

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

December 26, 2020

Is God Stuck With Us?

One of the most foolish statements I have ever heard is that God is “stuck with us.” In other words, God is required to give us certain things, has to overlook our sins, and must ultimately take us to Heaven because we have entered into a covenant from which He cannot escape. Is such a statement really faith, or is it just foolish arrogance?

John the Baptist warned the Jewish people against such an attitude. It seems they believed since God made covenant with Abraham and his seed, God was bound by covenant to give them the promises made to Abraham. They felt like God was “stuck with them.” John warned them, saying, *“And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.”* Matthew 3:9. This was a warning to Israel that God could take the covenant made with their fathers and fulfill its promises upon another people if he chose to do so.

Israel wrongly assumed that *“the children of Abraham”* had to be of Abraham’s bloodline. They thought it absurd that *“the blessing of Abraham”* could be given to anyone other than themselves. The Apostle Paul refuted such

arrogance and taught that the children of Abraham are those who believe God like Abraham did. He wrote, “*...they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.*” Galatians 3:7. Those who believe God are in fact the “*stones*” I Peter 2:5 which John the Baptist said God could raise up as Abraham’s children.

Paul warned us against the same arrogance of which Israel was guilty. Since they were the “*natural branches*,” Israel believed God had no choice but to receive them, ...but they were wrong. The “*natural branches*” (unbelieving Israel) were “*broken off*” and branches from a “*wild olive tree*” (believing Gentiles) were grafted in. Yet listen to Paul’s warning to the believing Gentiles. He wrote, “*For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.*” Romans 11:21-22.

Spiritual arrogance will always lead to a fall. No one should believe God is stuck with them. There are drug addicts and prostitutes whom God can replace you or me with if we choose not to “*continue in his goodness*.” The promise that God will never forsake us comes with a warning. The Bible says, “*The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.*” II Chronicles 15:2

You can walk in God’s goodness all the days of your life, free from sin and kept by his grace. It is

as simple as believing the gospel and trusting in Christ. Hold to Jesus and he will uphold you. The Bible says He “*...is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy*” Jude 1:24, but do not think that God cannot deal with you, or anyone who forsakes the goodness of Christ, the same as he dealt with the unbelieving Jews. Paul said, “*For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits...*” Romans 11:25.