

9/13/2009

Proverbs 3:1-7

1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, 2 for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.

3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.

2 Corinthians 2:6-16

6 The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient for him. 7 Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. 8 I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him. 9 The reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. 10 If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven-- if there was anything to forgive-- I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, 11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

12 Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, 13 I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said good-bye to them and went on to Macedonia. 14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. 15 For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task?

John 17:15-23

15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. **17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.**

18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. **May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.**

22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23 I in them and you in me. **May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.**

>I Believe the Bible is the Word of God=

Part 1

CHARACTERS

Narrator:		Sharon
Jenny:	A student in a crisis	Carlee
Sam:	A friend of Jenny's	Evan
Monica:	A friend, who thinks boys know nothing	Jenna
Titus:	Another friend.	Collin
Tonya:	Another friend.	Miki
Mr. Simmons:	Assistant Principal	Tim
Cynthia:	Another student and friend	Brittany

Scene 1 (Jenny - sitting on a bench/chair at school. Her face is in her hands and she is crying. Sam and Monica approach. – FROM THE SIDE.)

Narrator: It has been a bad day, actually. . . more than just a bad day, for Jenny.

Jenny: (Sobbing) Ooooh!

(Sam and Monica walk up and stand beside Jenny)

Sam: Monica, Jenny=s crying.

Monica: Just like a boy. Let=s try to help her.

Sam: Jenny, what=s going on.

Jenny: (Sobbing) Ooooh!

Monica: (Putting her arm on Jenny=s shoulder) Hi Jenny. Tell us about it.

Jenny: Well, I just failed my science test. And I=m hoping to get that scholarship!

Sam: Huh? I fail tests all the time! What=s the big deal?

Monica: Sam (Looking at Sam like he is not too smart) I=m sorry, Jenny.

(Titus and Tonya walk up to them. FROM THE OTHER SIDE)

Titus: Hi guys, what=s wrong?

Monica: Another boy!

Tonya: Jenny, what=s wrong, can we help?

Monica: Jenny just failed her science test.

Tonya: That=s no good.

Jenny: (Sobbing) That=s just the start. I=m worried about my mom. She=s having a test for cancer today. But, dumb me, last night I had a fight with my sister, and got my mom all upset. I couldn=t sleep,(pause) and now I fail my science test. And, not only did I want that scholarship, my mom wanted me to have it.

Sam: Gee, Jenny, I had no idea. Can I help?

Jenny: Sam!?! What can you do? Can you heal my mom? Can you help me take back the words I said

to my sister? Can you get me a good grade on a test I already failed.

Tonya: Boys!

Jenny: What=s the use? Why should I go through this? I=m not even sure I want to be alive. What is life about anyway?

Have you ever felt like Jenny? Life is overwhelming and you're not sure where to turn. Today I don't want you to think so much about where do you turn if you're in that situation. Today I want you to ask, How can you help someone who needs help?

Life is full of trials. What, Jenny needs, what everyone needs is the love of God in Jesus to face the trials of life. We need his compassion, forgiveness, and help. But not everyone knows about God's love.

In our lesson today Jesus prays for the church so that the church can share Jesus' love with others. Jesus is concerned for those who live in a troubled world, and don't know him. In verses 20 and 21 we hear, **I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE SENT ME.**

In verse 23 we have the same concern **May they be brought to complete unity to let THE WORLD KNOW THAT YOU SENT ME and have loved them even as you have loved me.**

Our congregational mission statement that we spent a lot of time working on says that our value and goal as a congregation echos Jesus concern. **We SHARE Jesus.** We share Jesus with a world that needs his love.

But think of our skit. Jenny's friends tried to help. They didn't seem too successful. Do you ever feel like the job is too big? Have you ever felt like sharing Jesus is beyond your ability?

Today's verse tells of Jesus prayer, not only that we share God's love, but also his prayer that the church is equipped and strengthened to share the love God gives in Jesus. Jesus also prays, **17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.**

It helps to know what the word sanctify means. It means to make holy. But, it means to set apart for a purpose. God's purpose is our forgiveness eternal life by his grace, and his purpose is our sharing God's love with others. Being sanctified means being made holy. In our lesson, some of Jenny's friends were pretty lame in their attempts to help. They needed forgiveness as well as direction. But, knowing Jesus love and trusting that love gives the forgiveness of God. Being sanctified means living a new life by the power of God's Spirit, a life of faith and love that changes us, and can help others.

How are God's people sanctified, set apart, forgiven, strengthened to share the love of Jesus? **17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.** The word of God is His power to create faith and strengthen us in God's love, so we can share it with others. God is setting you apart, equipping you, and strengthening you to share His love effectively. The tool God is using to accomplish this is His Word which convicts of our sin, and leads to faith and forgiveness, and helps us in loving others.

Today Sunday School begins again. In addition to the opportunity to hear God's Word in worship, in addition to to be strengthened by God's Word in devotional life, please consider how you might be sanctified, set apart, forgiven, and strengthened through Sunday School, through Bible Class for sharing God's love with a world that needs him.

Now let's watch the rest of our skit on how this might work out.

I Believe the Bible is the Word of God= Part 2

Scene 2:

Narrator: As Sam and Monica, Titus and Tonya try to comfort Jenny, the Vice Principal and another student are talking in another part of the campus. Her name is Cynthia.

Cynthia: (Standing with the Vice-Principal – MIDDLE OF THE MIDDLE AISLE) Yeah, Mr. Simmons. It was fun, I guess. We did play games and stuff. But, mainly, the lock-in was good because it helped me with some questions I=ve been dealing with.

Mr. Simmons: What kind of questions?

Cynthia: You know, important questions. Like, >What is life about?=

Mr. Simmons: What do you mean, Cynthia?

Cynthia: Well, some of my friends act like all life is about is having fun. They like to party, get wild, you know. Some of my friends act like there is no meaning to life, so nothing matters. That=s sort of depressing. When I started to think that God tells us where we come from and what life is about, and that He tells us that in the Bible, well, it made me think I=ve got some help with life. I always need that help, but when things are going badly, I really need help! God gives me love and help in Jesus. God helps me to know Jesus, and gives me understanding and comfort in the Bible.

(Cynthia and Mr. Simmons start walking in the direction of Jenny and her friends. UP THE AISLE!)

Mr. Simmons: Hmm. Sounds like you=re not only learning something at school, but at our church too.

Cynthia: Look, Mr. Simmons, Jenny=s crying.

Mr. Simmons: What=s wrong Jenny?

Monica: Another man!

Mr. Simmons: What=s going on guys.

Tonya: Well, Jenny had a bad day yesterday, mainly because of her mom=s cancer tests. Then she couldn=t sleep, so she failed a science test. Now she=s just down. She=s wondering why she=s even alive. We=re worried Mr. Simmons.

Mr. Simmons: Cynthia, I don=t know that I have the answers for Jenny. But, it sounds like you have been thinking about some of these same issues, and you know where to go for answers.

Cynthia: You know Mr. Simmons, I not only know where to go, I know who to go to. The Bible is God=s Word. And God loves Jenny. I=ll see if I can help.