

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

February 12, 2017

DID CHRIST FAIL?

The scripture gives just two explanations as to why any person lives, or dies, in sin. The first is hypothetical, because it is based upon a scenario that never existed. This scenario is that Christ failed in his mission upon earth. The apostle Paul wrote, *“And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; **ye are yet in your sins**”* I Corinthians 15:17. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the proof that he is in fact the promised Christ, the Son of the living God. It is also the proof that he accomplished that which he came into the world to do. The prophet Isaiah tells us that after God would *“make his soul an offering for sin”* He would *“prolong his days.”* Isaiah 53:10 If Jesus did not come out of the grave on the third day, he was either an imposter, or he failed to accomplish that which God had promised he would do. Either way, salvation would not have come and we would still be *“in our sins.”*

A person is still in their sins as long as sin remains in them. The two conditions are inseparable. It is sin in the heart of a person that makes them a sinner. The acts of committing sin are simply evidence of what is in the heart, just as an apple hanging on the branch of a tree is an undeniable evidence that the tree is an apple tree. You can pick all the apples, but it is still an apple tree, from its “root” to its “fruit.”

God defined the mission of Christ upon earth when he spoke to the serpent after Adam and Eve were corrupted by his subtilty. II Corinthians 11:3 He cursed the serpent and said *“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel”* Genesis 3:15. This was the first promise that Christ would come, *“...made in the likeness of men.”* Philippians 2:10 He would be the seed of the woman (born of a virgin) and his mission would be to *“bruise the head of the serpent.”* That is how you kill a snake. Christ’s mission was to *“destroy ...the devil,”* Hebrews 2:14 and thereby *“destroy the works of the devil,”* which is sin. John wrote, *“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”* I John 3:8 I truly believe that sin is nothing more or less than the nature of the serpent that entered into and polluted the heart and nature of man.

The clearest description of Christ’s mission is found in the words of the angel Gabriel to Daniel concerning the coming of *“the Messiah the Prince.”* Gabriel defined this mission as *“...to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness...”* Daniel 9:24-25. Christians everywhere believe that Christ made reconciliation for iniquity through His death on the cross. Why do so many not also believe that he made an end of sins and brought in everlasting righteousness? People look at the world around us and are convinced that Christ did not make an end of sins, or bring in everlasting righteousness because of the horrible condition of the world.

But Christ did not die to *“make an end of sins”* in the world. He died to make an end of sin in you! The gospel is *“Christ in you the hope of glory!”* Colossians 1:27 If Jesus failed on the cross to do any of these things he was promised to do, he was not the Christ, but an imposter, and would have never come out of the grave.

Due to the fact that Christ was raised from the dead, we absolutely know that he did not fail in what he came to accomplish. This being the case, there is only one reason that any person is still *“in their sins.”* Jesus gave us this reason as he spoke to the Pharisees saying, *“...ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”* John 8:24 The Pharisees knew that Christ would *“make an end of sins, make reconciliation for iniquity, and bring in everlasting righteousness...”*, but they refused to believe that Jesus is the Christ. Jesus let them know that as long as they continued in their unbelief, all their religious efforts would avail them nothing. They could strive against sin all the days of their life, but when they took their last breath, they would still be in their sins. Jesus reaffirms this as the reason that people are still in sin, saying of the Holy Ghost, *“And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: **Of sin, because they believe not on me;**”* John 16:8-9

All over the world there are people who are in their sins simply because they have never heard this gospel of Christ. As Paul said, *“how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?”* Romans 10:14 This is why Jesus told us to preach it to every creature. There are also many,

however, who have heard this gospel, but refuse to believe it even though it is clearly stated in the scriptures. They profess to believe that Jesus is the Christ, but they refuse to believe that he actually takes away the sin of those who trust in him. Jesus speaks of these saying, *"...their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."* Matthew 13:15 If they continue in their unbelief, they will also *"die in their sins."*