



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2015

THE TENOR

A Study in Genuine Salvation



Examining to Determine the Christian Life

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you are disqualified.

2 Corinthians 13:5

The Apostle John's Test

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have

passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

1 John 3:1-24

Let's Get Uncomfortable Together

Test yourselves! (2 Corinthians 13:5)

- Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
- Whoever abides in Him does not sin.
- Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.
- He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning
- Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.
- In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.
- We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.
- But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

If All are Measured Against this Test, Is Anyone Actually Saved?

How Do We Uphold the Clear Word of Scripture and Yet Not Miss the Intrinsic Hope Woven into it?

Introducing the Tenor

- a singing voice between baritone and alto or countertenor, the highest of the ordinary adult male range
- That which holds the melody, the main thrust of a song
- That which marks the central character of one's life or habits

Tenor #1 - Self

Self-singing tenor - the essence of sin

Tenor #2 - Jesus

Christ-singing tenor - the essence of righteousness

And so it is written, The first man Adam (**Tenor #1**) became a living being. The last Adam (**Tenor #2**) became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual (**Tenor #2**) is not first, but the natural (**Tenor #1**), and afterward the spiritual (**Tenor #2**). The first man (**Tenor #1**) was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man (**Tenor #2**) is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust (**Tenor #1**), so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man (**Tenor #2**), so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust (**Tenor #1**), we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man (**Tenor #2**).

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Self-Fulfillment (Tenor #1) vs. God Fulfillment (Tenor #2)

For whosoever will save **his life** shall lose it: and whosoever will lose **his life** for my sake shall find it.

Matthew 16:25

(Mat 10:39; Mar 8:35; Luk 17:33; Jhn 12:25)

Psychē - Psü-khā'

Breath of life; the soul; the center of feeling and longing; **the seat of fulfillment**

The Change of Song

From Death Metal Lyrics to a Sunday School Round of “Jesus Loves Me”

The Tenor Changes, The Lyrics Change, The Entire Song is Different

But, is the Sunday School Round of “Jesus Loves Me” Perfect?

- Both can hit off-notes
- Both can be too loud
- Both can involve spittle and splattering “P” pops
- Both can have broken guitar strings
- Both can be sung wrongly
- But, when the Song has changed, it is obvious to the singer and to the audience - though it be an imperfect version of “Jesus Loves Me”, the song is entirely different
- The tenor has changed, though the song is not being sung yet the way Tenor #2 fully intends

In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

1 John 3:10

Changing the Tenor

How Does One Know when the Tenor has Changed?

The Illustration of the House

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.

Matthew 7:24-27

Five Key Tests

1. The Rain Test
2. The Cold Test
3. The Heat Test
4. The Wind Test
5. The Winter Test

The Homeless and the Housed

The Signs of Homelessness

The Proofs that your home is, indeed, no home at all

- When it rains you get wet
- When it gets cold, you freeze
- When it gets warm, you roast
- When the wind blows, your hair gets rustled
- The season of autumn pleasure and beauty is followed by Winter chill

The Qualities of a Genuine House

The Proofs that your home is, indeed, a genuine home

- When it rains you remain dry
- When it gets cold you stay warm
- When it get warm you stay temperate
- When the wind blows you do not feel it upon your skin
- When autumn closes and winter comes, the temperature and character of your house remains the same

The Inspector

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith

- When it rains do you experience a flood? A dripping? Any puddling? Or perfect dryness?
- When the temperature descends below 45 degrees, does your thermometer inside your home read the same as the outdoor temperature? Lower than 70 degrees? Or does it read 70 degrees indoors?
- When the temperature rises above 90 degrees, does your thermometer inside your home read the same as the outdoor temperature? Higher than 70 degrees? Or does it read 70 degrees indoors?

- When the wind blows does it force you to rebuild walls, rehang curtains and drapes, reset decorations, and bring in a backhoe to remove the wind-strewn debris? Does it bring dust into your dwelling demanding a good sweep and mop job? Or does it not effect your home at all?
- When the autumn season concludes and winter begins, does the atmosphere of your indoor life look like winter, too? When it snows, is your sofa covered with snow? When it sleets, is your kitchen floor lacquered with sleet? When it freezes, do your pipes freeze? Do you have any drafts? Do you have any sicknesses? Do you have any busted pipes? Or is winter just like summer inside your home?

