

>> ALL AUTHORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH. GO THEREFORE, AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE.

>> MORE, MORE ABOUT JESUS. MORE, MORE ABOUT JESUS. MORE OF HIS SAVING FULLNESS SEE, MORE OF HIS LOVE WHO DIED FOR ME.

CLIFF >> HELLO. MY NAME IS CLIFF GOODWIN, AND I WELCOME YOU HERE TODAY FOR PREACHING THE GOSPEL. DEAR FRIENDS AND VIEWERS, THE GOSPEL IS THE GREATEST MESSAGE THIS WORLD WILL EVER KNOW, AND IT'S CONTAINED RIGHT HERE FOR US IN THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD. I HAVE MY BIBLE IN HAND. I HOPE THAT YOU HAVE YOUR BIBLE AT HOME AS WELL. AND WE'RE GOING TO SPEND THE NEXT HALF HOUR OR SO STUDYING THE WORD OF GOD TOGETHER. I'VE ENTITLED OUR STUDY FOR TODAY SIMPLY, HOW TO BE A SOUL WINNER. HOW TO BE A SOUL WINNER. NOW, I TRUST THAT MANY OF YOU IN OUR VIEWING AUDIENCE ARE ALREADY CHILDREN OF GOD, YOU'RE MEMBERS OF CHRIST'S CHURCH AND YOU'RE LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. SO BROTHERS AND SISTERS, TO YOU PARTICULARLY I HAVE TO ASK, ARE YOU OUT TRYING TO WIN SOULS FOR THE SAVIOR? SEE, THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS IDEA OF BEING A SOUL WINNER THAT FOR MANY OF US, IT'S ALMOST INTIMIDATING RIGHT OFF. SOMETHING ABOUT THAT EXPRESSION, MAYBE, OR MAYBE IT'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE IDEA OF BRINGING UP THE GOSPEL TO OTHERS AND TALKING TO OTHERS IN A WAY THAT MAYBE MAKES US FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE. AND YET, FRIENDS, WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT PART OF BEING A CHILD OF GOD IS REACHING OUT TO THOSE WHO ARE LOST IN ORDER TO WIN THEM TO CHRIST AS WELL. WE READ ABOUT SOME OF THESE IDEAS OR AT LEAST SOME OF THESE PRINCIPLES EVEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. LOOK WITH ME FIRST OF ALL TO PROVERBS 11:30. THE FRUIT OF THE RIGHTEOUS IS A TREE OF LIFE, AND HE THAT WINNETH SOULS IS WISE. WHY WOULD IT BE SAID TO BE WISE TO WIN SOULS? WELL, IF WE TAKE THAT IN THE ULTIMATE SENSE, WINNING SOULS, MEANING THAT SOULS ARE BROUGHT TO GOD AND BROUGHT TO A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM, WELL, THEN TRULY WE ARE INVOLVED IN DOING SOMETHING THAT WILL LAST IN ETERNITY. IT IMPACTS LIVES NOT ONLY HERE UPON THIS EARTH; BUT WINNING SOULS IN THAT ULTIMATE SENSE, IT IMPACTS PEOPLE FOR ALL ETERNITY. WHAT A GREAT, WHAT A MIGHTY WORK THAT IS. BUT THEN AS WE COME OVER TO THE NEW TESTAMENT, JESUS MADE IT CRYSTAL CLEAR TO HIS APOSTLES THAT THEY WERE GOING TO BE IN THE SOUL WINNING BUSINESS. LOOK WITH ME IN MARK 1:17. AND JESUS SAID UNTO THEM, COME YE AFTER ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU TO BECOME FISHERS OF MEN. I LOVE THAT WORDING FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS. FIRST OF ALL, THE EXPRESSION