

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea the death of the cross. (Phil. 2:8)

I submit to you, I have needed a Savior. Choose if you will the blessings of Darwin. As for me, I will choose the blessings of my Lord and Savior.

Jim Stauffer

Happy New Year! May God give us the strength to be a better servant.



January 3, 2010

ASK, SEEK AND KNOCK by Gary Henry

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened Mt 7:7,8

WE HAVE GOD'S ASSURANCE THAT THOSE WHO TRULY DESIRE HIM WILL HAVE THEIR DESIRE FULFILLED. If we ask, it will be given. If we seek, we will find. And if we knock, the door will be opened to us. Yet these are not casual activities that we can take care of in our spare time. They are based on something more than a mere whim concerning God's importance, and they require more than a passing interest in things of a spiritual nature.

Asking, seeking, and knocking are the outgrowths of LOVING God. Only strong, steadfast love has the persistence necessary to push through the obstacles that confront us. "It is love that asks, that seeks, that knocks, that finds, and that is faithful to what it finds" (Augustine of Hippo). It is not enough to ask once or twice, to seek now and then, and to knock a time or two. Jesus' statement instructs us to keep on asking, keep on seeking, and keep on knocking. Only love will keep us doing these things.

But not only do these things require love, they also require HUMILITY. The older we grow, the less willing we are to ask for what we need. Perhaps men have a harder time asking for help than women do, but certainly adults find it harder than children do. It is the most natural thing in the world for a child to ASK, and that is one way in which we must become "as little children" (Mt 18:3) if we are to enter the kingdom of heaven.

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MEETING TIMES
 Sunday - Bible Classes: 9:30AM
 Worship Services 10:20AM & 6:00PM
 Wednesday - Bible Classes 7:00PM

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Lenexa church of Christ

If it is pride that keeps us from asking because asking gives the appearance of weakness or need, then that is a pride that we must repent of.

The fact is, we ARE weak and we ARE needy; there is no use trying to cover up this truth. We are created beings who are dependent on our Creator, and there is no significant greatness that we can achieve without His help. "Therefore," Jesus said, "whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:4). To be sure, our needs are already known to our Heavenly Father before we ask Him. But He wants us to have the humility to recognize those needs ourselves and to ask for His help. The deeper our gratitude for His grace, the more faithfully we will ask and seek and knock.

"Whether we like it or not, asking is the rule of the kingdom" (Charles Haddon Spurgeon).

"Test all things; hold fast what is good" (1 Thes 5:21).

THEY PROFESS THAT THEY KNOW GOD, BUT IN WORKS THEY DENY HIM

The above words form the opening statement in Titus 1:16. The verse goes on to say, "...they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate." In the context, the apostle Paul was writing to Titus about the circumstances, the people, and the activities that the latter would have to face and deal with on the island of Crete. In the previous verse, Paul had specifically mentioned those that are defiled and unbelieving. Such people, he said, profess to know God, but in works they deny Him.

All serious Bible students are familiar with the fact that Simon Peter denied Jesus three times. It is also commonly known that Jesus said, "But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 10:33). But, what about the concept of denying the Lord with our actions? Remember, Titus 1:16 says that some deny the Lord in/by their works. Despite their claims, their behavior makes it evident that they are not really devoted to and faithful to the God of heaven. Are you and I of that number? Does our action undo/negate our professed allegiance to Him?

If I sing, "All to Jesus I Surrender," but when it comes to my first-day-of-the-week contribution, I grudgingly drop my leftovers that amount to one or two percent of my income into the collection, my profession of surrendering all for my Lord is not very truthful, is it?

If I sing, "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God," but I have no intention of attending any service of the church after the Sunday morning session because, honestly, there are other matters that I count as more important on Sunday night, during mid-week Bible study and any night of a Gospel meeting, then do my works not deny my Lord and my professed devotion to Him?

If I sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy" in praise to the Creator, but outside of the church's meeting place I habitually take the Lord's name in vain, then do I really have reverence for the Lord, or do my actions deny such?

If I sing, "I Want to Be a Soul Winner for Jesus Every Day," but I wouldn't be caught dead talking to a non-Christian about the Bible and the salvation that is available through Jesus, then does my practice match my claim, or am I denying my professed allegiance to my Lord and His Cause?

If I drive home to my denominational friends the truth that we must go by the Bible, only by the Bible, and always by the Bible, but when I find myself in a major mess because I have unscripturally divorced and unscripturally formed a second union that civil authorities call "marriage" and I try to brush off my sinful actions by saying, "Nobody is perfect," does that not sound like I am denying my Lord by casting aside what He said about these matters (Matt. 19:9)?

Some, like Peter, deny the Lord by claiming they are not His. False teachers deny the Lord that bought them with their damnable, destructive heresies (2 Peter 2:1). Yet others deny the Lord by their actions (Titus 1:16). None of these three forms of denial is commendable, defensible, or acceptable. Any of them will cause a person to lose their soul. Regardless of the manner in which we deny the Lord, "...if we deny him, he also will deny us" (2 Tim. 2:12).

If we say that we know God, then we need to prove it: not by flaunting our faithfulness or by boasting about our behavior, but rather by obeying Him that saved us. "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:3,4). Who among us cannot understand such language?

by Morris Bowers

Darwinism teaches the survival of the fit; the gospel teaches the revival of the unfit. (Taken from R.L. Whiteside)

God commendeth His own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)

For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16)