's help.”

~Michael S. Horton, contemporary theologian

“The Apple store is not a store. It is an exercise in evangelism.”

~Paco Underhill, environmental psychologist and marketing consultant

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## *Worship through the Word*

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**SERMON** – “Good News-ism” – *Pastor Don Willeman*

**SERMON PASSAGES** – *selections from 1 Peter 2 & 3 (NASB)*

*1 Peter 2*

<sup>4</sup>And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, <sup>5</sup>you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

<sup>9</sup>...you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup>for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

<sup>11</sup>Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. <sup>12</sup>Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

<sup>15</sup>For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. <sup>16</sup>Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God.

*1 Peter 3*

<sup>8</sup>To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; <sup>9</sup>not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. <sup>10</sup>For,

“The one who desires life, to love and see good days,

Must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit.

<sup>11</sup>“He must turn away from evil and do good;

He must seek peace and pursue it.

<sup>12</sup>“For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous,

And His ears attend to their prayer,

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

<sup>13</sup>Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, <sup>15</sup>but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; <sup>16</sup>and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.