FISHERS OF MEN, HOW DESCRIPTIVE IS THAT? MANY OF US HAVE LIKELY FISHED BEFORE, AND WE KNOW THAT IN FISHING YOU'RE GOING OUT TO CATCH FISH, PERHAPS TO BRING HOME A MEAL EVEN FOR YOU OR FOR YOUR FAMILY. SO WE KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO CATCH FISH; BUT JESUS TURNED TO THESE WHO WERE AT THAT TIME PROFESSIONAL FISHERMEN, AND HE SAYS I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU TO BECOME FISHERS OF MEN. YOU'RE NO LONGER GOING TO BE IN THE BUSINESS OF CATCHING LITERAL FISH; YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN THE BUSINESS OF CATCHING PEOPLE, SO TO SPEAK, IN A GOOD WAY, A MOST POSITIVE WAY INDEED. SOMETHING ELSE I LIKE ABOUT THAT STATEMENT IS THE INCLUSION OF THE WORD BECOME. THAT HINTS TO YOU AND ME THAT BECOMING A SOUL WINNER IS A GROWTH PROCESS. IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT WE CAN SNAP OUR FINGERS AND IMMEDIATELY BECOME JUST THE MOST COMPETENT AND THE MOST SKILLED SOUL WINNERS IN THE WORLD. APPARENTLY, JESUS DID NOT EXPECT IT TO BE THAT WAY. HE TOLD THESE APOSTLES, I WILL MAKE YOU TO

BECOME FISHERS OF MEN. AND SO THAT GIVES US HOPE FOR GROWING AND DOING BETTER IN THE FUTURE THAN WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST. AND I HOPE THAT MAYBE OUR STUDY TOGETHER TODAY WILL ASSIST US ALONG THOSE LINES. WHAT I WANT US TO DO IS I WANT US TO LOOK AT A FEW HELPFUL KEYS TO BECOMING SOUL WINNERS FOR JESUS. LET'S GET STARTED NOW WITH OUR FIRST MAJOR IDEA. AND THAT IS, NUMBER ONE, STOP LEAVING PEOPLE OUT. FRIENDS, I FEAR THAT ALL TOO OFTEN WE MIGHT BE GUILTY OF THAT VERY THING. WE MIGHT BE LEAVING PEOPLE OUT BECAUSE OF ANY NUMBER OF REASONS. WE'RE GOING TO LOOK AT THREE FROM THE SCRIPTURES. BUT THE IDEA IS, IN OUR MINDS, THIS PERSON OR THAT PERSON, HE OR SHE WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED IN THE GOSPEL BECAUSE, AND THEN JUST FILL IN THE BLANK. AND SO IN OUR MINDS, WE'VE LEFT THOSE PEOPLE OUT. WE DON'T EVEN APPROACH THEM WITH THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST. AND FRIENDS, THAT'S WRONG. IT SHOULD NOT BE THAT WAY. SO STOP LEAVING PEOPLE OUT. LET'S GO FIRST OF ALL TO JOHN CHAPTER 4. JESUS, OUR LORD AND PERFECT EXAMPLE, HE DOES SOMETHING IN THIS CHAPTER FROM WHICH WE CAN LEARN. VERSE 7, THERE COMETH A WOMAN OF SAMARIA TO DRAW WATER. JESUS SAITH UNTO HER, GIVE ME TO DRINK, FOR HIS DISCIPLES WERE GONE AWAY UNTO THE CITY TO BUY MEAT. THEN SAITH THE WOMAN OF SAMARIA UNTO HIM, HOW IS IT THAT THOU, BEING A JEW, ASKEST DRINK OF ME, WHICH AM A WOMAN OF SAMARIA? AND THEN JOHN PROBABLY ADDS, FOR THE JEWS HAVE NO DEALINGS WITH THE SAMARITANS. HERE JESUS GIVES US THE EXAMPLE OF OVERCOMING GENDER AND ETHNIC BARRIERS. HOW OFTEN PERHAPS DO WE LEAVE PEOPLE OUT FROM OUR GOSPEL ENDEAVORS MAYBE BECAUSE OF THEIR ETHNICITY? WELL, ON