

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

November 25, 2020

Why Have You Come?

They thought they had eternal life, but in reality, they did not even have LIFE. This was Jesus' message to some of the most religious people he encountered. Without the Life of Christ within, the hope of eternal life is just a fallacy. Consider Jesus' words: *"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 5:39-40. Take a closer look. His message was **"...ye think ye have eternal life... And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."** In other words, *"You don't even have Life!"*

This was not the only time Jesus contradicted some who were confident Heaven would be their eternal home. He spoke of those who would say, *"...Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."* Matthew 7:22-23. These people believed they would be received by the Lord, but they were deceived. Certainly, this stands as a warning to those who think a "Christian's" sin will not matter when they stand before God. Pay close attention to who will be commanded to depart in that day. Jesus said, **"...depart from me, you that work iniquity."** These people thought they would receive eternal life, but they had believed a lie. II Thessalonians 2:10-12.

I want to share three examples of those who's hope of eternal life was based upon a fallacy. One of which are those who try to serve God simply because they do not want to go to Hell. I am not saying that the fear of damnation cannot get a person's attention and cause them to start looking for an answer for their sin-sick soul. It's just that Jesus Christ cannot be viewed as a "fire escape." I can assure you that those who view him as such will not escape the fire of damnation.

The Bible tells of others who were caught up in the excitement of the miracles Jesus did. John records, *"...many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man."* John 2:23-25. Why was it that Jesus would not commit himself to these who "believed on him?" It is because he knew their attraction to him was based on his power to amaze them, and not because they valued the Life that he offered. These were no more than "circus fans." The next circus they flocked to was a Roman styled crucifixion as they cried for the death of the Son of God. Miracles may get a person's attention, but no one can serve God based upon their desire to see the miraculous.

After Jesus fed the five-thousand with the *"five loaves and two fishes,"* the multitudes were determined that Jesus should be their king. John 6:15. When Jesus departed from them and went across the sea of Galilee, the people took boats and followed him. After they found him, Jesus said, *"Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves,*

and were filled. *Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.*" John 6:26-27. These were pursuing Christ because he filled their belly. In the conversation which followed, they pressed Jesus for bread and even "manna" like the children of Israel received in the wilderness. He was unable to persuade them to seek him for the heavenly bread. They also soon forsook him.

In this generation many people have been taught to follow Jesus for food in the pantry, a car in the garage, a house in the neighborhood, cash in the bank, and money in the retirement account. You cannot follow Christ in search of such things. Of course, He is our provision and his blessings are without number, but where is the one among those who "seek the loaves" who says with the Apostle Paul, *"I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."*? Philippians 4:12-13.

The great treasure the redeemed find in Christ is the Life of God that he is in, and to, them. To God's people, this Life is more to be desired than miracles, money, or even the promise of Heaven itself. For such a person, God will be there when they need a miracle, provide for them in every circumstance, and call them home to Heaven when this earthly course is run. They have eternal life, because they have found the source of Life, Jesus Christ!