

# Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

*Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ*

April 22, 2017

## SPIRITUAL RACISM

A few months back a stranger stopped by a church we were building and introduced himself as a brother in Christ. After a few minutes of talking about the love of Christ and the goodness of the Lord, he said to me, "You know, most people think that anyone can be saved, but that is not what the bible really says." I responded, well, Paul said *"And he died for all..."* II Corinthians 5:15. Jesus told us to preach the gospel to *"every creature,"* and *"whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."* Revelations 21:17. These statements tell me this salvation is for everyone. "No" he said, "Jesus told the Jews they were of their father the devil. He was letting us know that they could never be saved." I am sure I did not hide my disgust as I responded to this man. John told us that *"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning..."* I John 3:8. I said to him, "Anyone, including you or me, that has evil in their heart is of Satan, because he is the father of all sin." This man left quickly, and I realized his religion was just a cloak for his bigotry and hatred. Blacks, Jews, and many other people were deemed justly unworthy of salvation in this man's eyes. He was just another of many hate-filled people who attempt to clothe their hatred in the banner of Christianity.

I recall another incident from about two years before. I encountered a man I see about once a

year. He attended a large Charismatic church in Texas and seemed to be the one of the most vocal and unashamed Christians I knew. When surrounded by unbelievers, he would share testimonies of the wonderful things God has done. On this occasion the issue of the war in Afghanistan came up. "It's such a shame that our boys are dying in a war over there." he said. I had no disagreement with this, but his next statement floored me. "Those squinty-eyed mongrels over there can't even be saved! Why are our boys dying for them?" I felt righteous indignation arise within me as I saw this man's true heart revealed through his religious "fig leaves." I said, "Sir, those you call "squinty-eyed mongrels" are souls for whom Christ died! That contempt you hold for them is the same contempt the Jews would have held for you if you lived in the days of Christ and the apostles. They would have scoffed at the idea that someone as evidently wretched as you had any chance of being saved." Quickly this conversation also ended. I felt sick at my stomach at how Satan wraps his hatred and racial supremacy in doctrines and calls it the love of Christ.

There are those who hold that some people are excluded from salvation by God. When I hear such a thing, I want to ask them which of their own children do they believe God has predestined to be damned? Of course they never believe that, but it is so easy to believe someone else's child was born to be eternally damned. Jesus said *"If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!"* Matthew 6:23

There are others who teach there are some predestined to damnation because they are

Satan's seed, or offspring. Sometimes these are said to be individuals scattered here or there, but very often these include entire races of people. The simple truth is, however, that without Christ we all carry the seed of Satan, which is SIN. The apostle John wrote, *"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning..."*, but then he tells us in the same verse, *"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil"* | John 3:8. Christ came into this world to destroy the work of the devil in us which is SIN. His blood washes "Satan's seed" out of our heart and nature. Two verses later, John says *"In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother"* | John 3:10. Those whom John called *"the children of the devil"* are those who do not do righteousness and/or do not love their brothers. This does not mean they cannot be saved. These are in fact the ones Christ died for, but until they believe the gospel and trust in Christ, they will never know his great deliverance from Satan and his works ...SIN.

A friend asked me recently, "What do you think about Jews." Surprised by the question, I answered, "They are people." I add to that "They are people for whom Christ died!" I think no more or no less of them than I do any person for whom Christ died. I do not deny that there are certain promises given to Israel because of Abraham. The scripture says they are "beloved for the fathers' sakes" Romans 11:28, yet even with that understanding there are still certain truths made evident in the scripture. Since Christ died for all, he must love the Arab as much as he loves the Jew, and he must love the Jew as much as he loves

the European, and he must love the European as much as he loves the African, and he must love the African as much as he loves the Asian, and he must love the Asian as much as he loves the Native American, and he must love the Native American as much as he loves the Arab.

The entire premise of the gospel is built upon the truth that *"...both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;"* Romans 3:9. For this reason Christ came, *"to take away the sin of..."* not just the Jew, or the Gentile, or the British, or the white, or the black, or the Asian, or any race, tribe, lineage, or a select few, but to *"take away the sin of the WORLD"* John 1:29. Anyone who will believe this gospel and trust in Christ will know glorious freedom from sin, and life in Christ Jesus which is given to those who have been born again, and are now the children of God.