THAT OCCASION, JESUS IS ENCOUNTERED BY A SAMARITAN WOMAN. NOW, IF YOU DELVE EVEN A LITTLE BIT INTO BIBLICAL HISTORY, YOU'LL FIND THAT IN THESE ANCIENT TIMES, THE JEWS AND THE SAMARITANS, THEY DID NOT TYPICALLY LIKE EACH OTHER. THEY DID NOT GET ALONG. AND THEN EVEN FURTHER IN THE CUSTOM OF THAT DAY, TYPICALLY A MAN WOULD NOT SPEAK TO A WOMAN IN PUBLIC TO WHOM HE WAS NOT RELATED. SOMETIMES IN EXTREME SITUATIONS THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE CASE. AND YET HERE JESUS OVERCOMES BOTH THE BARRIERS OF GENDER AND ETHNICITY TO BROACH OR BRING UP SPIRITUAL MATTERS WITH THIS WOMAN. AND AS YOU READ THE REST OR THE CONTINUATION OF THIS IN JOHN CHAPTER 4, YOU SEE THAT JESUS DID THAT VERY THING. HE BROUGHT THE CONVERSATION AROUND TO SPIRITUAL THINGS SO THAT HE COULD TEACH THAT SOUL. LET'S GO TO ANOTHER PASSAGE. LET'S GO TO JAMES CHAPTER 2. VERSE 1, MY BRETHREN, HAVE NOT THE FAITH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE LORD OF GLORY WITH RESPECT OF PERSONS. DON'T DO THAT. AND THEN HE GIVES AN EXAMPLE, VERSE 2. FOR IF THERE COME UNTO YOUR ASSEMBLY A MAN WITH A GOLD RING, IN GOODLY APPAREL, AND THERE COME IN ALSO A POOR MAN IN VILE RAIMENT, AND YE HAVE RESPECT TO HIM THAT WEARETH THE GAY CLOTHING, AND SAY UNTO HIM, SIT THOU HERE IN A GOOD PLACE, BUT YOU SAY TO THE POOR MAN, STAND THOU OVER THERE, OR SIT HERE UNDER MY FOOTSTOOL, JAMES ASKS, ARE YE NOT THEN PARTIAL IN YOURSELVES, AND ARE BECOME JUDGES OF EVIL THOUGHTS? AND SO HERE JAMES IS DEALING WITH PARTIALITY, ALSO KNOWN AS RESPECT OF PERSONS. AND THE PARTICULAR BARRIER THAT JAMES IS TELLING YOU AND ME TO OVERCOME WOULD BE THE BARRIER OF ECONOMIC STATUS. DO WE SOMETIMES OVERLOOK PEOPLE IN OUR EVANGELISTIC EFFORTS SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY ARE POOR, MAYBE BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT WE HAVE, AND SO MAYBE WE FIND OURSELVES FEELING UNCOMFORTABLE AROUND THEM, AND SO IT'S JUST EASIER TO MOVE ON TO SOMEONE ELSE? FRIENDS, THE LESSON HERE PRESENTLY IS STOP LEAVING PEOPLE OUT. AS WE SHOULD NOT LET GENDER OR ETHNICITY BE A BARRIER, NEITHER SHOULD WE LET ECONOMIC STATUS BE A BARRIER IN OUR EVANGELISTIC EFFORTS. STOP LEAVING PEOPLE OUT. IN FACT, JAMES GOES ON IN THE VERY NEXT VERSE THERE, JAMES 2:5, AND HE TELLS US, GOD HATH CHOSEN THE POOR OF THIS WORLD

RICH IN FAITH. IN OTHER WORDS, SO OFTEN, NOT ALWAYS, BUT SO OFTEN IT IS THE POOR WHO PROVE THEMSELVES TO BE MOST RECEPTIVE TO THE GOSPEL. WHAT A SHAME, WHAT A TRAGEDY THEREFORE, IF WE OVERLOOK THEM OR WE IGNORE THEM ALTOGETHER. STOP LEAVING PEOPLE OUT. BUT NOW LET'S GO NEXT TO THE BOOK OF ACTS, ACTS 18:9-10. PAUL WAS IN THE WICKED CITY OF CORINTH. THEN SPAKE THE LORD TO PAUL IN THE NIGHT BY A VISION. JESUS SAID TO PAUL, BE NOT AFRAID, BUT SPEAK, AND HOLD NOT