

Between the Plow and the Altar
Bible Sermon Notes by Pastor O. Cary Rodgers, Jr.

Prophetically things are heating up hotter and hotter.

Joe Biden the second Catholic president since JF Kennedy is extremely devoted to the cause of the beast.

‘God love ya’: Warm relationship between the world’s most powerful Catholics on display as Biden and Pope Francis meet – October 29, 2021, CNN

“The world’s most powerful Catholics — President Joe Biden and Pope Francis — held 90 minutes of talks Friday in a session that blended the official and personal sides of the most devout US leader in decades.”

The meeting stretched twice as long as the one Biden held with Pope John Paul II as a young senator. While the White House said afterward that topics like climate change and Covid-19 arose, Biden told reporters he discussed “a lot of personal things” with the pontiff.

Biden explained the coins are given to “warriors and leaders,” and called Francis “the most significant warrior for peace I’ve ever met.”

Biden was the 14th US president to meet with a pope at the Vatican.

Francis is the third pope Biden has met, following meetings with Pope John Paul II while Biden was in the Senate and Pope Benedict XVI during his time as vice president.

The relationship between the two men, the White House has said, “is very personal.”

COP22 on “Climate change starts this Sunday through November 12, 2021.

One of the things they will be focusing on is implementing the “rules” of the Paris Agreement. Remember, Papal Rome is using the climate change agenda as a cloak to promote the false Sunday Sabbath

They say that the world is heating up, but they don’t understand that it is already on fire spiritually with sin and rebellion. Being saved from disaster of sin is a greater priority in which the world is ignoring. It’s not CO2’s but sin and rejection of the everlasting covenant that is the real climate change.

If you saw your friend, neighbor, or stranger trapped in a flaming building would you get help for him to save his life? Of course, you would. Death is certain if he is not rescued from the flames. What do you think his response would be if someone risked their life to rescue him from the flames that were all around them? Do you think he would say, “Thank you for coming, but I am all set. Though I am trapped, I can eventually get out of here myself.” We hope not.

We live in a world that is on fire and the flames of sin and death are all around us. Jesus came to rescue us.

1 Timothy 1:15

15 This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Matthew 18:11

11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.

Even though God has made a provision to save the world from the flames of sin through Jesus Christ many do not want to be rescued.

There are those who reach out to the call to be rescued.

Those who have been saved by the rescuing hand of Jesus Christ are to share this gospel message of salvation to the world.

Mark 16:15-16

15 And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

16 **He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

As a faithful, gospel evangelist and medical missionary, what is the correct position that we must be in order to reach out to others?

“In the life of Christ, everything was made subordinate to His work, the great work of redemption which He came to accomplish. And the same devotion, the same self-denial and sacrifice, the same subjection to the claims of the word of God, is to be manifest in His disciples.

Everyone who accepts Christ as his personal Saviour will long for the privilege of serving God. Contemplating what heaven has done for him, his heart is moved with boundless love and adoring gratitude. He is eager to signalize his gratitude by devoting his abilities to God's service. He longs to show his love for Christ and for His purchased possession. He covets toil, hardship, sacrifice.

The true worker for God will do his best, because in so doing he can glorify his Master. He will do right in order to regard the requirements of God. He will endeavor to improve all his faculties. He will perform every duty as unto God. His one desire will be that Christ may receive homage and perfect service.

There is a picture representing a bullock standing between a **plow and an altar**, with the inscription, ‘Ready for either,’ ready to toil in the furrow or to be offered on the altar of sacrifice. This is the position of the true child of God--willing to go where duty calls, to deny self, to sacrifice for the Redeemer's cause.” - Ellen G. White, Ministry of Healing, p. 502

We must be like a bullock standing between a plow and an altar as active servants for the Lord. In others word, we must be willing to actively do the work of Christ or be willing to be sacrificed as a martyr for the sake of the gospel. During the mark of the beast crisis, we must give God's last urgent loud cry message to the world between the plow and the altar.

In farming, the plow is one of the most important tools in farming. Why? The plow breaks up the soil in order for the seeds to be planted. You cannot grow okra, greens, or any other type of veggies without first breaking up the soil.

Genesis 3:17-19

17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: **cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;**

18 **Thorns also and thistles** shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;
 19 **In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread**, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.

