

# Synergy

## When Grace and Freewill Co-operate

I Thess 4.1-7

### Intro/Review

- ❖ Over this summer we have been looking at what the scriptures have to say about Ambassadorship and Evangelism. We have approached this topic from many angles and have gained knowledge and wisdom.
- ❖ As we end this summer teaching I would like to quickly review what has been taught and then wrap it up with a few challenges and a call to arms.
- ❖ Three critical components are necessary to become an effective ambassador for Christ. (Col 1.9-10)
  - **Knowledge** – knowledge is an integral part of Ambassadorship. If an ambassador lacks knowledge of God, his will, his gospel or other important aspects, how will he/she be effective in telling others? If you don't know how can you share?
  - **Wisdom** – Wisdom is the proper application of knowledge. The need for proper wisdom to apply what you know is also crucial. If you know everything but never apply it, or apply it inappropriately, what use is it?
  - **Character** – The last one is character. It has been said “no one cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.” Without a doubt this last one has turned more people away from Christianity than the first two. No matter how much you know and how well you apply it, if you do not live out the gospel, no one will buy it. Rule number one in sales – sell yourself.
- ❖ We also learned that God calls us to be...
  - Ministers of reconciliation – II Cor 5.18
  - Preachers of the Word – II Tim 4.2
  - Ambassadors for Christ – II Cor 5.20

- Evangelists – II Tim 4.5
- Contenders for souls - II Tim 2.24-26
- Servants – II Tim 2.24
- Students of the Word – II Tim 2.15

### Primary Principles

- ❖ There are two primary principles that I would like you to learn. If you can understand them, you will be ahead of most seminary graduates. You will have an understanding that surpasses many preachers and virtually all of the corporate church.
  - First, God is not obligated to me, but to his word.
  - Second, I need to submit myself to his word.
  - Understanding these two will change the way you view many issues in Christianity. Issues like...
    - Problem of evil, pain and suffering.
    - God's will for us
    - Happiness verses joy
    - Worship
    - Evangelism
    - Ect.
  - Josh 1.8 – Following God's words brings success, not necessarily because God goes out of his way to bless you, but because his ways are the best ways. He created the universe and set the principle that govern it. He knows the best ways to act and react because he perfectly knows their results.

### Following Orders

- ❖ God calls his servants to be obedient. This one is not a fun one to hear or read that we are to obey what God has told us to do. Rom 6.14-19
  - "I didn't ask you to fight me, please do what you were told to do." This is a phrase you would hear many times a day if you were a fly on the wall of my house as I instruct my children. God told us to do or not to do many things in his word. How well do we follow them?

- I Thess 4.1-7 – God has called us to live a life of holiness. There is a way we ought to walk and a way we ought not. Christ told his disciples “If you love me, keep my commandments.”
- II Tim 3.16-17 – The purpose of scripture is to instruct us on how we ought to live.
- I Cor 10.1,6,11 – Many past event were recorded to show us how not to live.
- ❖ Why must we follow orders? Simple, because following orders brings **unity** and there is a battle raging.

### The Battle is still raging

- ❖ The Bible regularly uses imagery of warfare to liken the Christian life. Passages like...
  - I Tim 1.18-19
  - II Tim 4.7
  - II Cor 10.3-6
  - Eph 6.11-17
    - These passages among others tell us that the life we live is no walk in the park, but a bloody and difficult fight. A preacher once said that “when you get saved you are drafted into an ancient spiritual war”, but I somewhat disagree. We were already in this war just on the wrong team. We changed teams when we got saved. Eph 5.8-21
  - Can you imagine if U.S. military commanders and infantry units disobeyed orders as often as we do in our Christian life? How can there be any unity without order?
    - How many times would you have been court marshaled by now?
    - How many battles would have been lost?
    - How many good men and women have been lost due to our incompetence?
    - How many lost through friendly fire?
    - How many people are in Hell today because we were not faithful to our charge?
    - This idea should mess us up.
  - God calls his people to stand, fight and hold their ground. A great illustration of this can be found in II Sam 23.11-12
    - Shammah – Christian, God calls us to be
    - People – typical church/Christianity

- Field – World, country, state, city, neighborhood, workplace, family
- Philistines – Satan and his world system
- LORD – Himself

### Challenges

- ❖ Commit to daily quiet time/devotions. Include time spent in reading, self-diagnostic, praying and thinking of ways to practice improvement each day.
- ❖ Find someone to confide in. We are all broken in some way, admit it and seek help.
- ❖ As you begin to heal, continue growing in knowledge, wisdom and Character.
- ❖ **Get to work soldier!** Get involved in ministry. Find your field and defend it!