THY PEACE, FOR I AM WITH THEE, AND NO MAN SHALL SET ON THEE TO HURT THEE, FOR I HAVE MUCH PEOPLE IN THIS CITY. MY, WHAT A REMARKABLE STATEMENT THERE AT THE END OF VERSE 10. THIS WAS THE CITY OF ANCIENT CORINTH, A CITY THAT WAS INFAMOUS FOR ITS WICKEDNESS, ITS IMMORALITY. AND YET JESUS WAS SPEAKING PROSPECTIVELY WHEN HE SAID, I HAVE MUCH PEOPLE IN THIS CITY. IN OTHER WORDS, JESUS KNEW THAT THERE WERE MANY SOULS THERE THAT WHEN THEY HEARD THE GOSPEL, THEY WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO IT. NOW, THAT'S WHERE PAUL CAME IN. IT WOULD BE PAUL'S JOB TO TEACH AND TO PREACH THAT MESSAGE EVEN TO THE WICKED INHABITANTS OF ANCIENT CORINTH. AND SO NUMBER THREE, WE DON'T NEED TO BE LEAVING PEOPLE OUT BECAUSE OF EXTREME SIN IN THEIR LIVES. OH, I FEAR THAT MANY OF US HAVE BEEN GUILTY OF THIS. WE'VE LOOKED AT A PERSON OR WE'VE KNOWN A PERSON'S BACKGROUND, AND IN OUR MINDS WE HAVE ASSUMED HE'S TOO WICKED, SHE'S TOO SINFUL, THEY'RE TOO WORLDLY, THEY'RE NOT INTERESTED IN SPIRITUAL THINGS, THERE'S NO NEED, IT WOULD BE A WASTE OF TIME FOR ME TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH HIM OR WITH HER. FRIENDS, DON'T DO THAT. STOP LEAVING PEOPLE OUT. IF YOU AND I ARE TO BE BETTER SOUL WINNERS FOR THE LORD, WE HAVE TO STOP DOING THIS. NOW LET'S TRANSITION TO OUR SECOND POINT. IN THE SECOND PLACE OF HOW TO BE A SOUL WINNER, NUMBER TWO, REMEMBER SIMPLE APPROACHES. SIMPLE APPROACHES. FRIENDS, IT BEGINS WITH THIS. WE DON'T HAVE TO HAVE COMPLEX OR COMPLICATED SCHEMES OF REACHING OUT TO PEOPLE AND CONTACTING PEOPLE OR IMPACTING PEOPLE'S LIVES. IT BEGINS WITH EVEN SIMPLE APPROACHES. AND I HAVE TWO THAT I WANT US TO LOOK AT TOGETHER. FIRST OF ALL, REMEMBER THE POWER OF A SIMPLE INVITATION. SOMETIMES IT CAN BE JUST AS SIMPLE AS WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME TO WORSHIP WITH ME THIS SUNDAY? COULD I PICK YOU UP WEDNESDAY NIGHT AND TAKE YOU WITH ME TO BIBLE STUDY? JUST A SIMPLE INVITATION. AND SOMETIMES WHEN WE OFFER THOSE, PEOPLE RESPOND, AND THEY BEGIN COMING WITH US TO THE ASSEMBLIES OF CHRIST'S CHURCH WHERE THEY CAN LEARN AND LEARN AND LEARN MORE ABOUT GOD'S WILL. LET'S GO TO JOHN CHAPTER 1 TO SEE THIS POWER. IN VERSE 45, PHILIP FINDETH NATHANAEL AND SAITH UNTO HIM, WE HAVE FOUND HIM OF WHOM MOSES IN THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS DID WRITE, JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE SON OF JOSEPH. AND NATHANAEL SAID UNTO PHILIP, CAN THERE ANY GOOD THING COME OUT OF NAZARETH? NATHANAEL SEEMS INCREDULOUS. PHILIP SAITH UNTO HIM, COME AND SEE. SIMPLY, COME AND SEE. HAS ANYONE EVER APPROACHED YOU MAYBE WITH A QUESTION ABOUT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST? HAVE THEY EVER APPROACHED YOU WANTING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT GOD'S