

GENTLE SHEPHERD MINISTRIES

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH ~ MAKING DISCIPLES ~ EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR MINISTRY

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UNFEIGNED FAITH

Part 9

GREATER RESURRECTION

By Rayola Kelley

Faith has proved to be one of the most popular subjects among Christians through the years. Genuine faith is motivated, inspired, and guided by the character of God. It has a sure confidence that He will never step outside of who He is. It has assurance that the Lord will not change His mind about a matter nor adjust His will or ways to placate someone else. Even though God does not do things in the manner in which our finite and perverted understanding can grasp, as believers, we must always choose to know that He is trustworthy in every way, true to His holy nature, and just in His dealings.



As already pointed out in last month's newsletter, righteousness finds its origins in God. In Christ we are placed in an upright state, but we must also be established in righteousness by faith. However, being right before God and being upright in the Lord are two different things.

Job learned this when the Lord began to question him about his involvement in creation (*Job 38-41*). For example, was he there when He created the very foundation of the world? Each question or statement God leveled at Job revealed His greatness and Job's smallness. Even though Job had done right before God, he realized that the Lord had provided everything that pertains to life and godliness so that his upright acts could be counted as righteous (*2 Peter 1:3*). It was He alone that established Job in righteousness.

This brings us back to faith being a popular subject in Christendom. Perhaps, it is because the idea of faith gives us some hope that we can

indeed affect or change the circumstances confronting our lives. Surely, if through faith waters have parted, walls have fallen, victories have been secured, kingdoms subdued, righteousness wrought in the midst of wickedness, promises obtained, and lions rendered harmless, we as believers in America should be able to accomplish incredible feats as well.

However, for today's American Christians, we find ourselves in a similar struggle as Gideon. This struggle was recorded in *Judges 6:13*, "And Gideon said unto him, O my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? And where are all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? But now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."

As we live during the times of evil unmasking its contorted and perverted face as never before in this present generation, we ask where is the power to overcome? Where are the miracles that silence the enemies? Where is the expectation of deliverance? Although I have seen God's miraculous deliverances on our part in the past, I have to honestly face the days we live in. The faith needed to face the present challenges will never find its needed resolve because of past experiences. The beauty about faith is that it will actively rise up on the wings of confidence in God in order to soar on the currents of expectation in light of present challenges. It is in expectation that hope is able to embrace the promises of God in light of eternity regardless of the circumstances. The splendor about the walk of faith is that it is not earthbound by the false promises of the world; rather, it is heaven bound by the glorious hope of eternal glory.

Clearly, we are living in insane times that will call for the extraordinary to inspire, lead, and shape our lives in order to stand and endure the

darkness engulfing the world. The idea that we can maintain the same type of Christianity today that we enjoyed in days past is unrealistic. If believers do not honestly face the days we are living in, they will fail to possess the type of faith that was recorded in *Hebrews 11*. The living faith of the great cloud of witness referred to in *Hebrews 12:1* enabled these individuals to endure through the unfolding darkness of their time to witness the ultimate victory of heaven. In the end, they were able to claim and secure the many glorious promises of God.

What many Christians fail to keep in mind is that genuine faith does not produce the means that moves mountains; rather, it produces the endurance to walk within the frightening shadows of darkness until God moves the mountain. Faith is not flexed like muscles; rather, it is exercised and enlarged in relationship to the steps of obedience that needs to be taken, the unknown path that must be walked upon, and the race that must ultimately be run until the finish line is crossed.

The Bible is clear that as we get closer to Jesus' Second Advent, the battle between light and darkness will become more blatant. People will be forced to choose which side they will stand on. In some cases it will appear that evil will ultimately win out as the darkness of sorrow, despair, and death takes center stage. As evil rages against the resolve of believers to remain faithful to Jesus and His truth, they must dig deep into the recesses of their souls to make the necessary resolution of faith towards God to remain standing regardless of the darkness or the losses that may be incurred around them.

