

Christ Building His Church - Part 2

by Bill McLeod

Bill McLeod emphasizes the transformative power of God's love and the necessity of living with a pure heart and good conscience in his sermon 'Christ Building His Church - Part 2'.

Duration: 33:28

Scripture: Deuteronomy 28:5, Psalm 116:12, Proverbs 22:11, Ephesians 1:3, 1 Timothy 1:5, Hebrews 12:14, James 4:8

Topics: "Church Growth"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker shares an illustration about how some people have corrupt minds that always think evil thoughts. After the sermon, a millionaire approached the speaker and admitted that he identified with the corrupt mind described. The millionaire asked the speaker to give a message on being blessed with a pure heart. The speaker emphasizes that when we ask God for guidance, He will show us what needs to be done, and His will is always good, acceptable, and perfect. The sermon also highlights the importance of having a pure heart in order to experience the love of God. The speaker shares a story of a person who was delivered from a pornography addiction through prayer and encourages the audience to take responsibility for their own actions.

Transcript

Dear Lord, you blessed us with all spiritual blessings and heavenly things in Christ, and Moses spoke, Father, about blessings of basket and store, material blessings, you blessed us with that also. What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me? That's the big question. For God help us, we pray, to transform us.

Reading is the word that we need. Dear Lord, take up the tangled strands where we have rotten veins, that by the skill of thy dear hands some beauty may remain. Transformed by grace divine, the glory shall be thine, to thy most holy will, O Lord, we now are all designed.

Thank you for being so good. Help us to be good, to be godly. The Lord be with you.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Amen. the Lord. Amen.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

by the grace of God. Get honest with God. Weep if you have to.

God's recipe for personal revival is found in James chapter 4. 1. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. 2. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 3. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep.

Let your laughter return to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. 4. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will lift you up. He'll do it.

Give him a chance. But you've got to be ready to give it up. And a sinner boy in Saskatchewan, you know, this guy came.

I'll never forget him. Big guy. And he and his wife had been in a missionary meeting three weeks before, and they'd gone forward to dedicate themselves to missionary work.

They both felt they needed to do this. But he said, we can't go into ministry. I said, why not? He said, we're hooked on pornography.

And he told me, he said, we buy the filthiest, the most salacious things we can find to show them. We look at them. We practice this stuff.

He said, it's awful, I know. I said, do you want to be free? No. He said, I don't.

So what do you do? So then I said this. Before you go, you claim you're a Christian. Yeah, I've been saved.

I said, every time you're watching that rotten garbage, you're forcing the Christ who is in you to watch it with you. Do you know what happened? He fell on the floor. He started to cry.

I didn't weep, didn't weep, didn't weep. He kept crying, oh my God, I didn't know what I was doing to you. I had no idea.

I'd never thought of it. Can you forgive me? It went on and on and finally he was cleared. And the last I heard, he's in Bible college.

They're going to the mission theater. God can do it, there are only two people. Holy Ghost, we're going to keep crying for the Spirit of God to come down on our people and speak to them and fast and pray until it happens.

The goal of our instruction is love, rising out of a pure heart, and then it says, I have a good conscience. If you don't have a good conscience, down in Chile, they brought a guy to me one night, the interpreter did, and I said, this guy doesn't know any English, so we can talk about anything we can. He won't know what to talk about.

But this guy's gone to every counselor in Santiago, which was a city of four million or more, every missionary, every preacher, anybody that he hears as a counselor, he goes to him for counseling. He never does anything he's told. Okay, you tell him from me that I have more time for him because he's gone to all kinds of counselors, he never does what he's told, so he doesn't do what I tell him I do.

So he tells the guy this, and the guy looks startled, and he tears down his face and said something, and the guy said, oh, he wants you to pray for him before you go. I said, no, the Bible says pray for us before we trust we have a good conscience. He's got a bad conscience, and he said that.

There's no point in you praying for him, he's got a bad conscience. You tell him he's got to make his conscience right, and then we'll pray for him. So he told him that, and I just walked away.

The next night, he came back with a counselor. He was talking so fast, the counselor couldn't make him order times, you know. What he wanted to say was, thank you, thank you, thank you.

He went back from the meeting the night before after what I said. He got on his face before God. He spent hours with God, and he dealt with everything God showed him.

He had a clear conscience. He wanted me to pray for him. I prayed gladly for him.

But you don't get the love if you don't have a good conscience, and don't let the devil or anybody else talk you out of making some restitution that God is asking you to make. You know, my dad retired and went to live in Carmel, California, and he met a guy there. My dad was in his seventies, this guy was in his forties.

