

The Heartbeat of God - Souls

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[0 : 00] I wanted to talk about the heartbeat of God. And I believe it goes like this.! Souls, souls, souls, souls, souls.

! It's a fact that 10 out of 10 people die.! And when they die, they go to a never-ending place. The future is getting closer, isn't it? And time is limited.

Imagine that you have the cure to the dread disease of cancer. And you knew people dying of this disease. What would you do? You'd tell them.

Wouldn't you tell them? As much as bodies will die, they contain never-dying souls. And that's what matters most of all, isn't it?

Souls. Think of the worth of one's soul. I picked this up just earlier on, and it's called the worth of a soul. Bear with me while I read it. The worth of a soul.

[0 : 57] Who can count its value? Who can appraise its worth? An immortal soul is beyond all price. In money, one soul is of more value than the wealth of the whole world.

In suffering, it is better that all the people of the world would suffer than all their lives on earth if by their suffering one's soul could be saved. In journeying, no foreign land is too distant, or any portion of it too inaccessible, for all the people of the world to take a journey there if by doing so one soul could be saved.

There is no trouble too great, no humiliation too deep, no suffering too severe, no love too strong, no labour too hard, no expense too large, but that is worth it if it is spent in the effort to win a soul. God loves every soul with an everlasting eternal love, greater and deeper than any human love can possibly be.

Satan hates the soul. In Satan's enmity against God, he is using all his energy, using every snare, his utmost cunning, employing every means with the one single purpose of ruining the soul of man.

[2 : 49] Because Satan knows the soul is God's most cherished creation, the very apple of his eye. A soul will never die. And when this earth of ours has crumbled to dust and has passed away into the forgotten past, a soul will still be in its freshness of youth.

When in the fathomless future eternity has become hoary with age, the soul will still be young. When a million, million eternities have each lived out their endless ages and have rolled into the unfathomable past and time is no more, the soul will still be living a conscious personal reality endowed with perpetual youth and perpetual life.

And God has said, he that winneth souls is wise. If Christians would only realise the value and the immortality of a soul and the shortness of this earthly life, they would work feverishly, unceasingly with all their energy, day after day, year after year, that they might save one.

Oh, Christians, are their souls passing your way? Are you bestirring yourself in their behalf that they may have eternal life and joy?

Or are you allowing them to cross your path and pass on unwarned to an eternal death? So wrote a man called, I presume a man, called Norton, missionary to India in 1923.

[4 : 29] The worth of a soul, the worth of a soul. Brothers and sisters, think of that, the worth of a soul. You know, what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

It's more than the whole value of the whole world. Our mission is to reach the lost at any cost. And we have the best news ever, don't we?

Don't you? You have the greatest news. There's no greater news. There's no more important message. There's no more, there's nothing greater, no advertising slogan, nothing compares, nothing comes close to this message, the message that we have for never-dying souls.

This is good news for sharing the gospel, the good news, and the great commission that is for us today. In Matthew 28, we can read it from verse 18.

Matthew 28 and verse 18. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of

the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.

[5 : 46] And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. He says, Go ye. Now, sadly, a recent survey found that almost half of millennials, I guess the kind of the younger age set, I'm not sure what the band is there, but, you know, more of the younger age set of today, of modern Christians, 47%, almost half, agree at least somewhat that it is wrong to share one's personal beliefs with someone of a different faith in hopes that they will one day share the same faith.

That's a Barna research study, a survey, 47%, almost half say, it's wrong to share your personal beliefs with someone of a different faith. That's woeful, isn't it?

That's called disobedience. That's disobeying God. Because God says, Go ye into all, A double L, the world. Soul winning has been called every Christian's job.

It's for all of us. It's our task. It's a task for every Christian. We're all called to it. Go ye into all, the world.

Yet only a few reach out when you actually see the reality of how things are. Someone once asked a preacher called Beecher, Lyman Beecher, a great preacher of old, and they asked him, Mr. Beecher, what do you consider the greatest thing a human being can do or be?

[7 : 18] And without hesitation, this famous preacher, he says, The greatest thing is not that one should be a scientist, important as that is. Not that one should be a statesman, vastly important, as that is.

