

Come Over Into Macedonia

by Charles Alexander

The sermon emphasizes the importance of divine sovereignty and the urgency of spreading the gospel to all nations and people before it is too late.

Duration: 20:44

Scripture: Genesis 9:25-27, Matthew 6:33, Acts 16:6-7

Topics: "Macedonia"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker begins by mentioning that he is under orders to confine his remarks to ten minutes. He expresses his gratitude for being in Canada for the first time and mentions his reputation for following orders. He then refers to the singing and demonstration of God's grace that took place before his sermon. The speaker mentions a message he received from someone named Nessa and asks to record it before he leaves Canada. He then mentions the hymn 'Send the Light' and relates it to the story in Acts 16 where Paul and his party were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach in Asia. Instead, they had a vision in Troas where a man from Macedonia called for their help.

Transcript

What Dr. Slade didn't tell you was this, that I'm under orders to confine my remarks to ten minutes. But since I've come to Canada, and this is my first visit to Canada ever, I've established quite a reputation in Jarvis Street for carrying out orders. And I intend to carry them out this evening.

For one would be tempted in the circumstances after such an exhilarating and improving program of singing that we've had and the demonstration therein of the grace of God on a worldwide scale. And the call which comes to each one of us in the circumstances, one is tempted to enlarge upon the few remarks we have to say. By the way, what I'm saying now is not counted in the ten minutes.

I'll tell you when we're really beginning. I want to say, just like a personal note, that there is someone in this congregation tonight that I knew years ago and never expected to see, perhaps again in this world. Yet when I came to Jarvis Street the other day, he was one of the first to make himself known to me.

His name is Messer Dentcher. Are you in the congregation, Messer? You were on the platform a moment ago, there he is up in the corner there. The man from Ethiopia.

You'll find out all about him at chapter eight. He came to Liverpool during the war, and it was a very, very serious time, as you may expect. He was on his way to Canada and was held up in Liverpool for something like six months, I think it was, before they could get any further to Canada, to which the emperor of Ethiopia was sending him, along with another party, with a whole party of young Ethiopians.

They were held up in Liverpool at the Sudan Interior Mission Home, number 16 Oakfield, Anfield, Liverpool. That won't convey anything to anybody here, I don't think. Oh yes, there might be one or two in the Bible school who might know of that.

But otherwise, Messer and I have a particular interest in that address. And it was my privilege during the war, while he was held up in Liverpool, to be the person who baptized him in the waters of baptism, in a blacked-out church, with quite a moderate congregation, in the circumstances counting the war conditions. I don't think we were able to heat the water.

I don't think we were. I can't quite remember that, but whether the water was heated or unheated, Messer and one or two others went under the waters of baptism. It is always a great occasion to look back upon that church no longer exists.

It has been since swept out of existence. But oh, what a story those bricks and mortar could tell. I'm grateful to be here.

When I get home again, in God's good will, I hope to take a recording of a message from Messer to the people there. He doesn't know about this yet. Will you please see me, brother, after the service? And don't go until I get you down on this little recorder.

Otherwise, I shall never be forgiven when I get back to England. Now, my ten minutes is just about beginning, this morning. I have a clock in front of me.

If anything goes wrong with the clock, don't blame me. Now, Dr. Shields has said that I told him this morning that I felt I had a message, because he gave to me overnight the musical score of what was to take place. As I ran through it with my eye, I saw one of my favorite hymns, Send the Light, Send the Light.

We have heard the Macedonian call today, and immediately I knew that I had my message. Of course, it is the 16th chapter of Acts, where we read that when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the Word in Asia, that was remarkable, wasn't it? Paul's evangelistic party, they were forbidden by the Holy Ghost to preach the Word of God in Asia. Asia at that time was a small province in Asia Minor.

It has grown since to include the largest and most populous continent upon the face of the earth. But at that time it was a small Roman province in Asia Minor, what we now know as Asia Minor. And they were forbidden by the Holy Ghost to preach the Word in Asia.

