

Living Billboards

1 Peter 2:9-12

Have you ever been on a road trip & at just about lunch time you see a billboard for a restaurant & your immediate response is “That looks good”?

Restaurants know how our eyes & stomachs are connected! So they put up these billboards along the highway to catch our eye & attract our stomachs!

Or have you ever been driving on “empty” & you don’t know how far it is to the next exit? You’re worried that you are going to run out of gas & get stranded on the side of the road, but then you see a billboard – Gas Ahead!

Or have you ever seen the same billboard, again & again & again for miles, & you finally ask, “What is that place? Maybe we should check it out!”

Billboards have a way of getting our attention, leading us in the direction of the things we need, & making us think about things we might otherwise ignore!

Isn’t this exactly what Peter is saying about the Christian life here in Ch. 2? The life of a Christian should get the attention of, & attract, others! It should point to where our greatest need in life is filled! And it should reveal to others that which is often ignored in our lives – the things of God!

We are all on the road trip of life! The question is, “Where are we headed?” As Christians, we recognize that we are *“sojourners/pilgrims”* in a foreign land – that this world is not our home! We are simply passing through!

But how we pass through this life, how we make the journey, what we do along the way, it matters!

God wants us to be billboards, for others to see & discover the truth of God & help lead them off the highway of life as they know it & to take the exit that leads to something more – the life that God has prepared for them.

As billboards for Christ, how are we helping people to “exit now” and find something far greater than what’s on the road they have been traveling on?

We are *“a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, that we might proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light.”* – Vs. 9

We are to be proclaimers! We are to be night lights! We are to be billboards!

But too often it seems that we go unnoticed, ignored, even rejected! Why?

Yes, God has to do His part, His redemptive work, of applying His grace & mercy upon the lives of those caught up in the rat race of life. **Verse 10**

But as Christians we have a responsibility as well! We are to be God’s “living billboards” that catch the attention of those God is redeeming! But too often Christianity goes unnoticed b/c our billboard lives are unnoticeable!

So how can we get noticed? How can we get the attention of a world that is focused elsewhere? We live differently!! We live as *“sojourners & exiles”* in this world! We live to point people to a forever home in heaven!

What does living this “billboard” way of life look like?

- *“Abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.”* – Vs. 11

There is a battle raging in all of us between good & evil, our flesh & God’s Spirit! Our lives will get noticed when God’s Spirit is reigning in them!

Some examples from my past

- *“Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable...”* Vs. 12

The battle of our soul always spills over into the outward actions of our lives

Some examples from my present

For when we live this way, *“even if people speak against us as evildoers,”* some may see our good deeds and *“glorify God on the day of visitation.”*

Let us never underestimate the power & presence of God to bring about His redemptive purpose in this world thru using His Church as living billboards!

As Christians, we may not be the popular crowd! Choosing to live for the glory of God may be a lonely place! And following Jesus may bring about opposition and persecution, but it’s the life we have been called to in Christ!

We are God’s children, God’s family, God’s beloved & we are what vs. 9-10 declare us to be, but we are also what vs. 11-12 call us to be!

“Every Christian is an advertisement for Christianity...” *“The strongest missionary force in the world is a Christian life.”* – William Barclay

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