

Sunday, April 10, 2011

Father we thank you for all that you have done for us. Now as we are thinking of this Holy time of year, Palm Sunday, Easter, and to think you gave your life for us. So willingly, we bless and thank you for that. Thank you for what you have already done this morning. We pray that you move freely. Fill me and use me today as I share in your word. Amen.

Church it is good to see you. This sermon is a bit different. I love when you wrap your arm around me and pray for me.

There are many of us that have grown up with Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong and today we are celebrating Annie Armstrong. We have a missionary here, Jim Lancaster, and our gifts help to support him.

Our younger folks come in and we talk about that, and some people may ask "Haven't we paid that lady off yet? (Laughter)!"

Video playing. (Very hard to understand) In the 1800's Annie Armstrong was setting up missions. She didn't have a lot of chances to help. Her local missions included women and children. She traveled in the SE and she returned and met with a man to help her. We need to help more people. That church was home to her. She enjoyed the church because it involved women in Ministry from the beginning. She helped establish the Women's Missionary Board. Her work, created change. The board appointed their first African American (Can't Hear her-video too muffled). The WMU set up weekly prayer. And they named it the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Pastor Tim: That is a bit about Annie Armstrong and we are about North American Mission Board. The name of the sermon is Start Here; what a better way to look at our missions here or globally. It must begin right here, with you and I.

Take your Bible and turn to Matthew, Chapter 9; we will look at verse 36-38.

Matthew is setting up Jesus' great instruction to us. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

Then he says to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38: Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Now I want us to watch what God does as He reaches out and we partner together with thousands of other churches and thousands of people come to know Him.

We are believers and Jesus called us laborers. He has called us to go out and the time is now.

We need to pay attention to what is happening around us. We have become distracted, some good and some not.

Like our families, I have 2 beautiful daughters and grandkids and almost 2 son-in-laws and a beautiful wife.

We are distracted by sports and other things, like the corporate ladder of success. I believe that satan is thrilled when he looks into our denomination because we have become a distracted people, picky people, we are distracted by the color of carpet , what style of worship we will use; many times because of personal preference. Jesus said the laborers are few.

NAMB has 5000 North American missionaries. They have heard God's calling. That number is a lot of missionaries in North America. Then I saw another statistic that I found hard to believe.

Our church goal is only \$4,000 and 100% of our gifts goes directly to the mission field. 5000 missionaries, 1 in 3 people in North America are lost. That really struck me.

Out of that comes to 258 million people in North America, not an obscure nation. Here 258 million lost people. If you take our 5000 missionaries and divide that then that only leaves 51,600 people to minister to. That is a good size church.

Can you imagine 1 person with a flock of 50,000?

If we believe God's word: The wages of sin is death ... If you and I as believers, we need to be busy right here right now, making a change.

Do we believe that?

God is looking in the hearts all over America today. Christ is coming again and soon.

1. You and I need to surrender personally and give corporately.

We must do what He tells us to do and give what He tells us to give.

Our goal is only \$4,000, we (you and I) can make a difference and as we join with other

churches....

We need to pay attention. Why?

We have heard the truth of the gospel and yet we sit. I ask what is wrong with us today? We are too busy to invite others to church but invite them to the ballgame or to our house for dinner.

One thing that impressed me was our vision statement. Don't let that get old. But think about what God has stirred in our hearts, we are embracing all people and leading them into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. For us to love each other, and see them grow with the Lord Jesus.

We need to pay attention because we are running out of time.

We need to learn from our past but Paul is telling us we need to have a new day and a new beginning.

He was beating that horse and moving in that race to win.

We as believers in Christ, we need to run to the finish line.

Things will slip through our hands. From the senate, to local government; everything is being erased that has to do with the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and we have become complacent.

What are we doing?

The apostle John goes through a list of churches and talks about the problems and the good things. When I look at our country and how the government is trying to take God out of everything, that you and I are what John refers to as neither hot nor cold. We have become lukewarm.

God says that He will spew you out of his mouth. He wants us to be hot or cold. If we are lukewarm, we are not worth very much.

People would say that we need to get busy, but don't know their place. God has put something on our hearts but don't know what it is. We need to be about what it is that God wants us to do.

We need to pay attention because we know that God's word is the absolute truth.

This is the word of God. We need to take what it says into our heart, soul and life and God will do wonderful things. But last Sunday morning what a wonderful thing to have 10 people come forward.

Long before your vote 2 weeks ago, I said it is not about "that" preacher. I was humbled and glad for our church but it has nothing to do with me. It is through the work of the Holy Spirit that God will do a wonderful thing.