And after they were come to Myseia, and they are saved to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit suffered them not. Terrible thing, isn't it, when you want to go on a missionary journey and the Holy Spirit says no. And you try another direction and the Holy Spirit says no.

And so in great bewilderment, passing by Myseia, the little party came down to Troas. And there Paul had his vision, on the border of Europe and Asia. In his vision he thought he stood upon the brink of that

narrow neck of water which divides Europe from Asia, where so many brave men in the First World War on both sides, lost their lives in the dreadful hell of Gallipoli.

And he saw himself in his vision staring across to the European side and there was a man standing and crying out to him, Hold there! Hold there! Come over into Macedonia and help us! We are needing you on this side. There are plenty workers on the Asian side. Come over into Macedonia and help us.

And assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us to preach the Gospel unto them, therefore loosing from Troas, we came to Samothracea, from there to Neapolis, and thence to Philippi where they landed in Europe and were there a certain day. And there the Gospel was introduced to Europe by God's servant. And a great prophetic page was turned as we shall see in a moment.

But mark this first of all, God has a design. The Spirit suffered them not to go here or there because God's great clock of prophecy had marked off the occasion when at last the sons of Japheth neglected from the foundation of the world would hear the Word of God. And so the Gospel passed into Europe and from Europe to America and from America and Europe to the uttermost parts of the earth as we have seen upon this platform this evening from north, south, east and west.

They have come to this place as they have come to the Kingdom of God. There to behold the glory of Christ and with us to share in proclaiming the honor of His name here in Toronto, Canada tonight. A wonderful thing has taken place.

More wonderful than perhaps we can dream. But notice the footprints of God in His divine providence and predestination, in His sovereign purpose and decree are on the pages of history. For they came to Troas.

And what is Troas? Troas is Troy where a great war was fought. And the great names of the classical Greeks came then to be known and recorded on the page of history and of poetry for all time. By the father of all poetry at least so he is regarded in the classics as the great Homer.

The names of Agamemnon, of Paris, of Helen of Troy, of Achilles and his towering, furious wrath. Of Hector the brave and all the other great heroes of that classical time. Troy was the place to which Paul had come.

And Troy was the place where eight centuries before in the providence of God, that great war was fought and decided that the axis of classical education should swing from Asia to Europe onto our side of that narrow neck of water. And so they came and they landed at Philippi. And what is Philippi? Another of the great historical footprints of God upon the page of history.

For at Philippi only one generation before Paul landed the great battle was fought between the avengers of Julius Caesar on the one side and his murderers Brutus and Cassius and the others on the other side. And there on that blood-stained field of Philippi it was decided that Europe should be an empire and not a republic under the rule of one great man and a succession of great all-powerful men who should keep the peace of the world until Christ should come and the gospel be established and run swiftly to and fro through all the lands of Europe. God decided this upon the page of history.

And remember that history, all its plans are laid in the decrees of God from the very beginning. God knows what He is doing. And He had determined from the days of Noah as you will find recorded never mind that as you will find recorded in the ninth chapter of Genesis Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done unto him and he said, Cursed be Canaan a servant of servants shall he be unto

his brethren.

And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Shem. That's the Asiatic peoples. Israel came from Shem and Abraham came from Shem and Canaan shall be his servant.

God shall enlarge Japheth that is Europe and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem. And the time had come in the days of the Apostle Paul when the axis of the divine word should go west should swing over the boundary line from Asia into Europe and for the first time the light of God which previously had illuminated Asia and even deep into Africa and Ethiopia the time should now come when Europe should have its turn.

