

Indio Informer

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Anyone Interested?

John M. Buttrey II

The apostle Peter, speaking of our great salvation in Christ wrote:

*“Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, **made careful searches and inquiries**, inquiring to know what time or what kind of time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He was predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been declared to you through those who proclaimed the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven— **things into which angels long to look.**”*

1 Peter 1:10-12 (Emphasis Mine).

The prophets were interested in knowing about the Christ. Peter says even angels were interested in knowing about this great salvation. However, many people are not interested in hearing about the Gospel. People are generally more interested in the news of the day, the sports scores, and the latest technology or fashion. This is not surprising. Jesus Himself said,

*“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is narrow and the way is constricted that leads to life, and **there are few who find it.**”* Matthew 7:13-14 (Emphasis Mine).

“God so the loved the world,” but the world has not so loved God. God *“gave His only begotten Son,”* but the world is not interested

Thank you again, John Buttrey!
Speaker for today

Saturday Meeting
February 24-25
PREPARE!
FLYERS AVAILABLE!

Evangelism...Thoughts

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 3:23; 6:23

“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months, and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I tell you, raise your eyes and observe the fields, that they are white for harvest.” John 4:35

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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in Him. God offers a promise of eternal life in the Son but, the world is more interested in this life.

This is the great challenge of evangelism: finding those who, like the prophets of old, and the angels, long to look into God's plan of salvation. **They do exist** (Take a moment to read those three words again). If we maintain a **great interest** in spiritual matters, we will find them. Anyone interested?

“I Cannot Find Anyone to Teach About Jesus”

By Dan Jenkins

We think so often about the great commission which Jesus gave to the twelve to preach the gospel to every creature. Those taught were to do what Jesus had told the apostles to do—to go and make disciples of all nations and to teach those disciples to do the same. This is the nature of the gospel. We who have been taught must teach others about the Lord. That great commission has been passed down to us.

Our problem is that we tend to think that, while we want to teach others, we just cannot find anyone to teach. We are wrong! Think about the fact that the city, which more than any other city became followers of Jesus, was not found in Judea or Galilee. Though the disciples were with Jesus, they could not see anyone they could possibly teach in that city.

In John 4, we read of Jesus and His disciples in Samaria with His disciples. They left Jesus to go into the city to get food. Souls were all around them, but all they could see were food merchants. They viewed every Samaritan as spiritually unclean and not worthy of God's favor. Outside the city, at Jacob's well, Jesus was teaching an immoral Samaritan woman. If those in that city were seen as morally corrupt by the apostles, how much harsher was their judgment of this woman?

The Lord taught her. Look at what then happened. The woman left her water jar, went into the city and suggested to them she had

found the Messiah (John 4:28-29). Many from that town believed in Him because of her (John 4:39). They came to Jesus and talked to Him. He entered this “unclean” city and taught for the next two days. *“Many more believed because of His word”* (John 4:41). They said, *“We have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world”* (John 4:42).

The disciples, like us, could not see the souls of those around them. They saw them simply as food merchants. Hear Jesus rebuke His disciples for thinking that sometime somewhere in the future they might find fertile fields. He said, *“The fields are already white for harvest”* (John 4:35).

We cannot find souls? Our problem is that we see merchants, not souls! Let me illustrate from what happened recently. A member of this congregation (Pearl) phoned to correct the name on her bill from Comcast. She talked to Carla and in the conversation brought up spiritual matters. She invited Carla to visit our services and Bible classes and continued teaching her. This past Sunday Carla was baptized into Christ. Why? Because a Christian did not see her as a merchant, but as a soul.

What about us? Are we seeing souls or merchants?

The Secret to Happiness

Excerpts from article by Dan Jenkins

We must never forget these words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. *“Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...”* (Matthew 6:33). Nor should we forget that the greatest commandment of the Old Testament was, *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength”* (Mark 12:30). Paul says it this way, *“This one thing I do...I press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 3:13-14) There is no happiness until we put first things first.