Not even that one should be a theologian, immeasurably important as that is, but the greatest thing of all, note, is for one human being to bring another human being to Christ.

For one human being to bring another human being to Christ. That is the greatest thing, isn't it? The utmost, it's the ultimate, isn't it? And there's joy in rejoicing.

There's rejoicing in heaven. There's rejoicing in earth. And there's rewards in heaven. Not that we are working for our salvation, but there is an acknowledgement in heaven for souls that are one.

And some have said, it's the only thing we can take to heaven, really, isn't it? We can't take anything that we earn or works as such, or efforts of our own doing.

[8 : 20] Yet, it's other souls. We can take other souls with us in the sense that those that we introduce to Christ, we'll see them in heaven. We'll see that one day.

And there's this eternal change that happens, this rejoicing. And we've seen some of that in the witnessing team efforts and amongst our number are some who we've challenged have trusted Christ for the first time in their lives and even in older age.

And soul winning evangelism, witnessing, it's the souls, souls, souls, the heartbeat of God. It's the sob of God it's been described as.

It's the anguished cry of Christ our Lord as he weeps over the doomed city. He beheld the city and he wept over it. It's the cry of Paul. I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen, after the flesh.

Evangelism, it's the heart winning plea of Moses. Oh, this people have sinned. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin, if not, block me, I pray thee, out of the book which thou hast written.

[9 : 26] It's the cry of John Knox. Give me Scotland or I die. It is the declaration of John Wesley. The world is my parish. It is the sob of parents in the night weeping over a prodigal child.

Evangelism, souls, the great commission. Is it the great commission? Sometimes it's called the great omission, isn't it? Where we actually omit, we don't do it rather than we commit to doing it.

And what's stopping you? What's stopping me? I'm including me in the you because there's many reasons why we don't witness, isn't there? There's many forces that are opposing us that make it hard as we would understand it or perceive it to be.

Too hard. There's forces at work opposing you from witnessing. Yet you are empowered by his power. He says, all power is given unto me, so send I you.

Another reason we should witness is, and when I say should, I'm not meaning it's something that this is, that I'm putting a yoke on you.

[10 : 34] But we know God tells us to do it. That's really the point, isn't it? And we can, with glad-heartedness, obey his call.

It tells us in 2 Corinthians 5 verse 11, knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men. We've got a love for souls because we don't want them to suffer the terror of the Lord.

And so we persuade men. 2 Corinthians 5 verse 11. What is holding you back? Maybe it's nerves. Preacher, I'm just, I'm just a nervous, I'm a quiet, shy, retiring type and, oh look, these ones that are a bit more outgoing might be better at it than me.

There was a preacher called Fred Moffat. He was born in Scotland and it says of him as a boy that he stammered so terribly that he was the laughingstock of the neighbours. Oh, have you heard Fred?

You just can't get a word out down the road here. There's Fred Moffat. And after his conversion he attended a testimony meeting where people were testifying of their, the salvation they knew and telling how the Lord had saved them and Fred wanted desperately to testify to tell his story of how he got saved, of what the Lord had done for him.

[11 : 54] But all the time he thought of his stammering tongue that he just thought my tongue's going to get tired and I'm just going to make a fool of myself and he held back. Then the call came again in the meeting for those who wanted to testify and the conviction got so strong for young Fred he got so insistent that he said okay Lord if a girl sitting near me testifies then I will too.

And the next thing is the girl rose up and she testified she gave her testimony she declared how the Lord had saved her and so young Fred kept his promise. Not only did the Lord help him to give his testimony but his stammering tongue that had given him so much trouble gave him no further trouble from that day forward and he now well at the time of this writing is the pastor of the great First Baptist Church of Frankfurt, Kentucky.

Now what a story that someone who might feel I'm never going to be able to be able to say anything I've got this stammering tongue that God used him and gave him that courage and enabled him to overcome his stammering tongue.

It's about stepping out of our comfort zone sometimes isn't it really where we realise I can't but God can. You can witness and there's so many different ways that we can witness.

