



Burdened *for the Lost*

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Paul said, “Ye know...after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears” (*Acts 20:18-19*). Jeremiah was known as the weeping prophet: “Oh, that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears” (*Jer. 9:1*). Remember also, “They that sow in tears shall reap in joy” (*Psalms 126:5*).

One day David Garrick, a famous Shakespearean actor, was attracted to a Gospel meeting. He was deeply moved to see tears freely coursing down the speaker’s face. Suddenly an old woman raised a withered finger at the preacher and said, “Sir, I have heard you plead five times today on various streets of this city, and five times I have seen your tears. Why do you weep”? He replied that he couldn’t help but cry with concern over the fearful condition of the lost. That preacher was George Whitefield.

In his ministry of 34 years, Whitefield preached no less than 18,000 times; in more locations and to more hearers than any other preacher in the history of Christianity to that time. In 1770 he was on his seventh visit to the American colonies and gave his last sermon in the town of Exeter, New Hampshire. He later died in Newburyport, Massachusetts a few hours after speaking.

One eyewitness report informs us: “His voice was hoarse, his enunciation heavy. Sentence after sentence was thrown off in rough, disjointed portions, without much regard for point or beauty. At length, his mind kindled, and his lion-like voice roared to the extremities of his audience. He was speaking of the inefficiency of works to merit salvation, and suddenly cried out in a tone of thunder, **Works! works! a man get to heaven by works! I would as soon think of climbing to the moon on a rope of sand!**”

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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