

# The Servant



Newsletter for Christian Servants • 5523 Newberry Drive/Raleigh, NC 27609

Vol. 16 No. 1

January 2005

## Sects Education

Christ wanted one church. Once we were by faith won by Him, it was His will that we be one in Him: Won and One. Unfortunately, in two thousand years, there has been as much division as addition. It does not add up. Perhaps there is another way. Jesus said where “two or three agree on earth...it shall be done.” And “there am I in the midst.” (Matt. 18:19-20). Getting two or three to agree is easier than getting two or three thousand to agree, or two or three million to be one.

How is the church divided? It is divided by forms of government or church polity. History shows that from popes to dopes, the church has had its problems with governing itself. The genius of a working government is found in the word “agree.” There lies the autonomy of the local church. What kind of biblical government works in spiritually building up people? The Bible teaches in Romans that governments are good and necessary. The Puritans liked the oligarchy. Cults have oligarchies too. Nothing would destroy a cult faster than democracy. On the other hand, like the “right of kings,” some insist that kingdoms must have a king, and congregants a Vicar. The point is that the church cannot agree and therefore we have divided ourselves into groups by form of government.

Another reason of division is doctrine. First, let me say that doctrine is very important. Remove doctrine and we are imbeciles. But let me go on to say that Christ is not a doctrine. Jesus Christ is the Truth. Truth was not made for the head, but for the heart. Truth in the head, at best is a doctrine.

A non-denominational Christian is like a one dollar bill. He can have fellowship with nineteen others like himself and may appear to be a twenty, but put him with four and he looks like a five. The single has a picture of the founding father. Other denominations bear the image of other men. I don't want to offend anyone, but one denomination has the image of Luther and another of Wesley. Both men are good, but neither are God. If we bear the image of Jesus Christ, we bear the image of the Father and the founder. Cults make Jesus less than He is, sects make themselves more than they should. ■

## Faults

The earth is filled with faults, and so are we. “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” A fault shifted in the Indian Ocean and resulted in the death of hundreds of thousands and in the injury of many more. After examining the Lord Jesus, Pontius Pilate declared “I find no fault in this man.” Neither do we. If we could find a single fault, a single error, a single sin, we would not follow Him; but because He is without sin, He is our Savior and our Lord.

The Pharisees, “found fault” with the disciples of Jesus (Mk. 7:2). That was not hard to do. The followers of Jesus had many faults. Some were impatient, some impulsive, some, like James and John, were too ambitious. Some, like Peter, spoke too much, and others, like Paul, were not good speakers. You can easily find faults with me, and if I look hard enough, really hard, I bet I can find faults with you.

If we have the gift of “fault finding,” why not start with our self? Then when we have found and fixed our own faults, then perhaps we can start on others. Jesus warned us about trying to take the speck out of a brother's eye while we have a board in our own. James suggests that we “confess our faults one to another that we might be healed.”

A church that is fractured, split, and broken would do well to admit its faults one to another. The butler who had promised to remember Joseph had forgotten him for more than two years. Then one day, circumstances stirred his memory. “I remember my faults this day,” he cried. When that happens, there is hope. He remembered Joseph, we remember Jesus.

Faults are either cracks in the crust of the earth, or when found in men, they are cracks in our character or conduct. Sooner or later, our faults will hurt someone.

David knew the danger of deep fissures. Many suffered because of David's faults. Later he prayed “cleanse thou me from secret faults.” May we allow God to find our faults and fix them before they hurt somebody. Then one day, the Faultless One will call us home and present us to the Father “faultless.” Jude 24 ■

## Christian's Goodbye

Ah yes, through fields of stars and beyond, past galaxies that hang like clusters deep in space, yes, one day sailing over an ebony pond, and falling into out-stretched arms of grace. One day, folding wings after so long a journey home, and at last alighting gently as did Noah's dove with branch in beak, His workmanship, His poem, resting on God's eternal peak. One day, the end of night and start of one forever dawn, sin no longer near nor fear, but only Him, His will, His word, and where we think is end, is really where we just begin. id

### Find God

Our mission, our goal, our assignment each day is to find God. Nothing is more important. We are to find Him in His word and when we do, we are to worship and then listen. Then, we are to look for Him as He passes through our world each day. "When did we see thee thirsty and give thee drink?" He, or His messenger or angel will cross our path today. Since we cannot possibly tell which one is He, we must treat everyone as if they were, with care, with compassion and with kindness. "Whatever you have done to the least of these, thy brethren, ye have done unto me."

## Tsunami

Whose fault is the Tsunami,  
or rushing tidal wave?  
Was Neptune's marching army  
that has dug this watery grave?

Who takes the breath of children,  
strewn lifeless on the sand,  
and spills out death's dark cauldron?  
Heaven help us understand.

Perhaps we took for granted  
tomorrow's chance would come,  
and grace somehow recanted  
as we played beneath God's sun

Perhaps we have forgotten  
how dangerous is this place,  
how corrupt is sin, and rotten  
is a life without God's grace.

A wave of awful judgment  
swept o'r Jesus on the cross,  
and shook both earth and firmament,  
and the world mourned not her loss.

We failed to hear the warning  
when the earth cracked open wide,  
or the Mother Mary mourning,  
with Christ lifeless at her side.

Fault lines- run through every heart  
of each one, young and old;  
all we know may fall apart,  
leaving nothing to take hold

As rushing tides of judgment  
with fury fast rush in,

we find that in a moment  
we must answer for our sin.

One's reason may blame Nature  
or unbelief blame God,  
and seek some nomenclature  
as they chew this thing so hard

Why was no warning given  
of the coming rising swell  
this tide of fury driven  
or this rushing wall of hell?

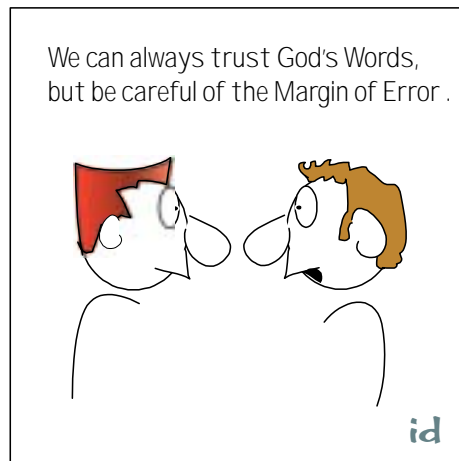
Some might well have run away  
and never had been drowned  
or lived to see another day  
had they heard a warning sound

But if the truth be spoken  
then Death is on its way,  
and best we all be woken  
before that judgment day

For high and fast the fury  
the fire and the wrath,  
and sad shall end the story  
of those caught in its path.

Surely comes this tidal wave  
of Judgment, Truth and Fire.  
Calling back each life God gave  
and justice God require

Quickly run to higher ground  
And stand beneath the Cross.  
Is the safe place faith has found  
There not one life is lost id



"Ye shall seek me and ye shall find me when you search for me with all your heart." Jer. 29:13

Editor and Author- Ingimar DeRidder  
5523 Newberry Dr. Raleigh, NC 27609  
www.ingimar.com e-mail idr@ingimar.com

