

## Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

### Ambassadors

#### Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 5.16-6.10

*So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20*

An ambassador officially represents his country. He works as an agent who conducts his country's business, a delegate who undertakes a special task, an intermediary who stands between his government and those of the world, a messenger who makes known the policies of his government, a mediator who brings two parties together, a pacifier who pours oil on troubled waters, and a peacemaker who brings accord out of conflict. Surely a task for the wise and influential. The Greek word 'ambassador' is derived from 'an elder'. The ambassador may be a man or a woman, even though for simplicity in this study the masculine is used.

#### The Qualifications of an Ambassador

He must be a citizen of Heaven. No alien can represent our government in a foreign court. He must have experienced 1 Peter 1.18&19.

He must be above reproach. He must be a true faithful representative. See 1 Peter 1.15.

He must be committed to his task. The 'not I but Christ' of Galatians 2.20 must be his motto. See also 2 Timothy 2.4

He must be in constant contact with his own government. How is your daily prayer life? 1 Thessalonians 5.17.

He must be skilled in the language and culture of the people with whom he lives. Thus he will know how to approach his people. Paul told the Corinthians, "... Being crafty, I caught you with guile." the word crafty here has the root thought of a decoy. He could have said 'Being aware, I baited my hook knowing you would bite'. Have we learned *how* to fish for men?

He must be intimately aware of the policies, strategies and programs of his government. Likewise, we must be skilled in a knowledge of the policies and provisions of the Heavenly Kingdom.

He must be able to talk with confidence to men in this world about the conditions and requirements and offers of that far away country. See 1 Corinthians 2.4-16. How do we become skilled in these things? 2 Timothy 2.15 gives the clue. The study and practice of God's word, building faith and experience in the things of God as we meditate upon His word and His way.

#### The Quest of an Ambassador

The work of the ambassador is to bring men and women to Christ. *"So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."* 2 Corinthians 5.20. As an ambassador

we are in an alien land representing the Kingdom of God.

This world is an alien land. This world is a battleground, not a playground. See 1 Peter 5.8&9, Ephesians 6.10-18, 2 Corinthians 2.11, 10.4. While we are in this world, we are not of this world and as children of the King we will never be at home here. While we are considerate of others, we can never compromise with the order where evil is in control.

We are at war with the forces of evil and the target is the hearts and lives of other men. The devil and his unclean agents are seeking to take men alive. See Jeremiah 5.25&26, 2 Corinthians 4.3&4, 2 Timothy 2.25&26; so are we. See Luke 5.10. 'Catch' and 'taken captive' literally mean 'to take alive.' Whilst we must bring a ministry of comfort, peace and justice to this needy world, as a consul of the King, Matthew 15.32, we know that the best treatment is not to comfort a dying patient, but the healing of the disease, and the disease is sinfulness in the hearts of men. Our aim is that of regeneration, not reformation.

#### The Equipment of an Ambassador

Consider the risks. In a foreign land, the ambassador is away from home, sometimes facing the tumult, the anger of mistrust and misunderstanding - Read 1 Corinthians 6.4&5.

Consider the resources with which we are to meet these demands. There is: the Christlike character, the comfort of the Holy Spirit within, the confidence

of a true message, the love of God for us and in us and through us, the convicting, converting power of God and the protection of the armour of righteousness. See 1 Corinthians 6.6&7.

Consider the response which we ought to make in this conflict, to honour our King. What word best describes Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 6.8-10? Try 'overcome'. We are to be overcomers. See Romans 12.21, 1 John 4.4, John 16.33. The words 'having done all' in Ephesians 6.13 could have been translated 'having overcome all'? We can only stand if first we overcome. Think about it!

#### The Equerry of an Ambassador

Do you feel inadequate for the task? An ambassador is assisted by others on the staff. He does not work alone. Look at these positions and tasks which make up the work of an embassy.

Diplomat, one skilled to conduct relations between states.

Envoy, an agent who works under an ambassador.

Attaché, one attached to the staff of an ambassador.

Emissary, an agent sent on a, sometimes secret, mission.

Consul, an agent appointed to reside in a foreign state to take care of administrative duty.

Look up Romans 12.4-8, find out where you fit in then be obedient to verses 9&10.

# Welcome

## Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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