They became fast friends, and my father bought an acre of land from this friend of his where he built a little house. But they didn't have anything on paper, and this younger guy died of a heart attack, and a millionaire bought the land, and he came one day to see my dad and said, I own all this land now. My dad said, well, I own this house.

And they had a little argument there, and finally my dad discovered that as long as he lived in the house, this guy couldn't kick him off, and this guy couldn't stop him from traveling on the little road he had. The law said that. Well, then my dad was not feeling well.

He came to see us in Canada, and he died while he was seeing us in Canada. He never did go back. And we got his belongings, and in there we discovered he owed a certain fellow \$2,500.

So the date was about 25 years or something before. So I wrote the guy. I didn't even know if he had the same address.

He did have, and he said, yes, but your dad and I were good friends. This was another film, not the guy that died, of course. And he said, let's forget about the \$2,500.

But I couldn't forget about it. The law said, I want you to pay that to me. Well, I didn't have \$2,500.

So I was praying about it. There was a guy in Vancouver named John McDonald, and God had touched his life in some of the meetings we had, and he got turned around, and he was in real bad shape. And when God broke him, he had a Bible in his trunk his mother had sent to him when he ran away from home or whatever, and he found this old Bible, and he went to see his wife.

He hadn't been with her for a couple of years, and he rang the doorbell, and one of the kids came around and thanked him. Mom, dad's at the door. I think he's drunk.

He's got a Bible in his right hand, and he's crying. She invited him in here. He met with God.

God's life all straightened out. And then he told me he was making things right, and it was costing him a lot of money. And he said, you know, my wife says, boy, if we lose the house, she says, I'm through.

I'm just going to take it off. If we lose the house, we lost all the stuff they had. They had a lot of property and that, and making restitution.

So he prayed he wouldn't lose the house, and he never did lose the house. But he said, I've got a fund, you know, and we had been talking, I'd been talking about my father down in, what had happened down in California, not thinking of him at all, just we were sharing some things. And he said, you know what, \$2,500.

He said, you know, I've got about \$3,000 in the fund here. This is money that I should pay to somebody, but they're dead, so I can't pay it. So I'm going to send that to this guy in California.

And so he did, you know. And that's how it got paid. You might say, well, I didn't pay it.

No, I didn't pay it, but somehow God got it paid. I didn't have the money to do it, but God has ways, you know. But a good conscience.

I once, many years ago, in my woodcutting days, I cut wood for a church. They wanted 10 cords of birch, and then they wanted 30 cords of, not jack pine, anyway it was a pine. And I knew I couldn't make any money on the wood, the tamarack.

And so they wanted me to deliver the birch first of all, which I did. And once I delivered the birch, they told me they didn't want the tamarack. This is a church, you know.

So they had cooked me, you know. Then, you know, the birch was crooked, and when I piled it, I don't think I did this deliberately. I might have.

I don't think I did, though. But one day, when they got it, it was about two-thirds of what it should have been. So they came back at me, and I laughed at them and said, yeah, you cooked me, and I cooked you.

It's fair, you know. So, and then the Lord one day, he reminds me about this stuff, and I said, hey God, you made me stuff like that in the pine forest? Yeah. So I had to write them and send them a check, you know, and make it right.

And then one day down in the States, the Lord reminded me that as a kid, I used to steal toys in the store in Winnipeg. And so I said, but God, I was only five years old, and the Lord said, yeah, that's right, but make it right. So I wrote the store and sent them a check, told them what I'd done, never heard anything back, but God had a reason he wanted me to stop, you know.

Well, Jesus, there's three of us. The first guy picked up a toy So we thought. It sounds like nothing, but you know, when God speaks, you've got to deal with it, whatever it is.

You got some books you borrowed from some preacher, you never returned them, you better get them back, or you'll be in trouble. I've got 40 books out right now I'm trying to get back, you know. Christians aren't all that honest.

Well, I have to say this at the same time. A friend called me one day, a new Christian, and he was really, he was struggling and whatnot. So I said, I've got a book here I think you should read.

And I gave him this book from my library. He opens up the book, and his name was on the first page. It was his book.

I borrowed it from him. I didn't even know about this. So, some crazy things happen sometimes.

But if you ask God to show you what has to be done, he'll show you. And it'll never be beyond your ability. The will of God is three things.

Good, so it's not bad. It's acceptable, it's something you can do. And it's perfect, so you can improve on.