PEOPLE? HAVE YOU EVER LOOKED AT THEM WITH A SMILE AND SAID, COME AND SEE? BE MY GUEST? I'LL PICK YOU UP WEDNESDAY, I'LL PICK YOU UP SUNDAY MORNING. COME AND BE WITH ME. MEET US. BE WITH GOD'S PEOPLE. SOMETIMES A SIMPLE INVITATION IS ALL IT TAKES TO GET THE PROVERBIAL BALL ROLLING; AND ULTIMATELY MANY A SOUL HAS OBEYED THE GOSPEL. BUT NUMBER TWO, THERE'S ANOTHER SIMPLE APPROACH THAT WE NEED TO BE AWARE OF, AND THAT IS EVEN THOUGH WE MIGHT FEEL INCOMPETENT, NOTICE WHAT JESUS TOLD THE FORMER DEMONIAK HERE. HOWBEIT JESUS SUFFERED HIM NOT, THAT IS, TO GO WITH HIM, BUT SAITH UNTO HIM, GO HOME TO THY FRIENDS, AND TELL THEM HOW GREAT THINGS THE LORD HATH DONE FOR THEE AND HATH HAD COMPASSION ON THEE. AND HE DEPARTED AND BEGAN TO PUBLISH IN DECAPOLIS HOW GREAT THINGS JESUS HAD

DONE FOR HIM, AND ALL MEN DID MARVEL. FRIENDS, THIS IS A SECOND THING ABOUT SIMPLE APPROACHES. YOU MIGHT BE NOT BE ABLE TO ANSWER EVERY BIBLE QUESTIONS, AND GUESS WHAT? NEITHER AM I. BUT ONE THING THAT YOU CAN DO AND I CAN DO, WE CAN SIMPLY TELL OTHERS WHAT WE DID IN ORDER TO OBEY THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST. JESUS WAS NO LONGER WELCOME THERE IN THE REGIONS AROUND GADARA, AND SO HE WAS ASKED TO LEAVE, AND JESUS LEFT. BUT BEFORE LEAVING, HE TURNED TO THAT FORMER DEMONIC, AND HE SAYS I'M LEAVING YOU HERE. I'M NOT WELCOME, BUT THIS IS YOUR HOME, AND I WANT YOU TO TELL PEOPLE WHAT GREAT THINGS I'VE DONE FOR YOU. FRIENDS, JESUS HAS ASCENDED BACK INTO HEAVEN, BUT TODAY HE HAS LEFT HIS CHURCH UPON THIS EARTH; AND ALL OF US WHO ARE MEMBERS OF HIS BODY, THE CHURCH, WE DON'T HAVE TO BE BIBLE SCHOLARS TO TEACH OTHER PEOPLE. WE ALL CAN SIMPLY SHARE WITH THEM WHAT WE DID OURSELVES. HOW SIMPLE THAT IS, AND YET HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT WE DO SO. NOW, NUMBER THREE, SOMETHING ELSE ABOUT HOW TO BE A SOUL WINNER FOR THE LORD. AND THAT IS I WANT US TO TALK ABOUT SPIRITUAL IDEAS OR TRUTHS FROM EVERYDAY IDEAS. IN OTHER WORDS, WHEN WE LOOK IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, WE SEE THAT JESUS WAS PRONE TO USING ILLUSTRATIONS. MOST FAMOUSLY, JESUS SPOKE OFTEN IN PARABLES. WELL, PARABLES WERE SIMPLY ILLUSTRATIONS OF SPIRITUAL TRUTH THAT USED EVERYDAY IDEAS. NOW, I WANT US TO REALIZE THAT WE CAN EMPLOY SOME OF THESE SAME THINGS IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHERS. LOOK WITH ME TO THIS PASSAGE. IN THE FIRST PLACE, JOHN 6:26-27, JESUS ANSWERED THEM AND SAID, VERILY, VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, YOU SEEK ME, BUT NOT BECAUSE YOU SAW THE MIRACLES, BUT BECAUSE YOU DID EAT OF THE LOAVES AND WERE FILLED. JESUS SAID, LABOR NOT FOR THE MEAT OR THE FOOD WHICH PERISHETH, BUT FOR THAT FOOD WHICH ENDURETH UNTO EVERLASTING LIFE WHICH THE SON OF MAN SHALL GIVE UNTO YOU, FOR HIM HATH GOD