



**Billy  
Sunday**

# Introduction

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This presentation is made available as a public service due to its Biblical and historic value.

The presenter should become thoroughly familiar with material before presentation. If time permits, schedule a follow-up period for questions and discussions.

Courtesy of Doug Gamble Silverdale, Washington.

# He Never Saw His Father

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- Billy was born four months after his father enlisted in the Civil War.
- His father died during the Civil War.

# He Never Saw His Father

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- Mother was a godly woman. She read the Bible to her sons, sang Christian Hymns and prayed with the boys.

# He Never Saw His Father

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- She tried to raise the three boys but could not bring in enough income.
- She sent them off to the soldiers orphan home in Iowa.

# What You Do For The Least

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- At the train station, the conductor asked for their tickets. They said they did not have tickets or money.

# What You Do For The Least

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- The conductor said, you can not ride without a ticket. The boys showed them the letter from the orphanage.
- The conductor wept and told the boys the ride was no charge.

# Billy's Early Struggles

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- Billy had little formal education.
- At age 14 he applied to be the janitor in the school.



# Billy Sunday A Great Athlete

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- He played baseball and became exceptionally good at it.
- He played professional baseball for five years with Chicago, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.



# Fastest Man In Baseball

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- Sunday was the fastest runner in baseball.
- Ty Cobb held the record – 98 stolen bases in 150 games.

# Fastest Man In Baseball

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- Billy Sunday had 96 stolen bases in 116 games.
- He started with the Chicago White Stockings (now called the Cubs).

# Fastest Man In Baseball

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- When he represented the American League in a race contest between the two leagues, he beat the National League runner by 15 feet.
- Billy was the first man in the history of baseball to round the bases in 14 seconds.

# Social Drinking “The Hook”

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- In his best year, he batted .350.
- In the fall of 1887, Sunday and four other famous ball players of the day went to a saloon on a Sunday afternoon.

# Where Is My Wandering Boy?

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- They drank for some time, came out of the saloon and sat on the street corner.
- A Pacific Garden Rescue Mission band was playing across the street. The song was “Where is my wandering boy tonight?” The song reminded Billy of his time at home with his godly mother.

# Thank God For Soul Winners

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- A member of the rescue mission came across the street and invited the ball players to the rescue mission.



# Attended A Preaching Service

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- Billy Sunday said he wanted to go.
- One ball player mocked him, one encouraged him, the others said nothing.

# Sunday Accepts Christ

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- Billy was converted at the Rescue Mission and became a devout Christian.

# Money Not As Important

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- He refused to play ball on Sunday.
- Later he turned down over a \$1000 per month baseball contract for a \$83 dollar per month job with the Chicago YMCA, which often failed to make payroll.

# Sunday Marries A Godly Woman

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- Billy Sunday married a Christian lady and they had four children.

# Sunday Helps The Evangelist

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- The Evangelist J. Wilbur Chapman hired Billy Sunday as an administrative assistant to set up meetings and prepare in advance for the revival services.
- He learned a lot about evangelism and decided to try it himself.

# Sunday Not Very Polished

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- Other ministers questioned his place in the pulpit.
- Sunday, himself said: “I know as much about theology as a jackrabbit knows about ping pong.”

# Like Moses, A Poor Speaker

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- He was considered a poor speaker, with loose undignified speech, but he preached with much fervor.



# He Preached It Straight

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- “You say you have a bad temper, but it’s over in a minute; so is a shotgun, but it blows everything to pieces.”



# God Used What Sunday Had

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- His speaking had a profound impact on the hearer.
- A Scranton business man said: “His messages in type are cold; but his preached sermons are hot.”

# Billy, A Man's Preacher

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- Billy Sunday was one of the most unusual evangelists of all time!
- He walked, ran, or jumped across the platform as he preached, sometimes even breaking chairs!
- One Editor estimated that Billy traveled one mile during every sermon!

# Alcohol In Its Place

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- Sunday said: “You can’t get rid of sin if you treat it like a cream puff.”
- Sunday said: “Alcohol is OK in its place – and it’s place is Hell.”

# Illinois Revival

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- He went all over the state of Illinois preaching against the sins related to drinking alcohol.

# Pennsylvania Revival

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- 1500 saloons were put out of business.
- Later in Pennsylvania 200 saloons shut down after town meetings by Billy Sunday.

# Real Professions of Faith

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- Two years after this crusade, a Philadelphia newspaper reported that **83%** of the converts of that crusade were still active in Christian service!

# Michigan Revival

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- Sunday attracted the support of Detroit's leading citizens.
- Dime-store king S.S. Kresge ( 1500 K Marts) moved out of his palatial home so Sunday could use it as his headquarters.

## ***Outlook Newspaper*** Aug. 8, 1914

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- The VP of Carnegie Steel said that he could have afforded to pay a quarter million dollars more to employees while Billy Sunday was preaching at the mills.



# ***Outlook Newspaper*** Aug. 8, 1914

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- Better attendance, efficiency increased, accidents went way down, steel output and profits jumped way up.
- “It is interesting to see the effects of religion.” Lewis Edwin Theiss

# Billy Sunday Quotes

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- “A long step toward morality will be taken when sins are called by their right names.”

