

CAPITAL CONNECTIONS

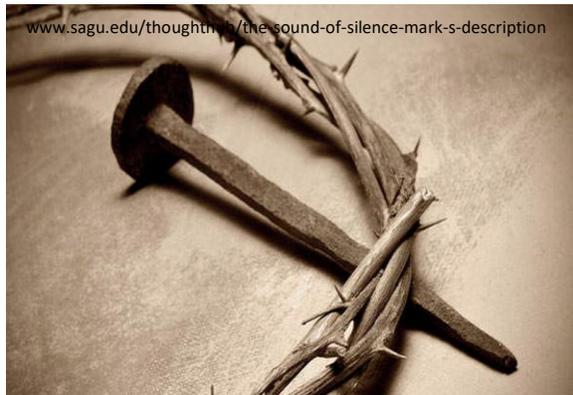
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*“Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great: He was revealed in flesh, vindicated in spirit, seen by angels, **proclaimed among Gentiles**, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory.” (1 Tim. 3:16 NRSV)*

The Church has no higher priority than proclaiming Jesus Christ. In this verse, it’s the activity directly connected with faith. The faith of the proclaimer is transmitted in the act of proclamation.

People like us are the only ones who can undertake the task. Jesus Christ is the passive recipient of every verb listed. The activity of proclamation requires us to be the actors. Our message is Jesus Christ crucified, buried and resurrected from the dead.



What is proclamation? Proclamation is vociferous advocacy for our faith. The object of our faith becomes the subject of our speech. We believe in Jesus Christ, so we speak about him enthusiastically. What must we proclaim about Jesus Christ?

First, the time was fulfilled. At just the right time, nearly two thousand years ago, the Savior of the world appeared. Prior human history led to that moment. Since Christ’s appearance, human history has been governed by the fact that he came.

Second, Jesus Christ is the name above every other name. Peter, the Apostle, said, “There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12 NRSV)

Third, Jesus is “declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead.” He is alone in human history, having been physically raised from the dead. The resurrection of Jesus is the central message of the Church. Without that component, there is no gospel and no reason to speak about Jesus Christ. His resurrection from the dead is singular. His resurrection points to the fact that all will be raised. Jesus taught that God is the God of the living. The Christian faith declares that life is eternal. We will all stand before God to give an account of our lives.

Fourth, “You shall receive power after the Holy Spirit has come upon you...” (Acts 1:8 NRSV) Believing in Jesus Christ is a transformative experience that brings about real change in believers and in the world through their belief. That change could never come in the weakness

of the flesh. God works his will in the world through his people when they are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Fifth, no one knows the day or hour of Christ's return. Jesus Christ ascended to heaven and is now seated at the right hand of God. He will return. This is a central theme in the gospel message. We don't know when. We're not to try to figure out the details. We're simply to live our lives ready for his coming. That means we are busy serving the purposes of God's Kingdom here and now. Doing so insures that we're not caught by surprise at his return. Rather turning away from him in embarrassment, "caught in the act," we'll be happy when he returns to find us doing what he has asked, loving God and loving others.



The sixth and last component of our proclamation is, perhaps, the most important. "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:28 NRSV) The proclamation of Jesus Christ is most properly responded to when hearers repent and believe. That means, they must turn from their sins and trust in Jesus Christ. Not everyone who hears the message will respond in that way, but those who do will personally experience the life-changing power of the gospel.

These are things that we must proclaim. To leave any of it out is to truncate the message, rendering it less effective.

How do we proclaim Christ? Jesus and the apostles alike exhort us to speak and to act as believers. Speech and action are both required to bear a legitimate witness to our faith in Christ. Here are a few of their exhortations.

Jesus said, "...proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons..." (Matt. 10:7-8a NRSV) Notice both speech and action.

Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong." (Acts 3:6-7 NRSV) Notice both speech and action.

Paul said, "At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem in a ministry to the saints; for Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to share their resources with the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. They were pleased to do this, and indeed they owe it to them; for if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material things. (Romans 15:25-27 NRSV) Notice both speech and action.

John said, "How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him." (1 Jn. 3:17-19 NRSV) Notice both speech and action.

