

# God's Cup of Salvation

For "Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" **Romans 10:13-15**

[Yesterday morning at our Leaders' training, I learnt something about practising repetition until others embrace the vision.]

One of R.T Kendall's old teachers at seminary once started a prayer like this: "Lord, we thank you that we are not in hell". The idea behind that prayer is to thank God for His grace which we don't deserve at all, rejoicing in the fact that we are going to heaven and not to hell. That's perfectly fine, but I thought, hold on a minute, what about those who at the moment are heading to hell and might not even be aware of it.

This morning, I want to turn your attention to this title "God's Cup of Salvation" and submit to you that we who are followers and servants of Christ, are called not only to rejoice because our names are written in the Book of Life but also to share the Good News with those around us who are heading the other way.

I asked myself two basic questions, why and how we should tell others about the Good news of Jesus and I came up with three points: **the command from above**, **the cry from beneath** and **the constraint from within**.

Let us look at our first C which is the **command** from above, from Almighty God. The closing words of **Matthew 28** are known as the Great Commission where Jesus commanded his followers -and that includes us- to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you". **Mark 16:15** reads "He (Jesus) said to them 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation'" The word *go* is mentioned over a thousand times in the Bible and is usually a command that God gives us and to which we should pay careful attention. God told Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh but Jonah decided otherwise thinking that God's agenda wasn't good enough for him. When God tells us to go, it doesn't mean laze about or think about it for 10 years, send someone else or even find silly excuses, it means go and share the good news of His grace towards mankind. I believe that if the only reason for us to preach the good news was because God commanded it that would be enough; if God says so, I am not going to argue with Him but get on with it instead. Listen to what God tells **Job** at the beginning of chapter **38**. Obedience to God is a sign of our love for Him.

Let's look together at **Luke 16:19-31**, the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus and focus on verse **27** which is the basis of my second C the **cry** from beneath.

In this parable, the rich man died and found out that death does not end it all. He found himself in hell, a word that makes people quite uncomfortable nowadays even in churches because we don't want to be too hard or politically incorrect. But I will remind you today that there is ten times more said about hell than heaven in the Bible. Why is that? I think it is because Jesus knew that man was prone to go there. Isaiah 51:17 mentions **the cup of his wrath** and Revelation 15:7 and the whole chapter 16 talk about **the bowls of God's wrath** being poured out as punishment on unrepentant sinners. These descriptions are so graphic and intense that I wouldn't wish that on anyone.

When you hear someone crying for help, do you usually walk by because you've got other things to do, or do you spare a moment and stop by to see how you can help? Can you hear the cry of the men and women who live on your estate, lives empty of meaning and direction? Can you hear the cry of your colleagues at work, lives which evolve around their promotions and amassing as much as I can here on earth? Can you hear the cry of a lost world which needs to be brought to Christ and assimilated into the life of the church? People are looking for meaning in life, for purpose. They're looking for an answer to guilt, an answer to death and the fear of death. In Christ, we have the answer to all of these questions.

**Reflection:** A cup of salvation being poured out from the Church. [Psalm116:13](#) (deliverance by the Lord)

Let's look at **2 Corinthians 5:14** "For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all and therefore all died". To compel or constraint basically mean to force us to do something and that is exactly what the love of Christ does, it brings the constraint from within, my third C.

Let me ask you a very personal or even embarrassing question, "Do you cry out to God for the lost, for friends, neighbours or family members who don't know the Lord?" Your love for Christ forces you to do to what Christ did, forces you to love those Christ loves, forces to become more like Him. He came to seek and save those who were lost so you should have the same attitude as he. You cannot save them but you can show them the one who saved you and rescued you from the miry pit. My love for Christ forces to keep praying for my university friends and tell them about Jesus even if after more than 10 years they still say no to that Jesus of yours. My love for Jesus forces me to shed tears for my 9 brothers and sisters and my parents who are still away from the Lord but I am encouraged and will keep praying because I know that God is on their case.

God's work always starts with a concern, a burden which in reality is motivated by love for others. Your love for Christ and for his people will force you to take action and go to the lost sheep of Hoxton or wherever God places you.

A true heart of compassion will let those on the way to destruction know they can escape, but the only escape is through Jesus Christ. We need to tell people they're under God's wrath but that same God has provided a way to escape.

But How? Do we all have to share the same way? No because the unbelieving world is made up of a variety of people.

1. **Confrontational** (Acts 2) Repent and be baptized, save yourselves from this corrupt generation.
2. **Testimonial** (John 9) One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!
3. **Invitational** (John 4) The Samaritan woman at the well begged the people of the city to come and hear Jesus for themselves. (outreach)
4. **Serving** (Acts 9) Dorcas impacted her city by doing deeds of kindness.