



Helping to Fill the Void in God's People

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VoydPhil News

Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, I was able to preach at both services at the church I attend. I could certainly feel the Spirit working that day. Actually I could feel more than the Holy Spirit at work, or at least trying to.

Satan was trying all he could to not allow me to preach that Sunday. In preparation during the weeks prior, many roadblocks were put before me. But neither God nor I would have any of it. We see in **Deuteronomy 20:4 (NIV) For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory.** Satan was defeated in his attempts to squelch what God would have me say.

The victory and glory goes to God. And now a lot is coming from that service.

God's word marches on. Amen!

The Great Commission Doesn't Mean A Sales Pitch

Certainly as Christians, we have all heard that we are to go into the world and make converts out of any one who we meet.

(Matt 28:19(NIV)

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit").

This is nothing new, for even the non-Christian knows about our mission. Many sermons have been preached on this subject and even more Sunday school classes devoted to the training on how to go about doing it. This article will therefore not go down the well-trodden path of the great commission. Before I continue, let me make it clear that I am not now, or ever, saying that any of the things previously said on how to witness to a non-believer is without merit and need. If we would put into action only a fraction of what we have all learned since our rebirth, our work

How Not To witness

Part 1

By Mark E. Benjamin

here would be done and Christ would have come again. Halleluiah!

Instead of going over how to witness, I want to point out how not to witness. For we stumble and talk in sheepish tones wanting not to offend and when we do finally say something, many times we push away instead of drawing them towards us and the Lord. I am so glad that it's the Holy Spirit's job to truly convict and convert and not ours. Amen? If it were left up to our own skills, no matter how sincere we may be, not many would turn to Christ for salvation. Even though the Holy Spirit can take whatever messes we may make, and use it to make miracles happen, I see no reason why we should test His strength and make His work harder.

Let me demonstrate my point by relaying a story shared by a dear brethren from the church I attend. He shared this during one of those many Sunday class lessons mentioned above. I'm not sure what his point may have been at

the time, but it was most likely to say something like, "Just do it. Witness to everyone and if they close you out, at least you planted a seed in them and maybe the next person will be the one to bring them to Christ." An admirable and valid point. But sometimes the seeds we plant can be that of a thorn bush; when it takes root, grows and blossoms, it does nothing more than irritate the Holy Spirit right out of them **(1 Cor 1:23 (KJV) "But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;")**. Maybe, just maybe, we now made it harder for that next person by what we have said. The next person will need to first cut down and eliminate the fruits of our labor, before being able to plant the correct seed.

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Israel News

That's Finally Over

Or is it just beginning?

The elections in Israel were confusing and exciting, to say the least.

Tzipi Livni won the primary to be the new head of her party. Ehud Olmert did not step down from the Premiership as he said he would, thus not allowing Tzipi to take over as Prime Minister.

General elections had to be held, and Tzipi again wins the election with her Kadima party winning 28 seats and Likud a close second of 27 seats. But, once again, Tzipi should have had the Prime Minister office and was not allowed to take it. Instead Shimon Peres hands it over to Benjamin Netanyahu and the Likud party. Making this the second time for him to hold the top office. The first time was in June, 1996 to July 1999.

Tzipi gets yet a third chance. A very slim chance, but still there. Netanyahu wasn't able to achieve a coalition in the allotted time. Tzipi could have been given the chance at that point, but wasn't. The Netanyahu-run-Likud party was given an extension to try again for the coalition.

He finally succeeded and now Israel has a new government.

Now after that long and hard fight to get into office, Netanyahu has the true fight to face. Many issues are laid before him. Economy, security, Gaza and the Palestinians, the Golan Heights and Syria, Iran, and the settlement issue; just to name a few.

It would seem that the government, now finally in place, is ready to hit those issues head on. During Benjamin's speech on Israel's 61st birthday, he urged the Jews to unity "both inside and outside Israel." He went on to list all that Israel accomplished in it's 61 years. He also spoke about the future and a time of peace and prosperity.

Will you join me in earnest prayer that God honoring decisions are made and that the wisdom of Solomon be bestowed upon Benjamin Netanyahu and all the members of Knesset? So that peace and prosperity would truly come. And the fulfillment of **Isaiah 35:10**.

As Benjamin concluded his speech, "that time will surely come."

Upcoming Holidays

Holidays begin at sundown on the evening before the date listed.

Lag B'Omer

(33rd of Omer)

18 Iyyar

May 12

Tue

Shavuot

(Pentecost)

6 Sivan

May 29

Fri

Yom Yerushalayim

(Jerusalem Day)

28 Iyyar

May 22

Fri

Tisha B'Av

9 Av

July 30

Thurs

"I can honestly say that I was never affected by the question of the success of an undertaking. If I felt it was the right thing to do, I was for it regardless of the possible outcome."

Golda Meir

3 May 1898 – 8 December 1978

4th Prime Minister of Israel

In office

17 March 1969 – 3 June 1974

Mark E. Benjamin

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Jewish Holidays

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