

**CHINA MISSION
NEWSLETTER**

KAOHSIUNG - 1 February 2020

MISSIONARY

Eugene F. Brzozowski
P.O. Box 1006
Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Telephone:
011-886-929-561-777

Dear Brethren:

DONATIONS**By Mail**

Send check to:

China Mission Fund
6767 River Road
New Port Richey, FL
34652

Online Banking**Bill Pay**

Send payment to:

China Mission Fund
River Road
Church of Christ
c/o Regions Bank,
6335 U.S. Highway 19
New Port Richey, FL
34652

QUESTIONS?

Please email
[chinamissionfund
@gmail.com](mailto:chinamissionfund@gmail.com)

God has given every soul a free will to choose between good and evil. This has been true from the beginning with the very first man, Adam, and will be true till the end of time with the last man to walk upon this earth. We will be judged individually according to the absolute standard of truth revealed by God in His holy word. God's revelation to man has been confirmed by miracle, preserved by Providence, preached to the world by Divine Commission, and will be open in the Day of Judgment.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences. -2 Corinthians 5: 10-11

The opening paragraph and quote touch upon several biblical principles. For the sake of what follows, I emphasize only the individual nature of a man's judgment for his own decisions made while in the flesh. How we exercise our free will while in this temporal realm has eternal consequences, and will determine where we spend eternity.

Since man has a free will and is Judged by how he exercises his free will, it stands to reason that we cannot control whether he will obey the gospel or not. Accordingly, forcing one against one's will to superficially praise God or be baptized under duress accomplishes nothing. Evangelism cannot be accomplished by the sword. In the same vein, fast-talking someone into baptism with deceptive or tricky talk, or cleverness of speech, appealing not to reason and not letting them count the cost, likewise, accomplishes nothing. In contrast, we are under constraint to "persuade men" (v. 11). We bring to bear logic and reason hoping to move people to a rational decision.

But what if he rejects the truth? That is his decision. It is each man's prerogative to either accept the gospel or reject it. Should we feel our time has been wasted if rejected? Not necessarily. How will they be judged except that God has commanded that the gospel go into all the world. And, then there is the matter of being free of the blood of all men as the apostle Paul declared. As Paul also stated, "For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void" (1 Corinthians 1: 17). It is our job to preach the gospel; how a man responds to it is his decision and his alone.

When someone rejects the gospel, we feel sad for them. Nevertheless, we should not despair or feel that we have wasted our time. Doing our Lord's will is never a waste of time and it has its rewards both in the here and now and in eternity. And one day, your labors may bear fruit that you do not expect. Set goals for the number to be taught, not the number to be baptized. Teach, and baptisms will follow. Fill your thoughts with God's word and let it overflow to anyone who comes near.

I was in a teahouse a few weeks ago. Two Presbyterian men sat at the table next to me. We struck up a conversation; it turned to the subject of religion, of course. I probably would never see them again so I brought up baptism. They seemed uncomfortable and exhibited a disregard for what the Bible had to say about the matter. The more you listen to a person's counters to biblical truths, the more you realize they have little faith in God's word, a disregard for its authority, and a tacit belief that they are wiser than God when it comes to relevant religion. Perhaps I can elaborate another day. God be with you as "you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints" (Jude 3b).

Your servant in Christ,

Eugene F. Brzozowski