It doesn't all have to be in a public form you know open air preaching doesn't suit everyone. It could be in more gentle personal ways with the people that you come to know and get to know and get to have conversations with that God can help you in your own way to find the way of witnessing that fits you that fits your ability and your capacity.

[13 : 42] You know it can be in quite amazing ways that the word of God can be declared. There's a story told of an earnest preacher of the gospel that was caught and sent to prison and expected to die in the south of France and there was all these undesirables there there was anarchists and communists and the people were desperate they knew that there was a life sentence a death sentence and they were desperate as they sat in these prison cells and sometimes the prisoners would write on the walls all these curses and swearing and venting their hate and anger but the evangelist thought no I'm going to write something for the Lord on this wall on my prison cells wall and he wrote this he says fear not them which are able to kill the body but are not able to kill the soul but rather fear him which is able to destroy both body and soul in hell and then underneath that he wrote John 3 16 in full God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life and when he wrote this on the wall it attracted the attention of others and one of the prisoners was a young schoolmaster and the evangelist had the joy of leading him to Christ and this schoolmaster said to the preacher he said my name is on the list today to be shot

I'm so glad you wrote that text on the wall before I should have been desperate but now although I do not want to die I am not desperate because I know I'm going to be with Jesus and I shall see him again they embraced one another and he was taken out and shot but one day we shall see him in glory a man saved by just someone writing on the wall now I'm not saying go and do graffiti on walls where you live but I mean some do such things but you know obviously got to use wisdom but we want to get the word out don't we get the word out the word on the streets get the word out any way we can by all means save some you know as a church we're intending to print some gospel tracts we're committed to that you know we're committed I'd like to get thousands of them out you know we need to reach the lost at any cost we want to get the word out while we've got time how do I start pray for a burden pray for a burden a burden for souls that will enable us that will that will equip us it will fire us it will it will constrain us a love for souls a love for our Lord it can enable you to be a witness and friends today again

God will show you the way for you he will open doors he will give you openings step in step out step in to the opportunities what can enable us how do I start the love of Christ constrains us in 2

Corinthians 5:14 for the love of Christ constraineth us because we thus judge if one died for all then we're all dead for the love of Christ constraineth us there's a constraining it's just it just moves us we're compelled we're we're we're sent we're we're thrust out we're we're constrained we have we can't hold back the constraining of his love the cords of his love it draws us to reach out to the lost and with God you can say I can do all things

I can do anything be faithful to God's word the love of Christ constraineth us how can I get this burden realize the vital need the vital need souls never dying souls they're going to go somewhere there's a world facing the wrath of God and we're facing his judgment and we have the message we have the message you have the message you have the message and it should be God helping you on your lips to tell somebody we have the message mankind needs to hear desperately a burning message a constraining message that we're commissioned to deliver and we have a world that needs to hear this message so essentially so critically so vitally and the consequences are deadly and eternal if we fail to rightly deliver his message you know there is a there's a song I don't necessarily endorse endorse it but but the phrase really struck me of a song that again I don't endorse the artist of the song but the song says I've got to tell somebody I've got to tell somebody and it's like there is the truth of it isn't it we've got to tell people we've got to tell somebody we've got to tell people maybe we are waiting for some kind of sign you know some people think well okay I hear you preaching tonight yeah I know I should but I'm just going to wait till it's the right time till I get the you know I've got to have you know some people have this sense where I've got to have this warm and fuzzy feeling I've got to get the goosebumps I've got to have the dreams and visions I've got to have some something to you know just speak to me God's already spoken to you it's already here it's clear there's no doubting it there's no question of it there's no pussy footing around about it and you might say well it's just not the right time for me you know I've kind of got this going on and that maybe later on when I've got a bit more clear of a few things and I've got a bit more capacity when is the right time when is the right time to share the gospel when is it time now 2