I have to admit, one of the things that concerns me is that it seems some Christians are asleep as to the days in which we live. Whether this sleep is due to a false security, a belief that they will not be personally touched by the encroaching darkness, or that they will be spared from tasting the bitterness of the times we are living in would be specula-

tion on my part. However, I sometimes feel that many in the Church are about to have a Jonah experience.

Remember Jonah? He was the prophet who did not care if the people of Nineveh perished in their sins. After all, he was a Jew, a servant of Jehovah God. He had nothing to worry about because judgment was not about to fall on him or the people of Israel. He ran away from the responsibility of doing God's bidding to warn the people of Nineveh. He knew that if these enemies of Israel repented, God could withhold His judgment and actually show mercy on these uncircumcised heathen. Heaven forbid such a thought!

Jonah hid in the bottom of the ship he had managed to board while fleeing the abiding convicting presence of God. However, God followed him and sent a storm to wake him from his state of sleep. Not only was his indifference towards Nineveh going to cost every person his or her soul in the city itself, but he was also endangering innocent souls on the ship who were not privy to his disobedience.

I have often wondered how many people are hiding in their churches while the storms of life are raging against the doors of not only their institutions, but their homes. How many are waiting for deliverance while ignoring their Scriptural responsibilities to be prepared and be available to let their light so shine as a witness in the dark world for the lost to see. As the storms rage, how many are asleep in their pews, living in denial that there is danger afoot that could bring their ship down into a watery grave? And, if some in the church are asleep, what kind of "fish" will end up swallowing them, causing them to wake up, only to realize they are now encased by a form of darkness and death? Will they have the mind to call out in repentance to God with the intent of committing and wholly consecrating their lives for His work and glory? It is obvious that any aspect of the church that may be asleep must be quickened by the Spirit and awakened to the ways of righteousness.

These are only questions, but the people of God must truly exam-

ine themselves. Although the darkness may be great, the fires of judgment or separation are greatly burning. Such fires will consume, purge, or purify everything in their path. In the end, these fires will test the resolve of God's people and their source of reliance.

As we read about the victories that abound in *Hebrews 11*, we must also note the challenges that also confronted these hearty saints. Even though some of these saints witnessed great miracles and deliverance, others were tortured and would not accept deliverance. The reason for not accepting such deliverance was so that they could obtain a better resurrection.

For years I have pondered what it would mean to obtain a better resurrection in regard to the faith walk. I realize that some people of faith would accept the refining fires of adversity to experience a greater resurrection, but what would that mean?

To understand the concept of a better resurrection, we must first come to terms with what it means. The concept of resurrection points to the quickening or rising up of something that is inactive (comatose state) or dead. To be resurrected implies being raised up from one state in order to be quickened or brought forth into another state.

When Jesus talked about resurrection in *John 11:25-26*, He made a distinction between resurrection and life. In essence, resurrection points to the power to raise someone into a different state or with a new life. Without the presence of power, the new life would never come forth. Jesus said of Himself that He is both the resurrection and the life. Clearly, He possesses the power that can raise one to a new life.

This brings us to the basis of resurrection. We are told in *Hebrews 6:1-2* that resurrection is one of the principles that make up the doctrine of Christ. "Principle" in this text implies first or chief. These principle doctrines serve as a type of cornerstone in which all other doctrines must in some way come into accord with in order to ensure their integrity in the scheme of things. In fact, the second principle in the order of the six doctrines mentioned in *Hebrews 6*, is faith towards God. First you must repent of all unbelief in order to choose to believe. From the premise of faith comes identification through baptisms, calling and

anointing through the laying on of hands, followed by being brought forth in resurrection power in preparation to face eternal judgment or separation. These doctrines have been established in the Old Testament. And, the doctrine of resurrection is no exception. It was clearly brought out in the Old Testament by Job, David, and Daniel.

For Job, resurrection was a declaration of faith in the midst of great adversity. He said, "*For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.*" Job connects resurrection with redemption. Even though his physical body would be decayed away, he had an assurance that he would see his God. This faith was based on redemption.