In a spiritual sense, the farm and the soil represent every nation, kindred, tongue and people in which we are to share the everlasting gospel. The plow is the cross of Jesus and His gospel. How many have their hands on the gospel plow as God's farmers to break up the hardened ground of sin by telling others how they can be rescued from earth's destruction because of sin?

Personally, we are first to break up the hard fallow ground in our own lives.

Jeremiah 4:3

3 For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.

Break up fallow ground through plowing and tilling the soil. We must be fully committed.

Like a bullock with a plow, you plow going forward not backward. To keep the plow straight, you cannot look back.

What does Jesus say concerning this from a spiritual level?

Luke 9:62

62 And Jesus said unto him, **No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**

In other words, you cannot start this work without finishing the work. Those who look back, look back at the attractions and entertainments of the world are distracted and end up in the ditch. God says that they are not fit for the work nor the kingdom of God. Once we put our hands on the gospel plow we must stay focused and determined to finish the work.

Hebrews 10:38-39

38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.
 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

As spiritual farmers with our hand on the gospel plow, we must first till the hard ground, plant the seeds, nourish the seeds with compost, and prepare for the harvest. We do our part and Jesus will provide the power, sun, and rain for the seeds to grow into plants that produce the fruit and veggies.

The seed spiritually is the Word of God according to Luke 8:11

Only the good soil will produce a harvest.

Seeds that fall on the wayside soil, stony grounds and grow among weeds and thorns will not produce a harvest.

Luke 8:12-15

- 12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.
- 13 They on the rock *are they*, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.
- 14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to perfection.
- 15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience.

It takes faith in the Creator to grow a successful farm. You must be consistent, persistent, and do all you can to have a successful harvest.

For example, this year we decided to double our small strawberry farm from 800 plants to 2,000 plants. In our growing zone in the south, you have to plant your strawberries by plug or bare root in the month of October in order to have a harvest in the spring. When we set out to order the plants many of the places were sold out of plugs. Plugs are plants with an established root in trays with soil. Plugs are easier to grow and establish when they are transplanted in the soil. Unfortunately, we could not find any plugs available when we were ready to order, but we were able to order a thousand bare-root plants that were not scheduled to be available until the end of October. Bare-roots are cheaper, but more difficult to grow.

Before our bare-roots became available, God worked it out where we were able to find a nursery that still had some plugs. We were able to get over a thousand plugs. We planted and watered them. They were establish to the soil in about three days. Finally the bare-roots became available. I had to drive at least 3 hours away to pick them up. After picking them up, we began to plant the next day. The instructions said make sure you water over head daily and that it would take 7 to 10 days before it would be established. At the end of the instructions it said that bare-root plants are not for the novice! Wow, this is only our second year in growing strawberries and our first year in growing bare-roots, I guess we are considered novices. First day, we watered faithfully; same with the second. But after a while, even with all that watering, it appeared that we where losing the battle. The plants looked dead. All the leaves withered. The hope was starting to fade, but the instructions said it wouldn't be established until about seven days. So, in faith we kept watering. Around day five, God sent a great down pour of rain. Praise the Lord. The plants still looked dead. But in faith we kept on watering like the instructions said. Around the sixth or seventh day it appeared to be a miracle; the crown of the plant started to look alive and green! Praise the Lord!

In a spiritual sense the same is true even when things look dead with no hope. You must keep preparing the soil and sowing the seed of the gospel; there will be a harvest. Keep working in faith. Don't be discouraged when it appears that the results of all the work of evangelism look dead. "Is anybody going to be converted?" Jesus says keep plowing, keep sowing, keep watering, there will be a great harvest. You may not see it all now, but keep working in faith.

Remember, the right position of a true servant for God is between the plow and the altar.

Let's talk about the Altar

The altar represents sacrificing our life as a martyr for the gospel. We must be willing to put our life on the line for the cause of Christ. Peter did it. Stephen did it. Paul did it. Jesus, our example, did it.

Matthew 5:10-12

- 10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
- 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Paul says..

Philippians 2:16-17

- 16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.
- 17 Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.

Do you have a made up mind? Are you rooted and grounded in the present truth? Are you between the plow and the altar? Not between the plow and your career, the plow and your money, the plow and your television, the plow and your entertainment.

Are you steadfast, unmovable, and rooted between the plow and the altar?

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