James said, "So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith." (James 2:17-18 NRSV) Notice both speech and action.

Jesus was, is and will be "***proclaimed***". Now we have a better glimpse of the "what" and the "how" of proclamation. Let's proclaim Jesus Christ in our speech and by our actions.

Blessings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Pastor John

THE BIG GIVE

CAPITAL BAPTIST CHURCH • SATURDAY, AUGUST 18 • 9am to 1pm

Do you make lists?

I do – lists for the grocery store, greeting cards, items for the Grandchildren and Greats, etc.

I keep two lists readily accessible by posting them on the inside of a kitchen cabinet door; one is for books and gifts for the 4 Great-Grandchildren. The other list, the list I'm suggesting you might make, is a list of items I want to donate to Capital's 2018 BIG GIVE.

If I wait until August to decide which items I will donate, I am sure to forget things I will later wish I had shared.

I don't have space to accumulate or set items aside, but if I jot the item down on a list, when it comes time to bring things to the church, the list will jog my memory about items I should consider donating and make it both easier and quicker to round things up.

And again this year, Capital's BIG GIVE will include a school supply, backpack give away.

Yes, there are back-to-school sales in August, but you might consider watching for good deals on backpacks and other school supply basics in the meantime. Picking a few items up here and there, rather than waiting to purchase everything in August is a way to distribute the cost and take the strain off your budget. --Bonnie Brough



MEDIA LIBRARY NEWS

Easter is here. Books on our Lord and the Resurrection will be available and featured this month, along with spiritual warfare and Billy Graham books that are on the tops of bookcases—easy for you to locate.

Thanks to the Meeks for many books; thanks also to the Kerseys and to those who continue to give books anonymously. Your support of the library is so much appreciated.

Even though you will be outside more with the blooming flowers and lovely warmth of spring, you will still encounter time to rest or to pick a book and/or your Bible in the evenings.

Keep reading!

--Bonnie Brough



We've all had jobs: good jobs, bad jobs, fun jobs, painful jobs...

My first job was at S. H. Kress (similar to Woolworth's or Walmart) in Riverside, California, at Christmas time. I was a freshman at California Baptist College (now University), and my job was the stationery counter.

This was before the store went "self-service." My job: keep the counter supplied and neat, wait on customers and look busy when the "floor ladies" came by. These females had super powers: they kept the keys! When a customer gave us a \$20 bill (heaven forbid it was anything larger!), we rang a bell, alerting the floor ladies that we needed change. We couldn't keep such large bills in our cash registers. I made 75 cents an hour.

The next year, after the store went self-service, I worked there, too, on the register, as customers lined up to pay for their goods. One customer I remember was buying three pairs of ladies' underwear. They were on sale: three for \$1, originally 39 cents each. As I rang up \$1, she said, "But they're only 39 cents each."

I responded, "They're on sale three for \$1."

"But they're only 39 cents each," she repeated. Math was obviously not her forte.

Another job of mine was when Earl was pastoring in Paso Robles, Central California. I was hired as a proofreader at the local paper, an eight-page Monday-Friday publication.

But proofreading was not my only job. I also was the receptionist, took care of classified ads, collected money from customers and started a "morgue" (a file system for previous stories, photos, etc.).

It was a fun job, and I made \$50 a week, moving up to \$55 before I left the job.

As a proofreader, it was my job to proofread, meaning I was supposed to check the reporter's original story against the galley proof, the long sheet of paper that had the typed story on it. The linotype operator had typed out the story, forming lead slug after lead slug to fall into a tray. He covered the tray full of lead slugs with ink, then put a long sheet of paper on it and rolled over it, resulting in the galley proof.

Because the writer of one article knew nothing about how to use commas, I had to mark many errors, which caused the wiry linotype operator to have a fit. He ran into the editor's office, yelling, "Tell that woman she's a proofreader, not an editor!"

And so I was duly scolded, although I did say to the editor, "But he doesn't know how to use commas."

After a year and a half, when Earl resigned his pastorate and we were returning to Southern California, the newspaper staff had a going away party for me. My favorite gift was a box the society editor gave me: a box filled with commas she had cut out of construction paper. "Ellen," she said, "these are for you, and you can put them anywhere you want to."