The Apostle Paul gives us this insight about resurrection that Job spoke of in *1 Corinthians 15:53*, "*For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*" The apostle also made reference to our bodies being changed in a twinkling of an eye at the last trump in *1 Corinthians 15:52*. When Jesus rose from the grave and encountered Mary Magdalene in *John 20:17*, He instructed her not to touch Him for He had not yet ascended to the Father. It was obvious that Jesus was raised in a new, glorified body that was incorruptible. In fact, Jesus described this new body as being like the angels of God in *Matthew 22:30*.

King David made reference to resurrection in *Psalms 17:15*, "*As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake, with thy likeness.*" Consider the assurance David had in regard to being raised in newness. His first point of confidence spoke of expectation. Notice how he stated, "**I will**" behold His face. There is no doubt about what David expected to see when he was raised up from his state of sleep or death. This confidence points to his unfeigned faith.

The next reference David made to resurrection was in regard to the state he would be raised up in—that of righteousness. In other words, there would be no deviation or inconsistencies found in his new state. It would be a

THE WISE AND THE FOOLISH

By Jeannette Haley

There are a lot of things that money can't buy, and one of them is wisdom. *Job 28:18b* says, "...the price of wisdom is above rubies." A person can learn all kinds of facts and formulas and still lack common sense. A person can spend years in college and institutes of higher learning and still be nothing more than an overeducated idiot. A person can travel the world over, converse with the religious leaders of every nation and religion, and still end up a faithless fool. Only those who have sought and found the true source of wisdom, which is God and His Word, actually know truth, wisdom, instruction, and understanding. (*Proverbs 23:23*.) "*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction*" *Proverbs 1:7*.

Without veering off into the world of politics and insane governmental policies and "regulations," this is just one verse out of countless others that describes the make up of the fools we see and hear every time we watch the news. It appears that we live in a time when fools have gained total control, and with their grubby mitts on the "world's steering wheel" are driving hell-bent into total destruction.

Remember Jesus' parable of the ten virgins, five wise, and five foolish, in *Matthew 25:1-13*? All ten of them knew that it was time to go forth to meet the bridegroom. All ten of them took their lamps, but only five were wise enough to bring oil to keep their lamps burning. If we are to be identified with the wise virgins, and thus enter in with our Lord before the door is shut, we need to understand what the key differences are concerning both groups. Why were five wise, and five foolish?

All of the virgins believed that the bridegroom was coming soon, and both had a means (lamps) to carry light, but only the wise were prepared for the darkest hours before His arrival. Lamps without oil and light are useless. The wise went out to meet Him prepared: the foolish did not.

The question is, how does a person acquire wisdom? Is wisdom

something that people even seek after in this day and age, or are they more caught up with the temporal things of this world, which, tragically, are all wrapped in lies when you get right down to it. St. Augustine put it this way, "To wisdom belongs the intellectual apprehension of eternal things; to knowledge, the rational knowledge of temporal things."

In the *Book of Job, chapter 28, verse 28* we read what the fear of God constitutes, "*And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom: and to depart from evil is understanding.*" Therefore, we know that the wise virgins feared the Lord, and thus received understanding as they separated themselves from evil. They knew that "*Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding*" *Proverbs 4:7*. The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy concerning the source of wisdom, "*And that from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus*" *2 Timothy 3:15*. James wrote, "*But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy*" *James 3:17*.

Up front, Jesus laid the foundation for the parable of the ten virgins by giving a clear contrast between those who were wise and those who were foolish. This leaves no "middle ground" or any so-called "gray area." Jesus' teachings never left a "safe zone" for people to hide in who were halting between two decisions, and this parable is no exception. The real Jesus of the Bible stands in stark contrast to the modern Jesus offered by the pulpit pimps and false prophets of today's apostate churches. This fake "Jesus" always makes people feel good about themselves, wouldn't harm a fly, and whether we want to admit it or not, is "politically correct" in his socialistic and humanistic viewpoints.