[19:46] Corinthians 6 verse 2 tells us when the time is that we should do it that we should care about salvation honestly brothers and sisters and I'm preaching to myself it says in the day of salvation have I succored thee behold now is the accepted time today and now is the day of salvation now is the accepted time now is the day of salvation now is the time there's no better time than now because the now is all we've got isn't it now is all we've got so we can choose life we can choose to be his witnesses and the world desperately needs us to do it now not to hold off not to wait oh preacher I'll wait till I'm better trained I've got to do some study and know the particular format and I'm just not quite schooled enough you don't have to be schooled you have to be saved and then if you're saved you've got a message because you've got the message of salvation the same message that saved you you've got that in your heart and you can put that in your life you can deliver that with your feet the harvest is right the opportunity is now he says the fields are white unto harvest he says don't wait four months you know don't have some excuse now is the harvest time the opportunity is now

I know there's another verse that I came across and I meant to have that to hand where it talks about I've lost it but there's a verse that talks about someone sleeping in the time of harvest you might know that one in the proverbs it talks about someone sleeping in the time of harvest you know the one yeah I know and it says woe to that one is sleeping in the time of harvest mind you I do like the odd little refreshing sleep but there's a time where it's a time of harvest it's not the time to sleep I know our brother Rodney's got some sheep to shear and Diane you've probably got some sheep to shear and there's other farmers out here when there's work to be done when the sheep need shearing when the harvest needs reaping there's no time to dilly dally and wait it has to happen there and then now is the time the opportunity is now and so how do we start it's our part to give the message to open our mouth and tell people now of course there's the written form there's tracts we've got multiple tracts and there's opportunity to do such things

I know in time past as a church we had like a community newsletter and we'd give 20,000 of those out at a time we'd do some leaflet dropping ourselves but also use leaflet deliverers and that was well received across the 20,000 at a time and we did it multiple times we had you know some sponsorship that had that helped cover the cost because it's a huge cost you can imagine but to get the word out to get the word out to letter boxes to get the word out across the streets of our city is such a fundamental needful thing to do how do we start and use the printed form but more so your

mouth it's about opening our mouth isn't it it's our part to give the message open our mouths and tell people it says in Romans 10 17 so then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God for them to hear they need to we need to speak in the word of God spread the message far and wide God helping us everyone needs to hear it and there is nothing nothing more important and this is God's business that we're called to we're called to it there's a story about D.L. Moody old time evangelist walking in Chicago and he walked up to a man who asked him if he were a Christian Moody asked the man if he were a Christian and the fellow raised his fist and he said you mind your own business and Moody said this is my business well then you must be Moody he replied they knew he had a reputation and we ought to be about the Lord's business be about our father's business we're created in Christ Jesus unto good works we are his workmanship he's ordained before that we should walk in them and think of that as you plan your time how can I put time into this of course we've got necessary needful occupation and supporting our family and that has to be very fundamental that we not he that does not provide for his family is worse than an infidel and there's necessary time to put in our family but God helping us as we have those other times those opportunities that we not neglect that heartbeat of God souls to be about that

God's work he's called us to it and it's the wisest thing to do he who in souls is wise Proverbs 11 verse 30 the question is what in the world are we doing for heaven's sake good question isn't it what in the world are we doing for heaven's sake and this news it's so critical so essential that we communicate it and I urge you take every opportunity you've got people that you can reach that I may not have a conversation with you know you think that there's a broad span of people here today and there's people you can reach in your street in your circle of influence that are not in my acquaintance every one of us has a patch of the mission field we can reach for the Lord and we have a commission take every opportunity and it's one to one is the ideal isn't it I know in times past I've done open air preaching and it's unnerving to say the least at times and not against it but sometimes it's the face to face isn't it door to door soul by soul one to one person to person one soul at a time and having that personal conversation and just to look them in the eyes with love and compassion for their soul in Isaiah 6 we see our Lord cry out who will go

[26 : 15] Lord send me send me pick me Isaiah cried and we have need to be a volunteer there's a sense where he's still saying he's still asking the same question isn't he if we really tune in who will go he's still asking that and I know some have got burdens for reaching out to other nations even amongst us there's opportunities this is a global need this is worldwide I see enough need even in the local area I hear stories I was just talking to some people of late of hardship of families in poverty of much the world sees it where they see families in crisis domestic violence drug abuse drink addictions and wives getting bashed and people getting hurt child abuse awful things people living in grimy dirty living conditions no sense of cleanliness or hygiene no opportunity for work second and third generation unemployment this is the reality in the streets right here right nearby right all around us there's people crying out in desperation and the government can throw money at it and do this and that and programs and self help and counselling and you know self esteem but they need