So why not go for it? Good, acceptable, and perfect. And sometimes you can lead people to Christ. One lady in some of our meetings, she'd been in a store, been trying purses on her arm, and she walked out with a brand new purse on her arm, the street box down before she realized what she'd done.

She thought if I go back, they'll arrest me as a crook, you know, that I stole a purse. So she didn't bother. Well, in our meetings, God spoke to her, so she went back, and she looked up the manager and told him what had happened.

And she said, he started to cry. He said, lady, I've been in this business 25 years, and the first one that's ever come back, we've had hundreds of things stolen over the years. You just made my day.

And he said, forget about it. This is wonderful that you came back. And I've known a case where people got saved when somebody went to them to make something right that had been made wrong.

It's so easy to be wrong and do wrong things when you're not walking in fellowship with God. And deal with it. When God speaks to your heart, I've had to do this kind of thing as well.

Love, rising out of a pure heart, out of a good conscience, and then out of a genuine faith. What's faith? The best definition of faith I can find is in the book of Acts. When Paul said, he said, last night an angel spoke to me, and he told me that the ship would be destroyed, that nobody would lose their life.

And then here's what he said, which I think is a good definition of faith. Wherefore, sirs, I believe God that it shall be even as it was told me. God said it, I believe it, and that settles it.

Faith, mighty faith, that promises and looks to God alone, laughs at impossibilities and cries it shall be done, and cries it shall, it shall be done, and cries it shall, it shall be done, laughs at impossibilities and cries it shall be done. Right? Okay, I'm not a singer, you just found that out, right? A genuine faith, believing God. God said it.

7,487 promises in the Bible. That's right, and all of them are true. They don't all apply to you.

But I'm sure if you tried, you could find a thousand that would fit your case. Then we learn to walk by faith. God leads us, and you never go wrong following God, and you never go wrong doing what God is asking you to do, the promises.

Love rising out of a genuine faith. Let's look at this love thing for a few minutes before we sign off. Amnon, one of David's sons, fell in love with a girl called Tamar.

He loved her so greatly he couldn't eat. And he had a friend named Jonadab, and he had a bad friend that got him into trouble, he lost his wife, but he was his friend. Be careful about the friends you pick.

And he asked him why he was, you know, the king's son and looking so sick, and he said, I love my sister Tamar. And so Jonadab gave him a little plan where he'd get alone with Tamar and rape the girl, and he did. And after he raped her, it says, he hated her, the Hebrew says, with a great hatred greatly.

Now how could it change in ten minutes, you know? He loved her so greatly, now he hates her with a great hatred greatly. He was in love with her body, not with her. When he got what he wanted, he hated her, and he ordered her out.

Now she knew, and he should have known, the Lord Moses said, in a case like this, the guy's got to marry the girl. And she said, in sending me away, you're doing worse than you've already done. And he didn't see it, so he called the servants in and he said, get this woman, no, no, the word woman's not there, what he really said was, get this thing out of here.

So they pushed her out, and she went home crying, and Absalom found out what had happened, and two years later he had this guy killed. Then you have a parallel case. It says about Saul in 1 Samuel 16, that Saul loved David greatly.

In chapter 18, he tried to murder him with a spear. I mean, what kind of love was that? He loved David strictly for what he got out of him. When the spirit, the evil spirit terrified him, which is the word in the Hebrew, it terrified him, he called for David, and David would play and sing, and he would be refreshed, and he'd feel better.

He loved him for what he could get out of him. It wasn't really love at all. It was a totally selfish thing.

Love seeks not her own. Love is always looking for somebody else it can bless, and be a help to, maybe a challenge to. That's human love we're talking about.

Divine love, many examples of this in the Bible, outside of the Bible. Well, David, for example, when he was looking for men from Saul's house so he could show the kindness of God to his former enemy. That's love.

Because, I say again, love does not seek her own. Always looking for others they can bless. And there's lots of people around that need the blessing of God, and we're the ones that have to do it after all.

This is the goal of God's instruction to us as Christians. We have to have a pure heart. We've got to have a clear conscience and a genuine faith.

And when these things are there, then the Spirit will fill us with the love of God. I don't know if you ever read, oh, it was, I forget the title of the book, oh yes, Apostle of Abiding Love. The great man of God from South Africa.

And he prayed a prayer about the love of God. It's an incredible prayer. I knew it at one time, I've forgotten it now, some years ago since I memorized it, but it was a fantastic prayer.

He wanted every cell in his body, every atom in his being to be imbued and imbued with the love of God so that no matter where he went or with whom he met, he could pour the love of God on this person in some practical, helpful way. The love of God is shed abroad or poured forth in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has given unto us. When people talk about Moody's experience of being filled with the Spirit, they overlook that this is what he said, I felt as if I were being fanned with gigantic wings of love.