The truth is, the real Jesus of the Bible always presented people with two, not three or more, choices such as which master they would serve. The Bible is clear that everyone has to make the choice between heaven or hell, life or death, the narrow road or the broad road, being born again or

lost in sin, to believe or disbelieve, obey or rebel, and to walk in the light or love darkness. People who approach the Bible with a "middle-of-the-road-gray-area" perception are basically unbelievers who will never be able to receive and believe the truth because their minds are already made up about the Bible, God, who Jesus is, salvation, and so forth based on their high opinion of themselves, their intelligence, their pride, and their resistance to repentance! Such people talk about "God" but they don't know Him, nor do they belong to Him because they do not believe the written Word or the Living Word. Thus, they are children of darkness and the so-called "light" that they believe they walk according to is a false light. (See *2 Corinthians 11:13-15*.)

This parable is timely and fitting for these last days that we find ourselves in. Obviously, the ten virgins, like many today, realize that the coming of the Lord is near. All ten of them "*went forth to meet the bridegroom.*" The difference is, the wise virgins were prepared, and the foolish were not. The preparation that the wise virgins made came at a price. They had "counted the cost" and "paid the price" to possess the necessary oil to keep their lamps burning, whereas the foolish were left unprepared.

In the times in which we live, we know that in order to spiritually survive the great darkness that is rapidly engulfing the entire earth, we must be prepared. This means knowing Jesus as our LORD, and knowing His Word and living it through faith and obedience. The oil that the wise virgins had was costly. It had cost them their right to their self life. It had been purchased through unwavering faith, dedication, obedience, and faith in the One who had shed His blood for them. Their oil was purchased by total identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. Through consecration, sanctification, and regeneration they had this precious oil. Paying the price involves suffering, overcoming, and sacrifice. The oil that the wise possess is that precious anointing of the Spirit of God that is a flame no man, and no devil, can extinguish. Thus, the wise were ready to meet the bridegroom.

Concerning the foolish virgins,

some argue that surely they were Christians. After all, they are called “virgins,” they had lamps, and they went out to meet the bridegroom. Isn’t that what so many people are like today? They have the name of “Christian.” They hang around with Christians, go to church, and carry their “lamps” with them, giving the appearance of being prepared. But, inwardly they are faithless and unbelieving. They have never paid the price. They may have “talked the talk,” but they haven’t “walked the walk.” It is all a half-hearted effort. Therefore, when they go forth to meet the bridegroom, they do so in presumption, assuming He will show up when they think He will show up, and all will be well for them with little, if any, effort on their part. The foolish are “all head and no heart” whereas the wisdom of the wise is contained in their hearts. The foolish lack discernment, as well as the depth of wisdom and understanding of the ways of God, and what He requires of His servants and disciples. Tragically, such flippancy ends in destruction.

We read that the bridegroom tarried, and all the virgins slumbered and slept, both the wise and the foolish. This reminds us of Peter, and the other disciples who slept in the Garden of Gethsemane while Jesus labored in prayer. Then, when the cry was made at midnight, “Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,” they all arose and trimmed their lamps, but only the wise had enough oil to go the distance to meet Him. Thus, the foolish demanded that the wise give them their precious oil. However, the wise knew they could not give what they had personally paid for to those who foolishly neither valued nor considered Him who is worthy of all glory, honor, and majesty.

To the foolish He wasn’t worth the price. This reminds us of the socialists of today who despise the righteous, ostracizing and putting them down, slandering and mocking them. Even though the truth and wisdom of the righteous is condemned as being “hateful” and “prejudiced,” they will not be moved. The refusal of the wise virgins to give their hard-earned oil to those who, because of their ideology, slothfulness, and indolence, were

caught unprepared, caused anger, jealousy, and resentment.

The conclusion of this parable is a stark reminder that there is indeed a day and an hour coming upon the earth when it will be too late for the unprepared to suddenly get prepared. *“And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh”* Matthew 25:10-12.

