

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

Volume 12

August 27, 2023

Number 35

WHY SEND?

John Edwards

The book of God states:
“And how shall they preach, except they be sent?...” (Rom. 10:15). There are some doctrines widely taught and believed that render it wholly unnecessary to send. Thus, we ask: “Why send?”

WHY SEND PETER AND JOHN? We read in Acts 8: *“Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John”* (v. 14). Verse 17 states, *“Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.”* *“Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Ghost was given...”* (v. 18). If spiritual gifts are transferrable (Acts 6:5-6) or may be received apart from laying on of the apostles’ hands, why send Peter and John?

WHY SEND PHILIP? Acts 8 shows Philip being sent to a man of Ethiopia (vv. 26-39). If just having integrity is enough to be saved, why send Philip? The eunuch must have been a man of integrity. He *“had the charge of all her [Candace queen of the Ethiopians] treasure”* (v. 27). If being religious is all it takes to be saved and go to heaven, why send Philip? The Ethiopian was a religious man. He had been *“to Jerusalem for to worship”* (Acts 8:27).

WHY SEND ANANIAS?

Ananias was sent by the Lord to Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:17). If one is too bad to be saved, why send Ananias? Saul was the chiefest of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15). If saved by grace alone, why send Ananias? God’s grace appeared to Saul (Titus 2:11; 1 Tim. 1:14). If saved by seeing a light, why send Ananias? Saul saw a light from heaven (Acts 9:3). If saved by prayer or by seeing a vision, why send Ananias? Saul prayed and had seen a vision (Acts 9:11-12).

WHY SEND FOR PETER?

Cornelius was instructed, *“... Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter; Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved”* (Acts 11:13-14; 10:5-6). The Spirit said unto Peter, *“Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them. Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius...”* (Acts 10:20-21). If God predestinated certain individuals to salvation and others to damnation before the foundation of the world, without their will, and the number can neither be increased or diminished, why send for Peter? If one is saved by goodness alone, why send for Peter? Cornelius was a good man (Acts 10:2). If saved by prayer, why send for Peter? Cornelius *“...prayed to God alway”* (Acts 10:2). If saved

by seeing a vision, why send for Peter? Cornelius saw a vision (Acts 10:3). If saved by an angel of God coming, why send for Peter? Cornelius saw *“an angel of God coming in to him”* (Acts 10:3). If saved by receiving the Holy Spirit, why send for Peter? The Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius (Acts 10:44; 11:15). Why send for Peter? *“Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved”* (Acts 11:14).

WHY SEND BARNABAS?

When the church in Jerusalem heard that *“...a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord”* (Acts 11:21), *“...they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch”* (Acts 11:22). If the doctrines of irresistible grace and perseverance of the saints be true, why send Barnabas? Notice what this man of God did when he came to Antioch: *“Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord”* (Acts 11:22-23). Why exhort them with purpose of heart to cleave unto the Lord, unless one can fall from grace (Gal. 5:4; Rev. 2:5) and fail of the grace of God (Heb. 12:15)?

Bible sending should bring an ending to many false doctrines. *“...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe”* (1 Cor. 1:21).

ARE YOU WORTHY OF THE LORD?

Nicolas Edwards

Colossians 1:10 says, *"That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God."* Are you walking worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him? In order to do that you must:

LOVE THE LORD MOST.

"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me" (Mt. 10:37). If you love family more than the Lord, you are not worthy of Him! Whenever you put family before the Lord, are you not loving family more? This is seen when a person fails to come to the house of the Lord to worship in order to greet family, attend family reunions, visit family, etc. This is seen when a person fails to *"withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly"* (2 Th. 3:6) because it is a family member. This is seen when any commandment of the Lord is transgressed in

order to maintain family relations. Those who do this are not worthy of the Lord!

TAKE YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW HIM. *"...and he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me"* (Mt. 10:38). This involves denying self. *"Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me"* (Mk. 8:34). We must fully follow the Lord no matter what the cost! This means living for the Lord and not ourselves.

BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL. *"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God"* (Col. 1:9-10). We are to *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom..."* (Col. 3:16). *"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (2 Pet. 3:18). *"But sanctify the Lord God in*

your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Pet. 3:15). Are you worthy of the Lord?

BE FRUITFUL IN EVERY GOOD WORK. *"That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God"* (Col. 1:10). Do you have an honest and good heart? *"But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience"* (Lk. 8:15).

NOT DEFILE YOUR GARMENTS. The church in Sardis was told: *"Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments: and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy"* (Rev. 3:4). This includes: *"He that overcometh"* (v. 5). *"There shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth"* (Rev. 21:27).

Are you worthy of the Lord?

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

Assembling At:

4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

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