

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

September 14, 2017

RUNNING WITH THE CHICKENS

“You will never soar with the eagles as long as you are running with the chickens.” I would sometimes speak this to my sons relating to their choices of friends. Imagine the pitiful life of an eagle shut up in the chicken coop. What may be a place of safety and provision for the chicken would be a place of bondage and death for the eagle. An eagle is not meant for that sort of life. An eagle is supposed to soar in the heavens! What works for the chicken will never work for the eagle.

On many occasions I have heard it said that we need ministry that deals with “where the rubber meets the road.” This is often called practical Christian living. It usually involves religious principles to live by, and endless “how to” methods to gain victory over entrapment after entrapment of this present world. While there are certainly truths to be found in such teaching, I sometimes wonder if the hearer is actually being taught how to “survive in the chicken coop.”

A child of God is a spiritual being who dwells in a spiritual kingdom. As they abide in Christ they abound in righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost Romans 14:17, but if they seek to walk according to the weak and beggarly elements of this world Galatians 4:9, they wither and die. The apostle Paul was shocked by the walk of professing believers at Corinth. He asked them,

"...are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" I Corinthians 3:3. Sin, contention, strife, along with religious rituals, works, and methods are how carnal men walk. The redeemed simply partake of Christ day by day and thrive in the goodness of the Lord.

I confess that I am a preacher without many answers. If someone comes to me wanting to receive principles or methods of how to overcome a sin or Satan, I tell them that I do not know any such principles or methods. You see when I came to Jesus Christ I was an unclean person, filled with anger and lusts, but I never learned how to deal with such things because Jesus simply took it all away. This is what he came to do. He is *"the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world."* John 1:29.

I know this sounds too simplistic to many people, but then again the gospel of Christ is a simple message. Paul warned us lest our *"...minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."* II Corinthians 11:3. Is it too simplistic to say that the blood of Jesus Christ *"cleanses us from all sin?"* I John 1:7. The apostle John said it does. If this is true, then why does the church spend so much effort trying to teach people how to get control of, or victory over, the sin that is within them? It must be that they have never found that truth which cleanses their heart from it all. Because of this, an enormous amount of ministry is built around an attempt to teach people how to get the upper hand in a struggle with something that Christ died to simply take away. Something is very wrong with that picture.

Your spiritual warfare is NOT for your own victory over sin and Satan. That battle was won at the cross. We wrestle against principalities and

powers Ephesians 6:10-17 as we seek to bring Christ to those who still sit in darkness. The gospel of Christ does not teach anyone how to defeat sin or Satan so they can serve God. Rather it tells of a Savior who destroyed both the devil and sin upon his CROSS. Hebrews 2:14, Romans 6:6. Neither does the gospel tell us how to overcome the power of darkness so we can have a victorious walk. It says God “...*hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.*” Colossians 1:13. We, as children of God, do not dwell in Satan’s domain. We are lifted up by God’s Spirit to sit in “*heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*” Ephesians 2:6. Abiding in these heavenly places we “...*reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.*” Romans 5:17. Do not seek someone to teach you how to survive in the “chicken coop” of struggling with sin, Satan, and the powers of darkness. Instead seek God for the truth of Christ that will cause you to “...*mount up with wings as an eagle.*” Isaiah 40:31.