May the Lord grant that we will be found with oil in our lamps, burning brightly in this dark world, walking in obedience, faithful in good works, prepared and expectant for His sudden appearing.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus! †



RAYOLA’S Q & A CORNER

REMEMBRANCE IN HEAVEN?

Q: *Do you think that when we get to Heaven, we will reflect at all what we did on this earth? I’m trying to remember if there is a Scripture talking about that, and there probably is, but I can’t remember.*

A: If you read my article this month on unfeigned faith, you will notice that as believers we will be rewarded according to the works we do on earth in relationship to the kingdom of God. However, works that originate from what I consider the wood of self-righteousness, the hay of the world, and stubble of the self-life will be burned up, while works that speak of gold (reliance-unfeigned faith), silver (redemption), and precious stone (reflection) will be refined and made more valuable (1 Corinthians 3:12-15). As stated in my article this month, the greatest work that we can do is to reflect the unhindered glory of the Lord. Such a work will confirm our testimonies, preaching, and teaching.

However, we will not remember that which was done in the darkness of unbelief, rebellion, and wickedness. Wickedness produces the tears of sorrow, the consequences of death, and the pain of loss. We are told that the Lord will wipe away such tears, while the former things are passed away from all knowledge or remembrance. We know that the memory of the wicked will be wiped out, while in hell these doomed souls will have the awareness of their hopeless, wretched state, the torment of their endless judgment of what could be, and the harshness of eternal damnation as to what will be (Psalm 9:17; 37:9-20, 34-40; Luke 13:24-30; Revelation 20:11-21:4).

It is obvious that what we remember in eternity will be based on our response to Jesus, the Son of God. In Him the old will pass away, while the new will be fully realized. It is for this reason that those who are walking the broad path of destruction, need to repent and flee the wrath of God to come before it is too late (Luke 3:7-8). †

MEETING THEIR TRUE NEEDS

“I have no intention to depart in the smallest degree from the main principles on which I have acted in the past. My only hope for the permanent deliverance of mankind from misery, either in this world or the next, is the regeneration or remaking of the individual by the power of the Holy Ghost through Jesus Christ. But in providing for the relief of temporal misery I reckon that I am only making it easy where it is now difficult, and possible where it is now all but impossible, for men and women to find their way to the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

--William Booth (10 April 1829 - 20 August 1912): British Methodist preacher and founder of The Salvation Army, serving as its first General (1878-1912).

RECOMMENDED READING

Eye to Eye - Bill Koenig
Seven Miracles that Saved America - Chris Stewart, Ted Stewart
The Secret Holocaust Diaries - Nonna Bannister

state that would be good, acceptable, and perfect before God.

The final statement David made about resurrection is how the new life would manifest itself—that of godliness. He stated that he would be like his Lord. This likeness pointed to the fact that in his new state he would be reflecting his Lord’s glory. The Apostle Paul stated that we have been predestinated to be conformed to the image of the Son of God (*Romans 8:29*). In *2 Corinthians 3:18*, the apostle also stated that we would be changed into the same image as our Lord from glory to glory.

The prophet Daniel spoke of a time of trouble as never before, but that those who were found written in the book would be delivered. It is at this point he made this statement in *Daniel 12:2-3*, “*And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars forever and ever.*”

Daniel is not only giving us insight into resurrection, but also into eternal judgment. All will be raised from the grave to face their eternal destination. Some will be raised to experience the glory of heaven, while others will be raised to face the shame of damnation. Once again, we are reminded that the matters of a glorious resurrection or damnation rests with what we do with Jesus.

Jesus mentioned this same reality about resurrection in *John 5:25-29*. He stated the hour was coming that the dead shall hear His voice, and they shall once again live, for the Father had not only given Him life to give, but also the authority to execute all judgment. He instructed us not to marvel that all who are in the graves will hear His voice. He went on to say this, “*And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*”

As I pondered the idea of a better resurrection, it is obvious that we want to be part of the first resurrec-

tion where we are called forth from the grave to receive the fullness of our redemption (*Revelation 20:6*). Once again, is there more to obtaining a better resurrection? H. A. Ironside stated in his commentary on Hebrews that it means that such a person would receive a greater reward. The fact that Jesus mentioned good works in relationship to the believer’s resurrection could imply that a better resurrection points to a time where believers who have been faithful with all that they have been entrusted with will receive greater rewards. We have reference to this fact in *Matthew 25:14-30*.