THE FATHER SEALED. HERE WAS JUST ONE OF THE MANY INSTANCES IN WHICH JESUS SPOKE FIGURATIVELY. HE USED AN ILLUSTRATION. HE TALKED ABOUT FOOD. WELL, LITERAL FOOD FEEDS THE BODY. BUT HE USED THAT TO FOCUS HIS HEARERS' MINDS, HOPEFULLY, ON THE SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT THAT COMES ONLY FROM HIS WORD, HIS TEACHINGS. JESUS WOULD USE ILLUSTRATIONS. NOW, WE CAN DO THE SAME TODAY. FOR EXAMPLE, CONSIDER HEARING SOMEONE TALK ABOUT THE LOVE OF HIS OR HER LIFE. I LOVE THIS PERSON MORE THAN ANYTHING, OR MAYBE I EVEN LOVE MY JOB MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE. HEARING THAT, YOU COULD USE THAT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAY, HEY, DO YOU KNOW THAT THERE IS SOMEONE WHO LOVES YOU MORE THAN YOU CAN FULLY COMPREHEND? LOOK WITH ME HERE TO THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS. EPHESIANS 3:19, AND TO KNOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST WHICH PASSETH KNOWLEDGE SO THAT YE MIGHT BE FILLED WITH ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD. SOMEONE SPEAKING ABOUT THE LOVE OF HIS OR HER LIFE GIVES YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO BRING UP THE ONE WHO LOVES THEM MORE THAN WHAT THEY CAN FULLY COMPREHEND. ANOTHER EXAMPLE MIGHT BE THIS. LOOK IN MATTHEW 16:26. FOR WHAT IS A MAN PROFITED IF HE SHALL GAVE GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL? OR WHAT SHALL A MAN GIVE IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS SOUL? IF YOU HEARD SOMEONE TALKING ABOUT, HEY, THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN MY LIFE, THAT WOULD OPEN THE DOOR FOR YOUR BRINGING UP THAT VERY VERSE, MATTHEW 16:26. MAYBE A PERSON INVOLVED IN BUSINESS IS TALKING ABOUT PROFITS AND HOW PROFITABLE A CERTAIN VENTURE HAD BEEN. THAT LIKEWISE WOULD OPEN THE DOOR FOR MATTHEW 16:26. FRIENDS, EVERY DAY PROBABLY WE ARE MET WITH OPPORTUNITIES. IT'S AS SIMPLE AS STEPPING UP AND WALKING THROUGH THAT DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY. ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF USING EVERYDAY IDEAS TO TEACH SPIRITUAL TRUTHS WOULD BE THAT OF ATHLETICS. IN 1 CORINTHIANS 9:26 PAUL SAID, I THEREFORE SO RUN, NOT AS UNCERTAINLY; SO FIGHT I, NOT AS ONE THAT BEATETH THE AIR; BUT I KEEP UNDER MY BODY AND BRING IT INTO SUBJECTION, SO THAT OR LEST THAT BY ANY MEANS WHEN I HAVE

PREACHED TO OTHERS, I MYSELF SHOULD BE A CASTAWAY. THE RUNNING AND EVEN THE BOXING, SO TO SPEAK, THOSE WERE TWO ATHLETIC CONTESTS THAT WERE COMMON OR WELL KNOWN IN THE DAY. AND SO THERE WE HAVE EVEN THE APOSTLE PAUL USING ATHLETICS AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF SPIRITUAL TRUTH. MAYBE THE NEXT TIME YOU'RE TALKING WITH SOMEONE ABOUT WINNING THE PRIZE OR GAINING THE CHAMPIONSHIP, YOU COULD TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK ABOUT RUNNING THE CHRISTIAN RACE, FINISHING THAT RACE SO THAT ONE MIGHT INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE WHEN THIS LIFE IS OVER. SO MANY THINGS ARE AVAILABLE TO US TO HELP US BECOME BETTER SOUL WINNERS. BUT LET'S CONSIDER A FOURTH AND A FINAL CONSIDERATION, AND THAT IS FINALLY SHOW, DON'T TELL. SHOW, DON'T TELL. NOW, WHAT I MEAN BY THIS IS ANYTIME WE'RE ENGAGED IN RELIGIOUS DISCUSSIONS OR CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHERS, ULTIMATELY THE WORD OF GOD HAS TO BE THE FINAL AUTHORITY. AND SO WE SHOULD NEVER BE CONCERNED ABOUT TELLING OUR OPINION OR OUR THOUGHTS ON A PARTICULAR TOPIC OR PASSAGE, BUT INSTEAD LET'S GET BACK TO THE BIBLE. SHOW WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS INSTEAD OF SIMPLY TELLING OUR OWN OPINIONS. NOW, BEFORE WE SAY MORE ABOUT THAT, LET ME ALSO POINT OUT YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ANSWER EVERY QUESTION THAT A PERSON BRINGS UP. EVEN JESUS DIDN'T DO THAT. LOOK WITH ME TO THE BOOK OF MATTHEW. IN MATTHEW 21:23, AND WHEN HE WAS COME INTO THE TEMPLE, THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND THE ELDERS OF THE PEOPLE CAME UNTO HIM AS HE WAS TEACHING, AND THEY SAID, BY WHAT AUTHORITY DOEST THOU THESE THINGS, AND WHO GAVE THEE THIS AUTHORITY? JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO THEM, I ALSO WILL ASK YOU ONE THING, WHICH IF YOU TELL ME, I IN LIKEWISE WILL TELL YOU BY WHAT AUTHORITY I DO THESE THINGS. BUT WHAT'S INTERESTING, IF YOU READ ON IN THE CONTEXT THERE, THE PEOPLE WOULD NOT ANSWER JESUS, AND JESUS CONSEQUENTLY DID NOT ANSWER THEIR QUESTION. YOU AND I DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO ANSWER EVERY QUESTION A PERSON BRINGS UP BECAUSE SOMETIMES SOME OF THOSE QUESTIONS ARE INSINCERE AND LOADED QUESTIONS. LOOK WITH ME NOW TO LUKE CHAPTER 10. IN LUKE 10:25, BEHOLD, A CERTAIN LAWYER STOOD UP AND TEMPTED HIM, SEE, THIS IS INSINCERE, SAYING, MASTER, WHAT SHALL I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE? HE SAID UNTO HIM, WHAT IS WRITTEN IN THE LAW? HOW READEST THOU? HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF AN INSINCERE, YEA, EVEN A LOADED QUESTION, PERHAPS; AND YET JESUS, INSTEAD OF ANSWERING THE MAN'S QUESTION HIMSELF, BASICALLY JESUS POINTED HIM TO THE BIBLE, THE SCRIPTURES AND HAD HIM TO ANSWER HIS OWN QUESTION TO AN EXTENT. SEE, THAT'S A WONDERFUL EXAMPLE AND A HELPFUL TOOL FOR US. SHOW, DON'T TELL. POINT PEOPLE TO THE BIBLE AND HELP THEM TO FIND THE BIBLE ANSWERS FOR THEMSELVES. THE BIBLE'S WHAT MATTERS. NOTICE THESE VERSES THAT SHOW US THAT. HEBREWS 4:12, FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS QUICK AND POWERFUL AND SHARPER THAN ANY TWO-EDGED SWORD, PIERCING EVEN TO THE DIVIDING ASUNDER OF SOUL AND