

O, To Be Like Thee

TEXT: 1 John 2:6

INTRODUCTION:

- A. MANY PASSAGES CHALLENGE US TO BE LIKE JESUS (**1 Cor. 11:11; 1 Peter 2:21**).
- B. THERE ARE MANY AREAS IN WHICH WE NEED TO BE MORE LIKE HIM.
 - growth, strength, steadfastness, and trust.
- C. THREE AREAS WILL HELP US TO FULFILL OUR MISSION OF SAVING SOULS.

I. “O TO BE LIKE THEE”IN DESIRE AND GOAL.

- A. WHY DID JESUS COME?
 - 1. The condition of the world (**Matt. 9:36; Phil. 2:15-16**)
 - a. All are guilty (**Rom. 3:23**).
 - b. All are condemned – lost (**Rom. 6:23**).
 - 2. The purpose of Jesus coming (**1 Tim. 1:15; Luke 19:10**).
 - 3. This he made possible by his death on the cross (**Rom. 5:6-8; 3:23-26**).
 - a. His death was a satisfaction of justice (**Rom. 3:23-26**).
 - b. He bore our stripes (**1 Pet. 2:24**).
- B. SAVING SOULS MUST BE OUR DESIRE.
 - 1. The world is still lost (**Matt. 9:36**). That means people, neighbors and loved-ones.
 - 2. Eternal punishment – Hell – is a terrible reality (**Matt. 25:41, 46**).
 - a. Where the worm dies not (**Mark 9:43-48**).
 - b. Not talking about it doesn't change things.
 - 3. Paul's attitude is our example (**Rom. 9:3; Rom. 10:1; 1 Cor. 9:22; 2 Cor. 12:15**).

II. “O TO BE LIKE THEE”IN COMPASSION.

- A. PEOPLE WERE AMAZED AT THE COMPASSION OF JESUS.
 - 1. Seen in his healing (**Matt. 14:14**).
 - 2. Over their situations (**Mark 8:2-3**).
 - 3. Because of their spiritual condition (**Matt. 9:36**).
 - 4. **John 11:34-36** And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." _ **Jesus wept.** _ Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!"
 - 5. Salvation is about the salvation of others. (**Heb. 4:16**) Jesus truly cares.
- B. OUR COMPASSION IS A PRODUCT OF OUR LOVE (**1 Pet. 3:8**).
 - 1. We are to act on our love and compassion (**1 John 3:16-18**).
 - 2. What is the most loving thing we can do? (**Jas. 5:19; Jude 22-23**).

III. “O TO BE LIKE THEE” IN SACRIFICE.

- A. JESUS MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE (**2 Cor. 5:14-15**).
 - 1. He emptied himself (**Phil. 2:5-8**).
 - 2. It was love that moved him to do that (**Gal. 2:20**).
 - 3. It was his choice (**John 10:17-18**).
 - 4. Love is the key (**John 15:13; Eph. 3:17-19**).
- B. THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINS US (**2 Cor. 5:14-15**).
 - 1. It takes a sacrifice of comfort, spare time, etc. to become a winner of lost souls. None of us will win a soul for Jesus if we would rather be at a ball game, concert, at the lake, on the golf course, or home relaxing watch television. It takes a sincere desire to sacrifice for the Master. **Are we too busy?** (**2 Tim. 2:3-4**).
 - 2. The sacrifice of Peter and the apostles (**Mark 10:28-31**)
 - 3. Our lives as Christians involve sacrifice for others (**Luke 9:23**).

CONCLUSION:

- A. WE OFTEN SAY WE NEED TO BE MORE CHRIST-LIKE.
- B. BEING CHRIST-LIKE WILL EFFECT OUR EFFORTS TO SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS.