

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

September 5, 2017

FINDING ETERNAL LIFE

I was reading the scripture last night when I saw something that stunned me. While speaking to those who were offended because he had healed on the Sabbath and said God was his Father, Jesus told them *“Search the scriptures; for in them **ye think ye have eternal life**: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, **that ye might have life.**”* John 5:38-39 Jesus’ message to these jumped out at me: **YOU THINK YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE IN THE WORLD TO COME EVEN WHEN YOU DO NOT HAVE LIFE IN THIS WORLD!** Immediately I thought of how many people there must be who believe they will live eternally with God, but do not possess the reality of Christ today.

Jesus spoke this to people who believed their efforts to conform their lives to the commands of the scripture gave them eternal life. They trusted that they had found wisdom in the Proverbs, righteousness in the Law, and Holiness in its rituals, yet these same people hated Jesus and sought to kill him. They had a religious form, but they had never found or received the life of God.

It almost sounds heretical to say, but *“Life is not found in the scriptures.”* Life is found only in Christ Jesus. The scriptures simply point us to where life is found. Jesus said of the scriptures, *“...they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.”* The

apostle John told us where life is found, saying, *"... and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."* I John 5:11-12 No one has life who does not presently have Christ. Jesus said, *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."* John 10:10 The truth revealed in this passage is that if Christ had not come, no one would have life at all. The life he gives is different and far above anything men have ever perceived life to be. It is the life of God!

The apostle Paul makes a statement that is staggering in its implications. He says, *"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:"* I Corinthians 1:30 These four things are found only in and through the person of Christ Jesus.

1. WISDOM: The true wisdom of God is not found in the Proverbs, Psalms, the Law, or the prophets. Israel had these for many hundreds of years, yet Paul spoke of them, saying, *"...their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools..."* Romans 1:21-22 *"Christ (is) the power of God, and the wisdom of God."* I Corinthians 1:24. He is our wisdom. It is not a wisdom learned. It is a wisdom received. In the new birth we received a new mind, which is *"the mind of Christ."* I Corinthians 2:16

2. RIGHTEOUSNESS: Paul said Israel followed after the Law of righteousness but never attained unto the Law of righteousness. Romans 10:31. Anyone who seeks righteousness through religious law will achieve the same disappointing results. True righteousness comes only from Christ within. He gives a new heart and a righteous spirit Psalms 51:10

Ezekiel 36:36, and his blood cleanses us *“from all unrighteousness.”* I John 1:9. His righteousness changes everything that we are. As Paul said, we are *“...made (to be) the righteousness of God in him.”* II Corinthians 5:21. You will never attain unto righteousness if you are not *“made righteous”* Romans 5:19 by the work of Christ. Yet the promise of this redemption says *“...Thy people also shall be all righteous...”* Isaiah 60:21.

3. SANCTIFICATION: Jesus said *“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”* Matthew 5:8. A holy life issues out of a pure heart. Israel attempted for fifteen hundred years to become a holy nation through the precepts of the Law and failed. With all their religious grandeur, the “holiest” among them committed the greatest abomination when they killed the Holy One of God. You will never attain holiness by striving for it. The word of God says *“Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.”* Hebrews 13:12 The redeemed are not “being” sanctified neither are they striving for sanctification. ***“WE ARE SANCTIFIED THROUGH THE OFFERING OF THE BODY OF JESUS CHRIST ONCE FOR ALL.”*** Hebrews 10:10. A holy walk is simply the fruit of being made free from sin through the work of Christ. Romans 6:22. A person may live their life seeking to fulfill every requirement of the scripture they perceive to produce holiness, but if they never see that full sanctification is found only through the shed blood of Christ, holiness will always be something that is just beyond their reach.

4. REDEMPTION: Redemption is the act of recovering that which was lost. That which was lost in the transgression of Adam can never be

recovered by human effort. All religion fails in that pursuit. Yet Christ shed his blood to redeem us *“from all iniquity”* Titus 2:14 and redeem us *“to God.”* Revelation 5:9. Though you search the scriptures seeking redemption, if you are not led to Christ Jesus, your search will be in vain.

We should all search the scriptures daily. It is through the word of God that the unsearchable riches of Christ are revealed. He is God’s full remedy for humanity. Christ is our life! Colossians 3:4