In his commentary, Matthew Henry related the concept of a better resurrection as obtaining deliverance upon more honorable terms. In *Hebrews* the concept of better resurrection was in correlation to suffering. We are told that if we live godly, we will suffer persecution. We are warned that if the world actually speaks well of us, “Woe unto us!” There are great advantages to being persecuted for the sake of righteousness. One of the benefits is that we will actually inherit the kingdom of heaven. Jesus also tells us there are rewards attached to such affliction (*Matthew 10-12; Luke 6:26; 2 Timothy 3:12*).

Suffering not only points to identification with Jesus, but it is a type of purging of the old or profane in order to possess that which is new and holy. It is said of Jesus’ suffering that had come by way of obedience to the cross that He was actually perfected in His humanity by it, thereby, making Him the author of salvation (*Hebrews 5:8-9*). As one becomes less and less entangled with the enslaving ways of the world, he or she becomes more aware of the eternal. The less a person fits in this present world, the more he or she is prepared to come into his or her own place in the next. As the Apostle Paul stated, those who suffer for His sake, shall also reign with Him (*2 Timothy 2:12*).

As I pondered the possibility of obtaining a better resurrection on more honorable terms, I once again had to go back to that great cloud of witnesses. It is true that by faith they secured much in their present ages, but there were those individuals who chose to refuse deliverance in their plight in order to possess more of the

next world. The faith they had to possess in order to endure the persecution of the present so as to embrace a greater awareness of the next world had to be unfeigned, patient, and enduring.

It is true that I can complicate the simplicity of God’s truth. The idea of obtaining a greater resurrection may just be about receiving greater rewards. However, I believe there is more. Perhaps receiving rewards was something that did not enter these people’s minds. It certainly does not enter mine. When I think of obtaining something better it has to do with reaching the heights of excellence to experience that which is far superior to what I already know. Obtaining something better would not allow me to simply get by or accept what is mediocre in regard to the matter. It would cause me to do all that I could do to discover the fullness of it, in order to know the satisfaction of it as indicated by King David in *Psalms 17:15*.

Maybe the answer to my question about obtaining a better resurrection rests in this verse in *Psalms*. David’s satisfaction was based on the fact that when he awoke, he would do so with the likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ. As I thought about it, I acknowledged that my greatest satisfaction would be realized if I truly was raised with an incredible likeness of my Lord. The prophet Daniel confirmed this concept when he stated that those who are wise will, “*shine like the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars forever and ever.*” Unfeigned faith is not just about receiving the life of Christ, but gaining the life of Christ as it is worked in us by His Spirit. The more the ways of self are purged, the more Christ can be unveiled in our lives.

The conclusion I had to draw after much personal examination as to what is really important to me in light of heaven is that the glorious reality I could hope for in resurrection is that when I awake, all that remains and can be seen is a complete likeness of my Lord. For each of us to freely mirror our Lord’s glory would represent the prize that could be obtained, the point of excellence that could be realized, and the ultimate reward that each of us could cast before His feet. Can you imagine what glory and honor it would bring Him to look into our faces and see His glorious image? †

REAL DISCIPLES OR NOT??

The Big Question

-by LibertyWorld

"Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the Cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

"Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will gladly go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kindly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble, it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "The Cost of Discipleship"

(Hitler had Bonhoeffer killed because he chose to bow to Christ rather than to the Gestapo.)

Matthew 28:19 reads "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." R.S.V., and most versions. The Greek reads, "To become a pupil." "Enroll as a scholar. "Christ did not say to make "converts," but rather to "make disciples." "Followers." In verse 20 He says, "Teaching them to 'observe' all things whatsoever I have commanded you..." Again the Greek reads to "hold fast." How very imperative it is to hold fast the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ!