Through our Sunday school classes, that is how you grow a church. I hear stories, not just here, but the one that sits on the front each week, comes in and sneaks out at the end of church, then gone for a week, 3 weeks, then 6 weeks. Then we think didn't someone used to sit there? Maybe they are discouraged or sick,

The small class is where we need to recruit and that is where we can keep up with those people. We can pray, and lift them up.

2. A new emphasis on evangelism. Tuesday night, knocking on doors, if you can go with a partner, knock on the door, and tell them to come back and see what God is doing. Not just some person can do that, we must do it together.

We talk about the Bible, God's lesson will be revealed to man. If what I am saying is it depends on Tim Hinds, be careful. We are here to grow from His precious word; we need to pay attention to what God says.

God does punish sin.

We have preachers all across America and they say that God could never punish sin. Do you think God didn't love His son? Yes, but he sent his son. He suffered for our sin. Yes, God does punish sin, he is righteous and Holy.

Isaiah says this: I stand in front of a Holy and righteous God, but the people that stand around me they are also unknown.

2 Chronicle says **"If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and seek my face and pray, then I will move in and I will heal their land, and I will forgive their sin."**

God does punish sin; you will see where His judgment falls.

You and I have a message to share and that is why I invite you to give your hearts to Jesus Christ. I will ask you to get up and come and make a commitment to Him. He is the best friend that you will ever have.

Because we know Him, we have been forgiven. I am forgiven. Jesus died, I repented, and He has forgiven me.

We have been changed. I am a changed man, go and ask my wife and that is the best place to go right?

Ask them do they walk the walk and talk the talk?

I love the phrase, "I am not what I want to be but thank God I am not where I was"

Thank God. There are a lot of things that need to be fixed. Because we know Him, we have been given life. We share what we know because people need to know Him.

That is why I say so often; we the church, when we are right with each other and in love with the Lord Jesus Christ, the progression can't be stopped because we can't keep our mouths closed.

When preachers preach collectivity... I am a bit disturbed. The wonderful thing about our savior is, when we think about the song ... Red, yellow, black, and white. ALL people are precious in His sight. What a beautiful sight as we meet together.

If any man, woman, student, boy or girl, all things are passed away and all things become new.

John 10:10 says, "I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly".

I want us to be like when we come to church we want to make a Beeline to the cross. If you believe that our Ministry is about winning people to Jesus, why don't you ever invite your friends to come? We don't have a problem inviting them to our house, or a ballgame. But we need to invite them to come here.

That is where it starts.

1 - We can speak up to people.

2 - We can show up in this place every time the doors open; to fellowship, to worship and we need to be together.

3 - We can give up; give to our church, we can do it together, we can reach people for Jesus Christ and we can speak up for Him.

Our hearts and prayers should be Lord let it begin now and right here with me! That

should be our prayer, to start here as we worship our Lord together.

I invite you to begin right here at this altar. Every head bowed and each eye closed. As God uses each one of use to reach this nation for Jesus Christ.

Father God, we thank you for your Word. And you have told us that the harvest is right, and ripe, and the laborers are very few. If the numbers are right, 258 souls that could be lost for eternity. That is a lot of responsibility for us at the lunch table or the gas station. That we would ask them if they go to church somewhere; not to build up Annistown Road Baptist Church, because there are some great churches that preach the word, but let you be bold in our witness as we connect with the people around us.

Our invitation is Lord, help me to be the witness I need to be. Convict me; make it your prayer every day.

2) Maybe you are here and you heard all about missions and Annie Armstrong and what she did across America but never asked Jesus into your heart. Maybe been coming for 50 years and never did that.

3) If God is calling you to ARBC, maybe it is time to move here. Whatever your decision is, we need to move for God today. Some of you may want to be alone to pray or may want someone to counsel with you. Just come up ... Our eyes closed and I pray that God's fullness will work in your life.

As we stand and Dave sings, you come this morning.

(Singing...words on large overhead screen)

This is your time, will you come?

Pastor Tim: Thank you for being here and God bless you, it is a bit warm here, God is good.

Congregation responds..All the time

Pastor Tim? And all the time God is good.

I am excited about the next 2 weeks. Next week is Palm Sunday and the next Sunday is Easter Sunday and we celebrate His glorious resurrection.

Next week we will have a friend of ours to come and sing with us. Also this Wednesday night is all you can eat spaghetti. I love pasta, you can tell by my tummy.

Come and share with us. Okay Brother Robby please dismiss us.

Robbie praying: Father help us to keep your word in our hearts. Take care of us and watch everything we do.

In Jesus name, Amen.