Christ they need Christ Christ is the answer Christ is the answer for Playford for Salisbury for Adelaide for South Australia for the world and friends we have need of fervency as we think this is the heartbeat of God we should be fervent we should be stirred up I need to be stirred up to have more fervency for my Lord think of heaven and hell life and death decisions we don't see these things so much in our time but back in 1879 there was a notorious criminal in England called Charles Pierce and he was executed on February the 25th 1879 and just before his execution an Anglican minister came along kind of half-heartedly and read to him from some religious book and he quoted this he said those who die without Christ experience hell which is the pain of forever dying without the release which death itself can bring hell the pain of forever dying and Charles stopped the minister and he said sir if I believed what you believe and the church of God says that you believe even

England were covered with broken glass from coast to coast I would walk over it if need be on hands and knees and think it worthwhile living just to save one soul from an eternal hell like that what's stopping us the inconvenience the discomfort the nerves the fear of man you have a mission to complete this is your mission if you choose to accept it isn't it don't blow it don't don't say no yes Lord this is your mission say yes sir yes Lord you have a mission to complete to the glory of your mighty God his heart is still beating for those souls imagine what took missionaries into dangerous

lands there was a preacher John Getty in 1840 he left the pastorate of a church in Canada took his wife and two small children to the

South Sea Islands to begin a mission there and after a voyage of more than 20,000 miles they arrived in the New Hebrides Islands at Anityum and this island chain was filled with cannibals and more than 20 crew members of a British ship had just been killed and eaten just months before Getty's landed on the mission field and this John Getty and his wife they had the difficulty of learning a language that had no written form and the constant threat of being killed slowly at first a few converts came and they soon then soon many more were converted to Christ and Getty continued his ministry faithfully translating the entire word of God into the native tongue and planted 25 churches and for many of those years Getty labored with little help little word from home but God was faithful to his servant and in the pulpit of the church

Getty pastored for so many years stands a plaque in his honour which says when he landed in 1848 there were no Christians here and when he left in 1872 there were no heathen God can do wonders can't he God can do wonders through his modern day apostles as it were missionaries through those that he sends out apostello sends out and he's sending you he's sending me to the mission field that he's put on our heart whether it be local or beyond souls here's another story I've told a few little stories here to illustrate the point I trust I'm not guilty of storytelling as we know some can neglect the word and go into all stories but I trust these are stories with a point to make another story and it's headed bleeding to death outside a hospital that's quite a title isn't it

[32 : 10] Christopher Sears was playing basketball with his friends when he was shot in the chest a bullet perforated an aorta his heart was perforated and his friends helped him to get within 40 feet of the entrance of the Ravenswood hospital and they went inside and asked for help come our friend is dying he's been shot he's bleeding his heart is shot and the hospital staff refused to help Christopher saying it was against the policies it's against the policies typical government against the policies of the hospital to administer aid to those outside of the hospital eventually a policeman came and grabbed a wheelchair and wheeled Christopher into the hospital where he was helped by the hospital staff it was too late too late for Christopher he died about an hour later bleeding to death outside a hospital many times churches are surrounded by souls that desperately need to hear the message yet

Christians are content to share it only within the four walls for those who manage to come inside their church brothers and sisters we've got to go out go out into the highways and hedges the streets and byways we've got to go out compel them to come in I think this is my last story for you here tonight as the familiar account of the Titanic going down some of you might have heard it there was a young Scotsman who stood up in a meeting after the event in Canada and he said I'm a survivor of the Titanic when I was drifting alone on a spa that awful night here he was hanging on to this wood bobbing up and down in the icy cold waters as the Titanic nosedived!

down and it was gone he was hanging on to this piece of wood on that awful night he says and the tide brought Mr. John Harper my way John Harper of Glasgow and he was on a piece of wreckage near me and he said man are you saved?

