

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

October 20, 2020

Christ Died for All

A few years ago, 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, "Paul said '*And he died for all...*' II Corinthians 5:15. This tells me 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. I said, "John told us that '*He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning...*' I John 3:8. Anyone, including you or me, that has evil and hatred in their heart is of Satan." This man left quickly, knowing I realized his religion was just a cloak for his bigotry and hatred. Blacks, Jews, and many other people were deemed 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.

In another incident 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. On this occasion, the issue of the war in

Afghanistan came up. He said, "It's such a shame that our boys are dying in a war over there." I had no disagreement with this, but his next statement floored me. "Those squinty-eyed mongrels 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 bigotry in religious doctrine and seeks to call it Christ.

I've heard those who teach some cannot be saved because they are "Satan's seed," or offspring. The simple truth is, however, that without Christ, we all carry the seed of Satan. It's called 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, "*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil*" | John 3:8. The blood of Christ 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. Sin and hatred always mark the "*children of the devil.*" This does not mean they cannot be saved. These are in fact the

ones Christ died for because “...*he was manifested to take away our sins...*” I John 3:5.

Another minister once asked, “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 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 we must see. Since Christ died for all, he loved the African as much as he loved the European; he loved the Asian as much as he loved the Native American; and he loved the Arab as much as he loved the Jew. This is true because Christ died for all!