

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

December 19, 2019

A Self-Evident Truth

There are many religious teachings people believe to be true, but here is one self-evident truth. It is not possible for anything that says "You cannot be free from sin" to be true, because Jesus said, *"the truth shall make you free."* Therefore, everything that denies "freedom from sin" is also counting Jesus to be a liar.

Jesus spoke the words, *"You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"* to some Jewish people *"who believed upon him."* John 8:31. Upon hearing this statement, they denied there was any need for them to be *"made free"* because they had never been slaves to anyone. They demanded Jesus explain what he meant by *"You shall be made free."* His answer turned these "believers" into a mob of people who were ready to kill him. John 8:37.

Jesus told them that everyone who commits sin does it because they are sin's slave. John 8:34. Can you imagine the effect this statement had upon these Jews who had always heard that they were the special people of God? They had thought themselves to be above all others, but in their mind Jesus' words included them in the lowest group possible. He said they were slaves!

Jesus then uses an illustration to drive home his point. He compares a religious sinner to a slave assigned to work in a great house. They may be in the house, but the house is not their home.

When the slaves' work is done, they must leave. Only the owner's children live in the house. The hour always comes when the slave is cast out of the house! A few verses earlier, Jesus had told the people *"...if ye believe not that I am he (the Christ), ye shall die in your sins."* John 8:24. As long as they were still sinners they were slaves; and as long as they refused to believe the truth, they would still be sinners.

Having stripped them of all their supposed spirituality, Jesus then offers hope ...if they would receive it. He said *"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."* John 8:36. This simple statement is the embodiment of *"the truth."* His purpose for coming into the world has always been to *"...save his people from their sin."* Matthew 1:21. Jesus is *"the Messiah the Prince"* who came *"...to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness."* Daniel 9:24. This was their great hope, but they were blind to it. They rejected Jesus as the Christ, and they died in their sins just as he told them they would. Most of them died as slaves, never believing *"the truth"* which would have made them free.

How is the modern church any different from the Jewish people in the days of Jesus' ministry? Just like those Jesus spoke to, many profess to "believe upon him," but they refuse to believe his words. In fact, like those Jews, they become angry at the words *"He that commits sin is the slave to sin,"* and even angrier at the words *"If you will listen to my words, you shall know the truth, the truth shall make you free."*

It may be comforting to hear a preacher say "I am a sinner just like you." or "We are all sinners

and always will be as long as we live!” You may even feel consoled when others tell you not to worry about the sin of your heart because “everyone struggles with sin.” Yet if any of this is true, why did Jesus say *“If the Son therefore shall make you free, **ye shall be free indeed.**”*? John 8:36. Do not cling to a belief just because it consoles you. The Apostle Paul warned of those who would *“believe a lie”* and *“be damned.”* II Thessalonians 2:11-12. Consider the plight of these God spoke of in the following passage.

*“A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and **what will ye do in the end thereof?**”* Jeremiah 5:30-31.