

The Servant



A Newsletter for Christian Servants

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Nobodies and Have-nots

Jesus said, "the poor, you will always have with you." This is more than a "view," it is a "clue." In this reality that describes a world filled with need there is a seed that everyone will have to harvest on judgment day.

When we stand before God and give an account of our lives, we will not be asked about what we "believed" or "didn't believe." We will have to answer for what we did or didn't do. All religious wars are about what people say they believe. It's not a matter of if you believed in love, it is "did you love?"

The fact that someone didn't believe in God will make no difference. Belief or Unbelief in God will be a moot point in the court of eternity when the Divine Judge takes the bench. All will have to give an account of what they did. This is not a case of going back to the old "your good" outweighs "your bad." Not really, because even if you did a lot of "good" for the success and propagation of the wrong (as in the Third Riche) it will turn out bad for you.

What then will be the benchmark of good or bad behavior? God tells us. To love God (be grateful) and to treat people as you would like them to treat you. That's it. *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and love thy neighbor as thyself,"* said Jesus.

This goal is both simple and impossible. No one has ever reached such a high standard. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. No one except Christ Jesus has stooped so low or risen so high. For this reason we must be born again and allow the God of Good Goals to guide us in every good work. In the end, we will find that every cup of cold water given to the thirsty, every visit to the bedside of the sick, every crust of bread given to the hungry was in fact given to God Himself disguised in the form of a needy soul that brushed by us or grazed our elbow in a crowd a thousand times, or gazed at us from the side of the road as we hurried by going somewhere we thought important. God never made a "nobody." ☹

Winner

He who wins is the one who wants to win the most and runs faster, jumps higher, hits harder than all the host of also-rans.

It's the one who dreams of a glory -not to brag or just to boast, but is not satisfied in simply "getting by," to wander, or merely coast.

He gets up long before the crack of dawn to practice the thing for which he knows that he was born.

While others sleep and dream in beds well worn he clears a field, and plows the earth, and then he plants the corn.

He picks the weeds, and shoos the birds, ignores the pain. He fertilizes fields, cultivates-- and then he prays for rain. He walks the land, whatever that might be, yet keeps his hand upon the thing that others cannot see.

While driven on by hope and faith in what will come He will not rest until it's finished or until the thing is done. ☹

Pro-Life

a bag of bones, one spleen, one liver
a temperature and need to shiver
One heart, a brain, two eyes the same
with kidneys, ears, some blood and vein.
A spark, a gasp, a sudden light
a scream at birth as if in fright.
A helpless crying little thing
a soul
in need of love and everything. -id

Doctrine of Salvation (2Peter1)

“According as His divine power”

Salvation is a work of God's Power. In Salvation God does something that apart from Him would be impossible. Salvation is a New Creation. The first thing we needed in order to be saved was the Power of God. Before we were saved we were *“dead in trespasses and in sins.”* Without God we are “unplugged” and without light, and without power. There is a spiritual power that illuminates, and generates, and motivates. Sin has disconnected us from the most important power source: God Himself.

I remember when the power grid failed in New York City in 1977. It was known as the great black out. In the darkness there was looting, and violence and mayhem. Then the power came back on. Shop keepers swept up the broken glass and tried to reopen their damaged shops. Without power nothing worked as it was intended. The trains did not run, traffic lights were useless, food spoiled, people sat in the dark. There is a power of darkness and there is a power of light. Salvation is God turning the lights back on. ***“According as His divine power.”***

“through the knowledge of Him”

Salvation is knowing Jesus. *“And this is life eternal that men might know Thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.”* (Jn.17:3) Salvation is knowing a Person and what He has done.

“He hath given unto us” Salvation is a gift and God is the Great Giver. The Bible says that every *“good and perfect gift”* comes down from the *“Father of Lights.”* He

is the Father of Might and He is the Father of Light. God is a giver. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* Salvation is a gift. ***“Hath given unto us.”***

“All things that pertain unto life and godliness”

Salvation comes “fully loaded.” Paul said, *“now unto Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think....”* Salvation involves all we need to live the saved life.

Years ago we purchased a gerbil from the pet shop. However we did not just purchase the gerbil. There was the cage, the bedding, the exercise wheel, the feeder and the water bottle, etc. When we purchased a fish, we did not just purchase the fish, but also all that it would need for the fish to live an abundant life: the tank, the gravel, the filter, the pump, the food, etc, etc. When we got Max, we did not just get Max. We bought the kennel, the collar, the leash, the bowl, the bed,. You get the idea: all he would need to be our happy little dog.

Paul points out that in our Salvation the God who gave His best, His only Son to be our Savior *“will he not with Him give us all things?”* (Romans 8). The answer is yes. ***“All things that pertain unto life and godliness.”***

“exceeding great an precious promises”

In Christ, and in Salvation we also have all the “paperwork.” We have God's word (in writing) called *“exceeding great and precious promises.”* For faith, that is as good as the “deed and title.” Faith simply points to the promise, God's word. Yet as believers we have a book filled with promises from which we may partake. It is ours. The first thing we partake of in salvation is a “new nature,” as we become partakers of the divine nature.

“having escaped” Salvation is not only a gift, a power, a promise and a new nature, it is a deliverance. In salvation we have escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. Escaping a sinking ship is something you would talk about for the rest of your life. Escaping a burning building is something you would not keep secret. An escape from an enemy concentration camp is the stuff movies are made of. So is our salvation. It is an escape. We escape Hell, we escape punishment for our sins, and we escape the corruption of the world, and make no mistake about it the world is corrupt. We all know what corruption is. There is corruption in sin and a corruption in government. A world without God is a world governed in and by corruption. There is corruption of morals. Make no mistake the world at every turn is morally corrupt. In salvation we have ***escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.***

Besides all this Peter goes on to list all that we must “do” after considering all God, through Christ has done. For many years the church seems to be divided into one group that says “Do” and another which says “Done.” The truth of the matter is they are One. ☹

*Done the work on Calvary
“It is Finished” cried the Son
Sacred blood was shed for me
by the holy spotless One
and there in His forgiveness
I stand a creature new
and demonstrate His goodness
by everything I do*

Editor and Author-Ingimar DeRidder
5523 Newberry Drive Raleigh, NC 27609
idmail@bellsouth.net www.ingimar.com

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