The Difference Between the Homeless and the Housed

Both have difficulties, but the Homeless have difficulties that lead to death, whereas the Housed have difficulties that lead to frustrations, hindrances, and inconveniences

The Tenor of the Problems of the Homeless and the Housed is Wholly Different

Example: Rain

1. Homeless (the proofs there is no real roof and no real walls)

Misery, cold, damp, mold, fungus, sickness, death

2. Housed (evidence that the upkeep of the house is improper)

Leaks, puddling, repairs, frustration, hindrances, and inconvenience

Spiritual Winds and Rains

A Quick List of Critical Sins

Evidence that there is indeed a problem on the property

1. Unforgiveness
2. Lying

3. Disobedience
4. Self-Pity
5. Disrespect
6. Frustration
7. Anxiety

The Key Question

What is the Tenor of the Problem?

Unforgiveness

Is this a problem of homelessness or home maintenance?

Question #1: Is the unforgiveness a decided unwillingness to forgive, an unbarred hatred and hot anger, a growing resentment, and a poisonous bitterness of soul refusing to yield its ground?

Question #2: Or is the unforgiveness a struggle to forgive, a slowness to obey, and/or a rationalization of why unforgiveness in this case might be permissible?

Both options, just mentioned, are disastrous to the soul, but one shows signs of homelessness, while the other indicates a serious leak inside what could be, a genuine home.

What is the Tenor?

Is unforgiveness, hatred and hot anger, resentment, and bitterness the tenor of the life in question? Is this the key defining melody being sung within the life under scrutiny?

The Tenor of a Life with Christ Cannot Be one of Sin and of Self

Though the life may have leaks, puddles, and some damp corners, its tenor should demonstrate the melody line of the song "Jesus Loves Me" - though the song be sung imperfectly. And the life should also demonstrate that leaks are fixed, puddles are mopped up, and damp corners are solved by the power of the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

A Life in Need of Christ

One in Which the Roof and Walls are Missing

The Dangerous Doors

Unforgiveness opens the door to hatred and hot anger, resentment, and bitterness

*Is this the tenor of your soul?
Would those closest to you say that this is a behavior that defines you?*

Lying (falsehood and exaggeration) opens the door to a life of deception, con, duplicity, and hypocrisy

*Is this the tenor of your soul?
Would those closest to you say that this is a behavior that defines you?*

Disobedience opens the door to rebellion and blasphemy of God

*Is this the tenor of your soul?
Would those closest to you say that this is a behavior that defines you?*

Self-Pity opens the door to complaining, grumbling, a critical, fault-finding nature, accusation, and the self-absorbed “victim mentality”

*Is this the tenor of your soul?
Would those closest to you say that this is a behavior that defines you?*

Pride and disrespect opens the door to lust, sexual deviancy, and sexual addiction

*Is this the tenor of your soul?
Would those closest to you say that this is a behavior that defines you?*

Irritation and frustration opens the door to untempered anger, rage, abuse, and murder

*Is this the tenor of your soul?
Would those closest to you say that this is a behavior that defines you?*

Anxiety opens the door to fear, foreboding, fretting, paranoia, and paralysis

*Is this the tenor of your soul?
Would those closest to you say that this is a behavior that defines you?*

What Does the Door of Christ Open Up To?

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

John 10:9

The Heavenly Door

- When Unforgiveness beckons . . .
Christ offers access to the Power of Forgiveness

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Mark 11:25

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

- When Lying beckons . . .
Christ offers access to the Power of Boldness and the Confession of Sin

Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. ... I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

Psalms 32:2, 5

- When Disobedience beckons . . .

Christ offers access to the Power to obey and to do that which is right and Godly

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

1 Corinthians 10:13

- When Self-Pity beckons . . .

Christ offers access to the Power to praise Him and give thanks in all things

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

1 Peter 4:12-13

- When Pride and Disrespect beckon . . .

Christ offers access to the Power to be humble, to love, and to honor; edify, and encourage others

. . . be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

1 Peter 5:5-6

But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 3:13

- When Irritation and Frustration beckon . . .

Christ offers access to the Power of heavenly patience and the grace to rejoice always and in every circumstance

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

- When Anxiety beckons . . .

Christ offers access to soundness of mind, faith, and immovable confidence in the sureness of His promise

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 NASB



But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:37-39