The 'gospel' of our Lord Jesus Christ is not the gospel that is being preached in most pulpits today! Today's gospel is "another gospel," it is not the gospel of the Scriptures! Generally speaking, the church that provides the best and the most entertainment is the church that garners the greatest number of attendants.

Much of today's gospel is a false gospel, built on false premises, built on false teaching! Should any sincere Christian question this statement, let this individual read Matthew chapter 7:13-28 and verse 29 which says that those who heard Christ's teachings were astonished. Can you imagine the astonishment of people today also, if His message were being

And they of the church
And they of the world;
Walk hand and heart,
And only God who knoweth all
Can tell the two apart.

Hear what Dr. A. W. Tozer has to say on this matter, "Any objections to the carrying on of our present golden-calf Christianity is met with the triumphant reply, 'But we are winning them.' And winning them to what? To true discipleship? To cross carrying? To self-denial? To separation from the world? To crucifixion of the flesh? To holy living? To nobility of character? To hard self-discipline? To love for God? To total commitment to Christ? Of course the answer to all these questions is 'No'." John Fletcher said, "More is said from our pulpits in favor of sin than against it."

"No longer is the thundering message of the prophet of God heralded from the sacred pulpit, warning against the wrath of a holy and just God against sin" - Wesley Duewel.

COMMENTS

"Eventually your sin will find you out. He [Obama] is going full speed now to get things passed, and yes we are in trouble unless something happens. I'm ashamed of what our country has become. Our elected officials are but scum of the earth, with no backbone, moral character, they are but prostitutes, they have sold out their soul and now they are getting their just reward HERE on earth... that's it folks. Very sad." - AK

"Thank you, Jeannette, for your response to this article. [*How to Dispose of a Dead Desperado*, By Sheriff Jim R. Schwiesow, Ret.] <http://www.newswithviews.com/Schwiesow/jim181.htm>

"It is a little out of the norm and entirely secular, but every now and again I like to look at the humorous side of this faithless society. I thank the Lord for my readers, they possess the last vestige of sanity and discernment in a lost world, and I do appreciate them. And I value you as a part of that enlightened group.

"Only those with God's Spirit are able to discern things as they actually exist, all others have been delivered unto great delusion. If there ever was a time in history when the people

were collectively more deluded and ignorant and susceptible to demonic spirits I do not know it! The collective majority think that Obama is charismatic and intelligent, when in actuality he is neither. He is cunning and deceitful, but he is not bright.

"It does appear that there is no secular way out of the predicament that the nation finds itself in. It was the "little people" who delivered themselves up to one who hates them, scripture predicts that an apostate people would be delivered into the hands of those who hate them in the time of the end. We seem to have reached that point and Obama is just a symptom of the lateness of the hour. Grace and Peace to You, Jim Schwiesow"

"Colton, [*Heaven is for Real* book] who seems to be the latest RAGE—well, I've already had numerous "discussions" with people about this!!! They hunger after this crap, because they are too ignorant and too lazy to KNOW GOD themselves, therefore, they count on this tale from a youngster as if it were Gospel! People are sucking this stuff up, left and right! My question to all of them is: How is God glorified in all of this? He's NOT! ONLY faith and trust IN HIM gives Him glory—not lining the coffers of someone's financial resources! Paul didn't write a scroll when he was taken to the third heaven did he? These who BELIEVE in these tales are creating a sliding board to hell for themselves!!!! - FL

"I was speaking with a friend today, and we came to the conclusion that there is NO RESPECT any more, respect for people, or for other people's property, and indeed a large number of people have no concern for their own property, - easy come - easy go!" - UK

"For years the churches (pastors) wanted to strong arm the sheep and keep them in the pews...there's been no teaching, healing and deliverance, or holiness preaching. Perhaps the preachers might have to get a day job, which would put them in touch with the people. Until some of these big preachers start losing money, they aren't going to seek the Lord to see what happened. Sound doctrine has been snuffed out for a long time." - WA