**THE TOOLS OF A MISSIONARY**

***Ephesians 6:10-20***

Sunday School Lesson

*Understanding Missions*

Week 5 – 5/20/2018

**Introduction:** As a missionary sets out to enter their God-assigned field, they do not enter that field empty handed. The Lord has equipped us with tools that we are to use in spreading the Gospel to the lost world. While these tools are given to all born-again believers, we are going to specifically look at how the missionary uses these tools in the field. This is also a good opportunity for us to remember that we are all missionaries. We all have a responsibility to the mission of reaching souls for Christ. Keeping this in mind will help us to apply this lesson in carrying out the mission in our local community.

1. A MISSIONARY HAS A TOOL THAT CANNOT BE DEFEATED – THE TRUTH. (2 COR. 13:8)
2. **Notice that the truth will always stand out against everything else (I John 2:21-23).** While there can be many versions of a lie, there is only one truth. The Bible tells us in I John that anything that denies Jesus Christ is a lie. In fact, the Bible tells us that Jesus Christ Himself is Truth. While there are many religions that send missionaries around the world, what should make our missionaries’ words stand out is that they are anchored by the truth. They should not have to rely on their methods and means more than their message. What we know about the truth is that it always reveals itself in the end. Missionaries should have confidence that what they are preaching and teaching will be proven correct over time. While people do not always like or accept the truth (2 Tim. 4:4), those who are genuinely looking for the truth will be drawn (John 18:37) to our faith in Jesus Christ.
3. **Notice that the truth will always stand up against the efforts of Satan (John 8:44).** The Devil has been battling against the truth since the very beginning of life on this planet. He distorted the words of God when he deceived Eve in the garden. The Bible tells us that there is no truth at all in Satan. He is constantly looking for ways to turn the truth into a lie. If people know the truth, they will find freedom in it (John 8:32). For this reason, the Devil is fighting at all hours to turn people away from the truth. He does not want anyone to find its freedom. In spite of his attacks, though, the Devil has been unsuccessful in stamping out truth in this world. While missionaries should expect the Devil to fight against their preaching of the truth, they can also expect that God will help them overcome and continue to proclaim His Name to a lost and sinful world.
4. A MISSIONARY HAS A TOOL THAT CANNOT BE DISPARAGED – GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS. (ROMANS 1:17; 3:4-6)
5. **Notice that God’s righteousness humbles the heart of man (Isaiah 64:6).** When we show others the righteousness of God, we are also simultaneously showing them their own unrighteousness. A person does not have to know much about God’s righteousness to quickly figure out how much they pale in comparison to Him. One of the greatest tools that a missionary can use to lead people to Christ is to help them realize how unclean they are compared to a righteous and just God. Everything that we can even understand about doing good comes from our knowledge of God. Not only do we have a God who has never sinned, but we have a God who is not even capable of sinning. The very idea of sin goes against the very fiber of God and His plan.

1. **Notice that God’s righteousness honors the heart of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).** While God is infinitely more righteous than sinful man, He still chose to send His Son to take upon the sins of all mankind. This speaks to the compassion and love that God has for us. In spite of our unrighteousness, His righteousness caused Him to give His love to us. God, in His righteousness, could have chosen to judge us without any recourse for our sin. Yet, He freely offered His righteousness to any and all who are willing to call upon Him and receive it. This characteristic of His righteousness has the ability to soften even the hardest of hearts.
2. A MISSIONARY HAS A TOOL THAT IS COVETED AND DESIRED – REAL PEACE. (ROM. 10:15)
3. **Notice that the unsaved man lives a life at war with others. (Matthew 24:6).** Throughout the history of the world, we have seen war after war after war. This is a direct result of the introduction of sin onto

this planet. From that time, there has never been true world peace. Most people in this world have a

desire to see world peace. They are tired of the constant fighting that occurs all around them. The sad reality is that world peace will never be possible until God creates a new earth. What the unsaved man can find is the individual peace that comes from putting your faith in Christ. Through this faith, he will also have a blessed hope in a world peace that is to come when God’s work is finished. There have been many false religions that have further promoted conflict in this world. Our faith is not based in political or physical victory here on Earth. Our faith is toward that peaceful Heavenly city!

1. **Notice that the unsaved man lives a life at war with God (Romans 8:9).** Our flesh is in a constant war against God. It does not want to cooperate with the laws that God has established to govern us. This war against our Creator keeps us in an ongoing conflicted state. It is also a senseless war, as it is one that we cannot possibly win. The great message of the Gospel is that we can resolve this conflict without the loss of any more life! Additionally, God is not only wanting to withhold the punishment for the war, but He is also willing to give a home in Heaven to those who trust in Him. What an amazing offer that God has given to us, and what a powerful and effective message for those conflicted and hurting in this lost world that we live in!

IV. A MISSIONARY HAS A TOOL THAT CANNOT BE DESTROYED – OUR FAITH. (GALATIANS 1:23)

A. **Notice that persecution grows faith more than it destroys faith (Galatians 1:23).** The great aspect of our faith is that is cannot be destroyed by the enemies of the Lord. The Devil has tried to do everything in his power to destroy the faith, yet he continues to fail. Furthermore, the more that those who have faith are persecuted the greater that faith seems to grow. There were many haters during the time of the early church, and they persecuted the church greatly. Faith is not a physical and tangible substance, so there is no way for a person to take it unless you give it to them. In spite of the risk of death, though, the number of Christians continued to grow and grow. When others see that we are willing to withstand persecution for our faith, they want to have that same faith in their own lives.

B. **Notice that a person’s faith cannot be debated (Acts 5:28-42).** The world is constantly wanting to debate and argue with Christians about our faith. What they do not seem to understand is that there is no way to debate against faith. The whole definition of faith is based on something that is evidenced but not clearly seen. If it could be seen, then it would not be of faith. When a missionary tells others about Christ, he witnesses in faith. There is no reason to argue with a person at the door or in your favorite grocery aisle. Just tell them about your own faith, and let them make a decision.

V. A MISSIONARY HAS A TOOL THAT CUTS TO THE DEEPEST PART OF MAN – THE BIBLE. (HEBREWS 4:12)

A. **Notice that the Holy Spirit of God is vital to the missionary’s use of the Word of God (John 14:26).** While the Word of God is immensely powerful, mankind severely lacks in our understanding of it. This is why God gave us His Spirit. The Spirit of God helps to teach us every word that God has spoken. As a missionary shares the gospel with the world, he is to rely on that Spirit to guide him and instruct him in all things. A missionary who does not rely on the Spirit of God will not see the fruits that could be obtained with the help of the Spirit.

B. **Notice that the Holy Spirit gives us wisdom that can’t be compared to man’s wisdom (I Corinthians 2:13).** While there are many “smart preachers” who have impressed the itching ears of man, there is nothing as impressive as the wisdom that comes from God. As time goes on, the individual will realize that the wisdom of man fails them in this life. It is just too limited and sinful. When a new believer experiences the wisdom that comes from God, it does not take them long to recognize that it is a wisdom that can keep them from all of life’s problems.

**CONCLUSION**: God has given the missionary great tools to be effective on the mission field. If he is not seeing a work done for Christ, he ought to ensure that he is utilizing every tool that he has. The early church put these tools to work, and they were able to see God do many wonderful things. We ought to examine ourselves to be sure that we are doing our part to promote the gospel in our local mission field.