And the world had waited thousands of years for this moment because when God said He would enlarge Japheth and He should dwell in the tents of Shem this means that the privileges of the divine word which were originally deposited in the family of Shem of whom our Saviour Jesus Christ came that the privileges and promises of Shem should pass unto us and we should dwell in those privileges and for two thousand years we've had them and by the decree of God in due time by the faithfulness of those who have gone before us the light of God's truth the liberty and the fullness of His grace have been declared from your country and from mine and other European countries to the uttermost parts of the earth the banners of the gospel of Christ have been planted and now we are living in days when the time is running out and the time is running out fast and I wonder if the gospel is going to remain with us or if it is for how long before the judgments of God overtake us we are the unworthy descendants of a glorious heritage that has come to us which we no longer deserve if we ever did deserve it and who knows where the banners of Christ will next be planted or whether it will be that soon all His elect gathered in we shall be gathered around the throne in the midst of the judgments which are awaiting upon a sin-cursed earth for the gospel must attain its completion some day and it may be not far distant ahead but in the meantime the message has come to us tonight all the more that we should be concerned to carry on the blessed work and the witness of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ the fact that it is all in the divine decree which Paul well understood didn't cause him to sit down in Troas and say well God knows how to look after His own affairs he was the more concerned because he knew of divine sovereignty to carry out the divine will and so it is we go still to the uttermost parts of the earth and some will go to the uttermost parts of poor Canada which badly needs the Word of God and I shall go back to poor Britain once the home and the citadel of divine truth and what changes have been brought there to do what a man can do by the grace of God to restore the situation if restoration is possible no, to know the divine sovereign decree is no inducement to us to sit idly by and let God get on with His work because this is how the divine decrees work by stirring up concern in our hearts that we might be led forth to any sacrifice to any suffering to any shame in the footsteps of our Saviour in faithfulness to proclaim that one and only message which can lift the curse from the souls of ruined men and women and make them sons of God and princes and kings of the Most High my ten minutes is up but the world is still going on and there is much to be done may God bless us and help us for His name's sake Amen This is me, Mr.

Alexander speaking in the Jarvis Street Baptist Church in the study of Dr. Slade introducing to you an old friend of ours Mr. Messer Densha from Ethiopia whose name is well known to quite a number of the older friends in Liverpool and here he is about to pass on to you a message Hello Christian friends I am so happy to meet Mr. Alexander I was in Liverpool in 1946 just the war getting over and when we were there I attended to Mr. Alexander's church and I had been a Christian before but I didn't understand the whole need of being baptized and so Mr.

Alexander was expounding the word of God and showed me the way clearly and so I took that stand and I was baptized the Lord really blessed me after that and He kept me all these years and so when I met Mr. Alexander I was so surprised and so happy now I'm going to quote you a verse of scripture that has been a comfort to me since I have trusted the Lord it is found in 1 Peter 5, verse 7 casting all your cares upon Him for He cares for you and I know this by experience and I hope you'll take this promise and use it for yourself Thank you very much Thank you Mr.

Densher and we hope it won't be the last time and we hope it won't be too long and if He's ever over in England again I'm sure He will look us up and what a day of rejoicing we will have together Thank you very much for listening to us and now we're to have a little word from Dr. Slade who is the pastor at Jarvis Street Baptist Church, Toronto, Canada Thank you very much for listening to us and now we're to have a little word from Dr. Slade who is the pastor at Jarvis Street Baptist Church, Toronto, Canada I just want to say to you dear people in Liverpool we are really indebted to you for allowing your pastor to not only come to the United States for conference work where God mightily spoke through him but to have him here in Jarvis Street Baptist Church in Toronto ministering in the seminary as well as in the church today it really has been a high day with us and we were sorry we had a very heavy program tonight something unusual of a missionary character and we did set a time limit for your pastor but as I went around the congregation I think they're going to fire me yet because I did put this limit on him they wished that he would have gone on and on and the more he goes on, the more we enjoy him anyhow, will you let him come and have a repeat visit just as soon as this possibly can be arranged we've all fallen in love with him and we know that he's a blessing to you and he was really a blessing to us so the Lord bless you everyone as you continue in the Lord's work

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