No I said I am not Harper said believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved the waves bore him away again as the choppy waters came they drifted but then a little later Harper came in range again and he said are you saved now no I said I cannot honestly say that I am he said again believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and shortly after he went down and there alone in the night with two miles of water under me I believe I am John Harper's last convert brothers and sisters time is short people are dying the lost are needing this message so essentially your message from your mouth may this be our priority may there be an urgency yes

Proverbs 10 verse 5 was the one that rebukes the one sleeping during harvest there's many asleep and the devil will rock your cradle and he'll sing you a lullaby won't he the sleeping son during harvest oh just sleep on sleep on sleeper and he'll sing you a lovely tune and you'll feel so relaxed and comfortable there's harvest the harvest it's ready it's ready Spurgeon said if sinners will be damned at least let them leap to hell over our bodies if they perish if they will perish let them perish with our arms about their knees imploring them to stay if hell must be filled at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions let us not one go there unwarned and unprayed for if sinners go to hell at least we can tell them and they'll tell you get lost or something worse they'll slam the door they'll curse and swear they'll reject you but they're not rejecting you don't take it personally it's Christ and they'll stand in judgment for that one preacher said this the best use of our time is to spend it for

something that outlasts it spend your time for something that outlasts it that outlasts your life the truth is only the kingdom of God is going to last and look we could talk about methodologies and you know there's various schools of the Romans road there's the you know some would major on creation evangelism some would talk about the law and use various approaches it's whatever fits for you it's the message it's the word faith comes by hearing they need to know they're a lost sinner they're hell bound their guilt will take them to hell the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life and we're imparting simple truths yet eternal truths and you are the one to transmit that message it's not for one or a select number it's for every believer go ye into all the world and preach the gospel take it with you you can master that essential message of all have sinned come short of the glory of God wages of sin is death the gift of God is eternal life

[38 : 13] Jesus Christ our Lord that he died on the cross for sinners such as we rose again from the dead we have a message of life of God's gift of his grace received by faith in simple trusting on calling on his name calling on him and receiving in simple faith that is the essential truth and it's so simple for those who will believe the methods and refinement of that can follow later as you take the first step first step and if you're feeling inadequate go with another Christian team up with someone who's done it before and you can learn from one another as we know the Jehovah's Witnesses are very good at giving their bad message they're very good at giving their fake gospel because there's no good news in it it's the bad news and they train their people week after week they have these sessions don't they where they come and they practice and they coach and they mentor and they indoctrinate we know it's a false gospel but the methods they use are good how can we be more effective how can we care about souls brother sister let's have let's share the heartbeat of God the methods follow later it's about the essential message and God helping you opening the mouth and people are ready to be saved therefore said he unto them

Luke 10 verse 2 the harvest truly is great but the labourers are few pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth labourers into his harvest he is the Lord of the harvest he'll help you he'll help you harvest he'll help you be a harvester it's his harvest he will equip you he will enable you he will send you as labourers into his harvest and I pray here tonight this message really is to believers but if per chance anyone is hearing this and they're not saved don't delay now is the time now is the day of salvation behold now is the accepted time trust in Christ now right now and seek prayer seek counsel speak to some believer here and commit to Christ you know it's sad in a way we did have a man coming here to church with us who was sitting here and it took a while for me to actually sit down with him

I acknowledge that he was amongst us and didn't know that he was not saved same with our friend Louise it took time to actually have that conversation we can't take good granted anyone is saved we must speak directly to them ask God to burden your heart so you're soul sensitive there's people you might think oh they're a Christian have you talked to them have you not browbeated them but have you come alongside them and had compassion on their soul and had to care for their soul such that you want to know that they are truly saved because there's nothing greater amen let's pray our Lord your God we love you our Lord Jesus we love you and thank you that it was on the cross you bore our sin our guilt our penalty Lord you paid it in full and Lord we want to tell others we've got to tell somebody Lord we've got to tell somebody what you have done for us how great things you have done for us we've got to tell somebody

Lord give us that burden help us to hear your heartbeat to tune into it and Lord to be stirred to be constrained by your love your love for souls let it be the love that we have that we love every soul that we love every soul even the souls of men and women that get under our skin that we love every soul as you do Lord to love the souls in our lives and to see every living man and woman as an ever living soul and to care for their souls and to reach them in love in Jesus name we pray amen