

THE SERMON THAT THE WHOLE WORLD SAW

INTRODUCTION:

1. Often we learn valuable lessons from the events of everyday.
2. We have seen some tragic events happen in our lifetime.
 - a. Hitler killed 6 million Jews in WWII.
 - b. Earthquakes have taken many lives.
 - c. Hurricanes have devastated many areas.
 - d. We have seen presidents and other political leaders murdered.
3. Perhaps the event which will be discussed the most and remembered the longest was the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger.
 - a. This past Friday (28th) marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of that tragic day.
 - b. At 10:38 AM, just 73 seconds from lift-off, the Challenger exploded on live TV
4. This "sermon" was viewed by all the world.

I. THE BREVITY OF LIFE

- A. We are not guaranteed tomorrow.(The space shuttle was routine).
 1. (James 4:13)--we are not to presume
 - a. (Heb. 9:27)-death is guarantee.
 - b. (I Pet. 1:24)-we are as grass.
 - c. (Prov. 27:1)-we should not boast "Boast not thyself of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth".
 2. (James 4:14)--our life is like a vapor.
 - a. How fast does steam disappear?
 - b. How long is our childhood in our memory?
- B. We should live for today while we can.
 1. (John 9:4)-Jesus worked while could
 - a. (2 Pet. 3:10)-as a thief
 - b. (Luke 17:26-30)-
 2. Many live today as if there will be no judgment (Americans).
 - a. (Amos 6:1-7)-too many at ease!
 - b. (Gen. 6ff)-no one listened to N.
 - c. (Luke 12:16-21)-interested in himself only.
 3. We should obey God while we have today (Prov. 1:24-31).

II. THE UNITING OF THE WORLD BY DEATH

- A. For a brief time all the world was united in tragedy. The tragic death of the seven people on board caused each person in the world to think as a single person.
- B. There was a death almost 2,000 yrs. ago that was designed to bring the world together and to make people think as **ONE!!!!** What are the benefits of Christ's death?
 1. Provided us with a gospel to preach and obey.
 - a. (1 Cor. 15:1-4)-gospel includes the death, burial, and resurr.
 - b. (1 Cor. 15:12-21)-w/o res. we would have no hope.
 - c. (1 Pet. 1:3,4)-Peter had hope because of the res.
 - d. This gospel provided in the death of Christ is the **ONLY** gospel we have (Gal. 1:6-9).

2. This ONE gospel is our access into the grace of God (Rom. 5:2).
 - a. We have access by faith (system) of faith.
 - b. (Acts 6:7)-priests were obedient to THE faith.
 - c. (Eph. 4:5)-ONE faith
 - d. (I Cor. 16:13)-stand fast in the faith
(I Cor. 15:1)-stand in gospel
 - e. (Gal. 1:23)-Paul preached THE faith.
(I Cor. 15:1)-Paul preached THE gospel.
 - f. This is the system of faith found ONLY in the ONE gospel.
3. Provided a place for all people to be united.
 - a. (John 17:20-23)-Jesus prayed for all his followers to be one.
 - b. The fact that there are so many religious groups contradicts this verse and prayer.
 - c. (Eph. 2:13-17)--by the cross(death) one body was establish.
 - d. (Eph. 1:22,23)--this one body is the one church.
 - e. (I Cor. 12:13)--we are all baptized into this one body.
 - f. Thus Christ's death provided the one place of unity---the church or body of Christ.

III. WE SHOULD ALL BE PREPARED.

- A. They were prepared for everything except what happened. They had all details figured and preparations were made, but they did not figure on the O-ring that caused the fatal crash.
- B. Today we should be prepared because:
 1. Everyone will be at the judgment.
 - a. (John 5:28,29)-all will come out
 - b. (2 Cor. 5:10)-we shall all stand
 - c. (Rom. 14:12)-everyone shall give account.
 2. This judgment will be final.
 - a. (Luke 16:26)-there is a great gulf fixed.
 - b. (Matt. 25:46)-everlasting punishment, life eternal.
 - c. Do we believe in heaven? We must therefore believe in hell!!
 3. Christ will be our judge.
 - a. (John 5:22)-all judgment is his.
 - b. We will have to look into his eyes and explain why we didn't obey the truth.
- C. We are all prepared today: (Heaven or Hell)
 1. (Matt. 25:34)--heaven is prepared
 2. (Matt. 25:41)--hell is prepared
 3. Where are you prepared to go?

CONCLUSION:

1. We have seen that life is short.
2. There should be unity provided by the death of Christ.
3. We should always be prepared for eternity.
4. What a tragedy for someone to be lost in view of what Christ has done for him.
5. Have you rendered obedience to the gospel commands?
6. Just 73 seconds into flight the Challenger exploded.