# Billy Sunday Quotes

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- The theatre gives people what they want: the church gives them what they need.”

# Billy Sunday Quotes

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- “I believe that cards and dancing are doing more to dam the spiritual life of the Church than the grog-shops – though you can’t accuse me of being a friend of that stinking, dirty, rotten, hell-soaked business.”

# The Same Story Today

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- “There are some so called Christian homes today with books on the shelves that have no more business there than a rattler crawling about on the floor, or poison within the child’s reach.”

# God Only Uses Clean Vessels

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- “You will not have power until there is nothing questionable in your life.”

# When Will We Have Revival?

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- “When the church of God draws its patrons from the theatres.”
- When the members quit having cards in their homes.”

Billy Sunday

# When Will We Have Revival?

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- When the Church of God quits voting for the saloon (social drinking).
- When churches grieve their wickedness.
- If you don't do your part, don't blame God.



# So Much Emphasis Against Alcohol

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- Billy Sunday preached hard against all sin, but by far his greatest emphasis was against alcohol.

# Famous Baseball Sermon

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- Teenager making it to first base. “I’ve made it this far” he would say, “I don’t need Christ!”
- Then he would sneak to second, and be age 40. “I still don’t need Christ,” he would reason.

# Famous Baseball Sermon

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- Then he would steal third and he would be age 60 – still not knowing Christ as Savior.
- The sinner says: “I think I can make it home” , so he takes off...
- But he is out before he can get home.

# “Captain’s Call”

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- Alcoholism shortens life by 12 years.
- 1 in 10 who ever socially drink will become alcoholics (battle to death to get you to approve social drinking).

# “Captain’s Call”

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- 100,000 deaths per year
- Drunk driving accounts for 50% of all traffic fatalities.
- 80% of fire deaths, 65% of drownings and 70% of fatal falls due to alcohol.

# U.S. Dept. of Justice Study

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- Est. 20 million alcoholics in America
- 49% of murders
- 51% of auto thefts

# U.S. Dept. of Justice Study

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- 52% of rapes
- 62% of assaults
- Cause of one fourth of all admissions to hospitals.
- Alcohol and immorality feed on one another

# Leviticus 10:8-10

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- A statute forever
- Do not drink wine nor strong drink
- That you may put a difference between Holy and Unholy and
- Between clean and unclean
- Alcohol is unholy and unclean



# What Is Wine

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- Wine is grape juice. New wine is not fermented. Old wine can become fermented and become alcohol.
- When Jesus turned the water into wine, he was providing the fruit of the vine or grape juice.

# What Is Wine

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- He who knew no sin did not create something unholy and unclean to give to the people.
- Hebrews 6:20 Christ was a Jew and a Priest, under the Levitical law that said no wine nor strong drink forever.

# New Wine Is Grape Juice

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- Don't put new wine into old containers. Why?
- The old containers have started to ferment, and that will quicken the change of your grape juice into alcohol.

# Luke 1:15

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- John the Baptist was great in the sight of the Lord and drank neither wine nor strong drink.
- The first Baptist followed Leviticus 10:8-10

# The Prophet Isaiah 5:11-16

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- 11 and 12 Wine and strong drink
- 13 – people become captives, slaves
- 14 – Hell enlarged to handle more drunks

# The Prophet Isaiah 5:11-16

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- 15 – Mean/mighty boys out on the town, drink, fight, brawl
- 22 – trouble to them that drink
- 23 – takes away decency and righteousness

# Drinking Alcohol Is Sin

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- 24 – Flames and fire for those who throw away God's laws and despise his word.
- 25 – Wine and strong drink by God's people causes him to be angry.

# Why Many Kids Getting High

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- How can you tell a young person not to get high on drugs when he has watched his parents get high on alcohol.
- Habbakuk 2:15 Woe unto him who teaches others to like drinking



# Parents Need To Lead

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- What is the difference between socially drinking and socially taking marijuana.
- The sins of the fathers are visited upon the children.

# Religious Leaders

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- Priests, ministers and Rabbis all across the land drink alcohol.
- They set the example for their flock.

# Religious Leaders

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- Isaiah 28:1
- Isaiah 28:7
- The priests erred through wine and strong drink. (In Leviticus they were told to never touch wine or strong drink)

# Where Will Christ Find Us ?

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- When Christ returns, how many so called Christians will have a glass of wine, a bottle of beer, or a cocktail in their hand.
- Luke 21:34-36

# Most Conservative Estimates

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- Billy Sunday held over 300 major Revival campaigns
- Spoke to well over 1 million
- At least 300,000 conversions

# The Sunday Papers

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- During the height of his popularity, every meeting was covered by the National Newspapers across America
- It is said he received more press coverage than the Presidents of the United States of that time!

# The Sunday Papers

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- In some instances, even WW1 coverage would be below coverage of the Sunday Meetings

# Little Is Much When God Is In It

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- if God can use a stammering, poor country boy from an Orphan's Home who nearly drowned, with only an eighth grade education, he can use you and me!





I Have Fought A  
Good Fight  
I Have Finished  
My Course  
I Have Kept the  
Faith

II Tim 4:7