SPIRIT, AND OF THE JOINTS AND MARROW, AND IS A DISCERNER OF THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTS OF THE HEART. FOLKS, THE POWER IS IN THE WORD OF GOD. SHOW, DON'T TELL. AND THEN FINALLY, JAMES 1:21, WHEREFORE LAY APART ALL FILTHINESS AND SUPERFLUITY OR OVERFLOWING OF NAUGHTINESS, AND RECEIVE WITH MEEKNESS WHAT? THE ENGRAFTED WORD WHICH IS ABLE TO SAVE YOUR SOULS. FRIENDS, IN OUR SOUL WINNING EFFORTS, IF WE WILL TAKE PEOPLE TO THE BIBLE, SHOWING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS INSTEAD OF TELLING THEM OURSELVES, WE CAN BE MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE. THANK YOU.

JAMES >> LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE GOSPEL BROADCASTING NETWORK HAS JUST BROUGHT YOU PREACHING THE GOSPEL WITH BROTHER CLIFF GOODWIN. IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION RELATIVE TO ANYTHING THAT'S BEEN TAUGHT, OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE A CD OR A TAPE OF THE MESSAGE, JUST CALL THE TOLL-FREE NUMBER ON YOUR SCREEN. BE HAPPY TO SEND IT TO YOU. AND BY THE WAY, IF YOU WOULD LIKE

TO STUDY THE BIBLE PRIVATELY IN YOUR OWN HOME, WE OFFER FREE A SET OF FIVE STUDIES, AND WE'D BE HAPPY TO SEND THESE TO YOU AT NO COST AT ALL, AND IT WOULD BE OF GREAT ADVANTAGE. STUDY YOUR BIBLE, LEARN THE TRUTH, AND OBEY THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. IT WILL HAVE TO DO WITH YOUR ETERNAL DESTINY. WE APPRECIATE CLIFF, THE EXCELLENT JOB THAT HE DID IN THE PRESENTATION OF TRUTH. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT. MAY GOD BLESS.

CLIFF >> BECOMING A SOUL WINNER STARTS WITH SAVING YOUR OWN SOUL. FRIENDS, YOU NEED TO OBEY THE GOSPEL IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE THAT YET. ROMANS 10:17 TELLS US WE MUST HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. MARK 16:16 TELLS US WE MUST BELIEVE THAT SAVING MESSAGE, THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST. BELIEVING IT THEN MUST PROMPT US TO REPENT, ACTS 2:38, TURNING AWAY FROM THE PRACTICE OF SIN IN ORDER TO FOLLOW JESUS. WE THEN MUST CONFESS CHRIST EVEN WITH OUR MOUTHS, AND THEN PUT HIM ON IN BAPTISM. ROMANS 10:9-10 MENTIONS THAT CONFESSION, AND THEN ACTS 22:16 POINTS OUT THAT WE ARE BAPTIZED IN ORDER TO WASH AWAY OUR SINS BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST. FRIENDS, THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH ME HERE TODAY, AND VISIT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN YOUR COMMUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE THINGS.

>> MORE ABOUT JESUS LET ME LEARN, MORE OF HIS HOLY WILL DISCERN. SPIRIT OF GOD MY TEACHER BE, SHOWING THE THINGS OF CHRIST TO ME. MORE, MORE ABOUT JESUS. MORE, MORE ABOUT JESUS. MORE OF HIS SAVING FULLNESS SEE, MORE OF HIS LOVE WHO DIED FOR ME.