

"For from the rising of the sun even to the going down of the same My Name SHALL BE GREAT AMONG THE NATIONS"



Therismos Kairos Mission

"Only one life till soon past only what's done in Christ will last And when I am dying how glad I shall be if the lamp of my life was been burned out for Thee"

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose!" Jim Elliot

PRESENT - MOBILIZE - EQUIP - ALERT - EXHORT - SUPPLY - IMPACT: TO EVANGELISE THE WORLD - TO EQUIP BELIEVERS

How to Testify for God

(Remark by Charles G Finney)

It is unreasonable for professors of religion to wonder at the thoughtlessness of sinners. Everything considered, the carelessness of sinners is not wonderful. We are affected by testimony and only by that testimony which is received to our minds. Sinners are so taken up with business, pleasure, and the things of the world, that they will not examine the Bible to find what religion is.

Their feelings are excited only on worldly subjects, because these only are brought into warm contact with their minds. Therefore, the things of the world make a strong impression on them. But there is so little to make an impression on their minds in respect to eternity, and to bring the things of religion home to them, that they do not feel on the subject.

If they examined the subject, they would feel. But they do not examine it, nor think upon it, nor care for it. And they never will, unless God's witnesses rise up and testify.

But inasmuch as the great body of Christians, in fact, live so as to testify on the other side by their conduct, how can we expect that sinners will feel correctly on the subject? Nearly all the testimony and all the influence that comes to their minds tends to make them feel the other way. **God has left His cause here before the human race, and left His witnesses to testify on His behalf, and behold they all turn round and testify the other way!** Is it any wonder that sinners are careless?

We see why it is that preaching does so little good, and how it is that so many sinners get hardened!

Sinners who live under the preaching of the Gospel are often supposed to be hardened; but only let the churches wake up and act consistently, and they will begin to feel.

If the churches were to live one week as if they believed the Bible, sinners would melt down before them.

It is evident that the standard of Christian living must be raised or the world will never be converted. If we had as many church members now as there are families, scattered all over the world, and a minister to every five hundred souls, and every child in a

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Sabbath-school, and every young person in a Bible class, you would have all the machinery you want; *but if the churches would contradict the truth by their lives, it would never produce a revival.*

They will never have a revival in any place, while the whole church in effect, testify against the minister. ***Often it is the case that where there is the most preaching, there is the least religion, because the church contradict the preaching.*** I never knew means fail of a revival, where Christians lived consistently.

- ⇒ One of the first things is to raise the standard of religion, so as to embody and hang out in the sight of all men, the truth of the Gospel.

Unless ministers can get the churches to wake up, and act as if religion were true, and back their testimony by their lives, in vain will they attempt to promote a revival.

Many churches are depending on their minister to do everything. When he preaches, they will say, "What a great sermon that was. He's an excellent minister. Such preaching must do good. We shall have a revival soon, I do not doubt." **And all the while they are contradicting the preaching by their lives. I tell you, if they are depending on preaching alone to carry on the work, they must fail.**

If Jesus Christ were to come down and preach, and the churches contradict it, He would fail. It has been tried once. Let an apostle rise from the dead, or an angel come down from heaven, and preach, without the churches to witness for God, and it would have no effect. The novelty might produce a certain kind of effect for a time, but as soon as the novelty was gone the preaching would have no saving effect, **while contradicted by the witnesses.**

Every Christian makes an impression by his conduct, and witnesses either for the one side or the other. His looks, dress, and whole demeanor, make a constant impression on the one side or the other. He cannot help testifying for or against religion. He is either gathering with Christ, or scattering abroad. **At every step you tread on cords which will vibrate to all eternity.** Every time you move, you touch keys whose sound will re-echo over all the hills and dales of heaven, and through all the dark caverns of Hell. In every movement of your lives you are exerting a tremendous influence which will tell on the immortal interests of souls all around you. **Are you asleep while all your conduct is exerting such an influence?**

Are you going to walk in the street Take care how you dress. What is that on your head? What does that gaudy ribbon, and those ornaments upon your dress, say, to everyone who meets you? They make the impression that you wish to be thought pretty. Take care! You might as well write on your clothes: "There is no truth in religion. Give me dress; give me fashion, and I am happy."

The world understands this testimony as you walk the streets. You are "*living epistles, known and read of all men.*" If you show pride, levity, bad temper, and the like, it is like tearing open the wounds of the Saviour. How Christ might weep to see the professors of religion going about, hanging up His cause to contempt at the corners of the streets. Only "let the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety, not with broidered hair, or gold or pearls, or costly array, but—which becometh women professing godliness—with good works"

Only let them act consistently, and their conduct will tell on the world: heaven will rejoice and Hell groan at their influence.

But let them display vanity; try to be pretty; bow down to the goddess of fashion; fill their ears with ornaments, and their fingers with rings; let them put feathers in their hats and clasps upon their arms, and lace themselves up until they can hardly breathe;

let them put on their "round tires, and walk mincing as they go"; and their influence is reversed: heaven puts on the robes of mourning, and Hell may hold a jubilee.

It is easy to see why revivals do not prevail in a great city. How can they? Just look at God's witnesses, and see what they are testifying to. *They seem to be agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord, and to lie to the Holy Ghost. They make vows to God to consecrate themselves wholly to Him, and then bow down at the shrine of fashion, and wonder that there are no revivals. It would be more than a miracle to have a revival under such circumstances.*

How can a revival prevail in this church? Do you suppose that I have such a vain imagination of my own ability as to think that I can promote a revival by preaching over your heads, while you live on as you do? Do you not know that so far as your influence goes, **most of you are right in the way of a revival? Your spirit and manner produce an influence on the world against religion.** How shall the world believe religion, when the witnesses are not agreed among themselves? You contradict yourselves; you contradict one another; you contradict your minister; and the sum of the whole testimony is: there is no need to be holy!

Do you believe that the things I have been preaching are true, or do you think that they are the ravings of a disturbed mind? If they are true, **do you recognize the fact that they have reference to you?** You say, perhaps, "I wish some of the rich churches could hear this." Why, I am not preaching to them, I am preaching to you. My responsibility *is* to you, and my fruits must come from you.

What is the testimony on the leaf of the record which is now sealed for the judgment concerning this day? Have you manifested a sympathy with the Son of God, when His heart is bleeding in view of the desolations of Zion? Have your children, clerks, and servants seen it to be so? **Have they seen a solemnity in your countenance, and tears in your eyes, in view of perishing souls?**

Finally, God and all moral beings have great reason to complain of all this false testimony. There is ground to complain that God's witnesses turn and testify, point blank, against Him. **They declare by their conduct that there is no truth in the Gospel.** Heaven might weep and Hell rejoices to see this. Oh how guilty! **Here you are, going to the judgment, red all over with blood.** Sinners are to meet you there; those who have seen how you live, many of them already dead, and many others you will never see again. What an influence you have exerted!

Perhaps hundreds of souls will meet you in the judgment, and curse you for leading them to Hell, **by practically denying the truth of the Gospel!** What will become of this city, and of the world, when the churches are united in practically testifying that God is a liar? They testify by their lives, that if they make a profession of religion and live a moral life, that is religion enough. **Oh what a doctrine of devils is that!** It is enough to ruin the whole human race.

Become involve in the harvest by: going, praying, sending, supporting!