

THE CRY OF THE LOST AND THE CONCERN OF THE SAINTS

Luke 16:22-24,29; Romans 9:1-3; 10:1.

Man is both under spiritual and physical bondage. Cults and secret societies are multiplying daily on the campuses. The urgent task of the moment is for believers to put on the gospel armour and set men, women, boys and girls on our campuses free from satanic oppression.

1. THE PITIABLE CONDITION OF THE UNSAVED

2 Corinthians 3:14; 4:1; Luke 13:11; Matthew 8:28; 22:2-9.

The unregenerate man is held captive by the devil, blinded to the truth with his heart and understanding darkened. Man is suffering under this ignorance that he is held captive. We can hear the heart cry of man "O wretched man that I am. Man is not only suffering the agony of spiritual blindness, he is also stricken by physical sicknesses, ailments, pains, emotional stress and catastrophic calamities (Matthew 9:27-28; 2 Kings 5:13). We should therefore pity the sinners because:

- i. Sinners are under bondage and need deliverance urgently – 2 Timothy 2:26; Romans 6:16; Isaiah 42:7; 2 Peter 2:19; Proverbs 5:22; 1 Timothy 4:1,2).
- ii. Sinners are blind to their need. They are poor, miserable and under divine wrath – Romans 10:3; Ephesians 4:18; Revelation 3:17; Acts 17:23; John 3:36; Hebrews 12:29; 2 Corinthians 5:1.
- iii. The time for rescue-work is short. "Now is the acceptable time" to work – John 9:4; 1 Corinthians 7:29; Romans 13:12. Moreover there remain a lot on our campuses to be possessed for Christ – Joshua 13:1. Souls to be reached do not have much time left – John 4:49. The uncertainty of life makes time short – James 4:13,14.
- iv. Hell is the end of all who die in sin – Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:10-15.
- v. Multitudes die every day.
- vi. Power of darkness and cults are growing – 2 Timothy 3:13; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Peter 3:3; 2 Corinthians 10:3,5.
- vii. Messengers of Satan zealously evangelize where believers should have evangelized – Matthew 23:15; 15:14; Acts 15:5,24.

2. GOD-ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SAINTS

Matthew 28:20; Ezekiel 3:4,10,11,15; Luke 9:2,60; John 20:21; Acts 5:20; 6:7;

2 Timothy 4:1-2; 1 Corinthians 9:16; 2 Corinthians 5:18.

The Great Commission is the greatest work you can ever be involved in particularly on our campuses with its teeming population. It is a work of the greatest consequence considered the estimated figure of 703,807 students in Nigeria higher education for 1994/95 session (NUC 1995). This responsibility is binding on everybody. Jesus said **"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"**. This is exactly what the early Christian did (Acts 8:4). Unfortunately, today this command to **"Go"** is generally interpreted

to mean; ***“Ask them to come in and hear”***. We should remember that our responsibility is not to bring the lost to the gospel, but to take the gospel to the lost.

True servants of God always obey God’s word. The teaching and practice of soul winning was quite understood and clearly carried out that multitudes were reached in a short time (Acts 4:4). Dr. a. T. Dierson observed that soul-winning was the whole work of the whole church for the whole world.

3. THE LOVING CONCERN OF THE SAINTS

Romans 9:1-3; 10:1; 2 Corinthians 5:14; 12:15; 2 Kings 7:9-16.

The eternal destiny of the careless should make true believers to awake for the battle; put on the gospel armour and set men, women, boys and girls on our campuses free from eternal damnation. Compassion lead to caring, telling and bringing the needy to the source fo the blessings. A true believer should be involved in saving the lives of others. He sees the need of others and endeavours to bring them to the solution with a sense of urgency and enthusiasm. It is the urgent task of the moment to spend and be spent for Christi in the salvation of lost men.