

Heb 10.5-7—Keeping Christ's heart at the heart of missions

Christ animated by His love for the Father

- I. See from this text how deeply the Son loved the Father and how that love animated His zealous coming into the world to die for sinners!
 - A. Christ knew He was to be born to die. He knew the wrath He was to bear on the cross. He knew all that and more—and yet, still!, it was His delight to come! Still, He came with a *Behold!* Ps 40.6-8
 - B. In so many ways His life was a sprint to the cross, a bee-line, as He ran with haste to fulfill His covenant engagements, Jn 4.34; 18.8; 10.17
 - C. Christ's love for the Father so gilds the terrors of the cross that all its shame is turned to glory, cf. Eph 5.2 (“a fragrant offering to God”)

Christ animated by His love and compassion for sinners

- I. But Christ was equally animated by a love and compassion for sinners like us.
 - A. Proof of this love fills the gospel narratives from beginning to end, Mt 11.28; Mk 6.31; 10.52; Lk 12.28; Jn 15.7; Mk 9.19; 7.29; Lk 23.34; Mt 12.18-21
 - B. His love for sinners was an unquenchable love that overcame all our hostility, rejection, and hatred, in order to save us.
- II. The cross, then, is the preeminent spot in all the universe where Jesus appears as a worshiper of God, burning with a zealous love for the Father and His glory as well as with a zealous love for the souls of men.

Missions is therefore to be fueled by Christ's heart

- I. Now if Christ was enflamed by a love for the Father and His honor when He *offered* the atonement, then we should be enflamed by the same love when we *proclaim* it.
 - A. How come we get so defensive when people attack the things we love but we clam up in silence when they speak ill of our God?
 - B. Is this the spirit which brought Jesus from the skies and nailed Him to the cross!? Where would we be today if Christ had no more interest in the Father's glory than we sometimes appear to

have? Where would we be if Christ never said, “Behold! I come to do your will O God”?

- C. If missions is to be *Christian* missions, and if evangelism is to be *Christian* evangelism, then it must be animated by the same love for God and zeal for His glory which animated Christ.
- D. We measure the success of all evangelism and even preaching by this: was God glorified by it?
- E. Do we love God so much that we can't refrain from opening our mouths and living our lives in such a way that they proclaim His glory, excellency, and worth?
- II. And, if Christ was animated by a compassionate love for sinners when He *offered Himself up* for the world, then we should be animated by the same love when we *offer Him* to the world.
 - A. We're not called to preach a message that calls down fire from heaven as if the gospel were bad news. Instead, the same love which moved the Saviour's heart is to move ours.
 - B. We're to speak to sinners with compassion and a heart that longs to see them awakened, delivered, and redeemed. Our hearts are to yearn over a fallen world. Our eyes are to weep over the darkness and sin that fill the land.
 - 1. We have the bread of life. How can we not share it with the hungry!?! (Isa 55.1-3)
 - 2. Are we Christ's disciples if we can watch sinners perish and say nothing? (Mt 11.28; 2Cor 5.20)
 - 3. Is the love of Jesus for sinners in our hearts if we can shut our hearts to sinners? (1Jn 3.17)
 - 4. Are we really animated by a love for sinners if we only share Christ's love when it's advantageous? (Jn 4.31-35)
 - 5. If it cost Christ all to make the gospel, shouldn't it cost us something to proclaim it? (Phil 3.7; 2Tim 2.10)
- III. So let this challenge you: if we're to follow Christ, who was animated by a love for the Father and a love for sinners, then at the heart of our missions must rest the same 2fold love.
- IV. Because if it's not, then: we'll rely on ourselves for success, we'll doubt Christ's ability to save the worst of sinners, we'll become critical of sinners and lose our compassion for them, we'll lose our concern for the salvation of others—as if Christ came only for us, and we'll consider some sacrifices and costs too great to lay out in the effort. —God forbid that we get to such a place!