Serving the Lord by the Power of God[1]

Robert R. Roxas

Many people **feel or think they know** the truth and love to spread it. They are active in doing evangelism, and because of that, many people are converted to their faith. It appears that they find no difficulty in spreading what they believe. But if we examine their teachings carefully, the majority of them **just feel that they know the truth**, but in reality, they **don't really know the truth.**

There are some people who **really know** the truth. But the problem is that they tend to keep the truth to themselves. This is not a good idea. Christ wants His gospel to be preached to all nations, and He expects the saved to keep spreading it and not keeping it to themselves. If we claim to be among those **who really know the truth**, then we have to spread the truth so that many people will be liberated from false teachings of men and be saved. Christ has done His part in saving mankind of its sin. In fact, the Bible tells us that only Christ can save sinners.

Someone said, "***Christ alone can save the world, but Christ cannot save the world alone.***" What does this mean? This means that only Christ can save sinners. But He needs you and me to let the sinners know the way to salvation. I'm happy to know that some of us are interested to serve God in whatever capacity. I'm sure God is very happy also. He is very happy if we fulfill the mission that He gave to His followers.

Some of us are really doing it already. But some are still planning to do it. They are interested in doing it, but feel some inadequacy. Brethren, let me encourage you to pursue your dream of saving the lost through the death of Christ. Are we aware that the great and renowned people recorded in the Bible are just like you and I? They become renowned because they served the Lord using the power of God. They initially shied away from taking the great responsibility that God entrusted to them. But when they allowed the power of God to move them, they succeeded and became renowned.

Allow me to share with you two Old Testament characters and one New Testament character. I think we are all familiar with Moses. He was instrumental in bringing the Israelites into the Promised Land, though Moses himself was not allowed enter it because of the mistake that he committed (Numbers 20:7-13; Deuteronomy 32:48-52). But was Moses a mighty man, eloquent in speech, or with charisma? When the Lord asked him to go to Egypt to lead the Israelites to the wilderness, he was reluctant. Exodus 3:10-12 records, "***Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt. But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt? So He said, 'I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."***" So we can read that Moses questioned God. Have we asked ourselves this question, "Who am I that I should preach the gospel of Christ to the

[1] All Scripture quotations were taken from the New King James Version (NKJV) of the Bible.

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lost?" Or, "Who am I that I should invite the lost for Bible study?" The Lord can assure us of victory if only we humble before God and ask for His power so that we can do the task given to us.

If we move to the next chapter of Exodus, Moses again believed in his inadequacy or insufficiency. Exodus 4:10-12 records, "***Then Moses said to the LORD, 'O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.' So the LORD said to him, 'Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD? Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.'***" As we can see, Moses was not eloquent in speech, but God assured Him of his success. But Moses was not yet confident. The next verse tells us that he declined still. Exodus 4:13 records, "***But he said, 'O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send.'***" Because of that the Lord was angry with Moses (Exodus 4:14). Do we want God to be angry with us?

Another prominent figure in the Old Testament is the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah 6:4-7 records, "***Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.' Then said I: 'Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.' But the LORD said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you,' says the LORD. Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: 'Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.'***" Have we reasoned out with God saying, "I am still a youth."? Do we think that God accepted our reasoning? What will happen if we allowed God to be dismayed of our reasoning? Jeremiah was told not to be dismayed before the people, otherwise He would allow him to be dismayed before the people. Jeremiah 6:17 records, "***Therefore prepare yourself and arise, And speak to them all that I command you. Do not be dismayed before their faces, Lest I dismay you before them.***"

How about in the New Testament? Who do you think is my example? Can you guess? I believe we are all familiar with or at least heard of the name of apostle Paul. He is very famous because of his missionary journeys. He established the Lord's church in many places. He wrote 12 to 13 epistles or letters that we can read in the Bible. But what kind of man was he? Was he an eloquent speaker with so much charisma? 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 records, "***And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.***" As we can see, Paul was not an extraordinary man. He was just like you and I. So we can do our mission also as long as we allow the power of God to help us in serving Him as evangelists.

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Sometimes, we fear because we feel inadequate. Ask this question, "Do I know how can a man be saved?" Let us not think that we are inferior to other preachers of the gospel. We are all equal in the eyes of God. If we lack knowledge, seek to gain it and practice sharing it because "Practice makes one perfect" as the saying goes. We should also adopt the attitude of Paul as recorded in 2 Corinthians 11:5-6, which says, "***For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles. Even though I am untrained in speech, yet I am not in knowledge. But we have been thoroughly manifested among you in all things.***"

Brethren, I hope we can get inspiration from the lives of prominent people in the Bible, whose physical quality was not extraordinary. I hope that we do our best to help Christ in saving the lost. The ladies can also do their part. They can invite the lost to attend Bible studies. They can help in strengthening the weak members by their encouragement.

Brethren, if we all do what we can do for the kingdom of Christ, we can truly say that we are active in saving the lost and keeping the saved. We can do this if we use the power of God as we serve Him. Otherwise, we will be saving the lost but losing the saved.

Thank you very much. May God bless us all as we strive to save the lost and keep the saved!

Preached: July 10, 2011
Place: The church of Christ in Tisa
Occasion: Morning worship

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