I felt I could take the whole world into my heart. He preached the same sermons he preached before, but the sermons which before won twos and threes to Christ now won hundreds to Christ. And Finney had the same experience.

People overlook the fact he talked about being baptized with the love of God. He thought he would die, though love was so great, poured into his being by the Spirit of God. You know, when it talks in Ephesians, rooted and grounded in love, rooted and grounded in love, it goes on to say, and to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge that we might be filled with all the fullness of God.

A doctor friend of mine and his wife, they went to China on holidays, and when they were gone they left their four kids with their parents. They were a godly couple. And one day their grandparents were taking these kids for a walk, and a drunk teenager ran into them and killed the mom and the dad, the grandma and the grandpa.

The kids weren't hurt. They had to get the couple back from China, and they came back. My son-in-law had the funeral for the two grandparents that had been killed, and the daughter, whose mom and dad died, she made inquiries, where is this guy that ran into my mom and dad and killed them? They told her, well, the police have him, he's in jail.

So she went and begged permission to talk to him. How would you handle that? Here's what she did. She simply said, you killed my mom and dad, and I miss my mom and dad very much, and I wish they were still with me, but I want you to know that I forgive you for Christ's sake.

I forgive you for killing my mom and dad, and I want to talk to you about Jesus. And she led him to Christ in the Salvation Army. How could she do that? But she did it by the grace of God.

She realized God had a purpose in this. He took my two parents, but now this young guy is saved by the grace of God. The love of God.

You can't read it, you can't learn it from a book. You can't learn it by watching somebody else. People know when our heart is right.

The goal of our instruction, again, I say in closing, is to love, rising out of a pure heart, a good conscience, and a genuine faith. And I know what's happening in some hearts. The devil is telling you, forget it.

You can't deal with that. It's too big. It happened long ago, it's not important.

Don't you say that. God is talking to you about something. Say, yes God, I'll do it, and God will give you grace in doing it.

Some Christian relatives got a hold of this guy before he died, and they wrote him new will and cut this kid out so he never got a nickel, and had him sign it, and so they got everything, he got nothing. He found out what happened. And he hated those people with a passion, you know.

Then he was in one of the meetings, and God spoke to him in both his heart. So he gave his testimony, he told us what had happened, and then he said, you know, I love those people. I really love those people that did this to me.

I don't miss them, I mean it all, he said. He's just full of God, he said. And God does things like that.

He puts us through. There's a verse that says, Thou hast lifted me up, and cast me down. And sometimes when God picks you up, he throws you down.

He did that to Joseph. Joseph got lifted up, he was a slave, but he was put in charge of the administration of this big farm that this guy had, Port of Farhang, and all of a sudden he's in jail accused of rape. He got lifted up and thrown down.

Don't be surprised what happened. You might get fired from the church you're in, don't worry about it. It doesn't mean anything.

Because our lives are in the hands of God. Listen. Oh people, listen.

The goal of our instruction is love. It's love. I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it, that the love of which you have loved me may be in them.

If you don't have it, don't sleep till you get it. Be filled with the love of God. There's nothing else quite so important.

So somebody's saying, yeah, if you're filled with the love of God, people will take advantage of you. Don't worry about it. Men and they'll crush them across.

They rewarded him for his love that way. So are you his follower? But don't worry about it. A pure heart, a good conscience, a genuine faith.

This follows through, you know, on the church of Christ. Because to be a proper member of the church of Christ, it says in Hebrews 12, you are not come to the mount that might be touched in the burning of fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words, which voice they that heard, who treated their words should not be spoken to them any more. But you are come unto Mount Sinai, not to Sinai, but to Mount Sinai, and to the city of the living God, the heavenly

Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly of the firstborn, who are written in heaven.

Christ is the firstborn, and we're his church, part of his church. You are come unto Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant. Oh, let's pray.

Father, my heart is melted as I think of these great things you've planned for your children. Not Mount Sinai, Father, but Mount Sinai, the city of the living God, the church of the living God, written in heaven. Oh, Father, you told us not to rejoice because the demons are something to us, but to rejoice because our names are written in heaven.

Well, thank you for all of this. We pray for one another, dear God. Oh, Father, keep us.

We may walk out of this room and throw it all off and forget about it. God, keep us from doing that. Bring us in repentance and humility again to the cross.

Not my will, but thine, be done. Emptiest Lord, that you may fill us, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

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