

the

Servant

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newsletter



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Sin is at the core of all the trouble and all the war. The war between the genders, the races and all faiths, the war of all the classes and never once abates. Sin is selfish, soiled and cynical and infects the hearts of man, and pride is at the pinnacle of every evil plan. It makes the masses, like a sea, rage upon the sand, and fills the world with tragedy and woe at every hand. It is a wall that you cannot feel, a war you cannot win. It is a wound that will not heal and away that's wrong within. The good news is there is one cure and that's what Jesus Christ came for. He is the only hope of man and he alone has God's only plan which was to offer up his life to pay for sin and end the strife that's caused when sinners disagree with God and find the transgressor's way is hard. When men try to live without God's Grace, they search in vain to find a place of peace and rest and take the worst and not God's best. We keep the light upon the shore bright burning by the open door and plead with all who pass our way to trust in Jesus without delay.

Faith and Works

Paul describes Jesus Christ as God's Son and our Lord. He also points out that life itself is a stewardship. What we do and for whom we do it describes our life and determines our destiny. Nothing is more important than what we do with Jesus and what he does with us. We are saved to serve. The devil tempted Jesus in the wilderness. Satan had the audacity to suggest Jesus "bow down and worship" him. Outrageous! While Jesus was "very God, of very God" and "very man, of very man." This was the "very man" on display. Satan used his well tried and trusted fish flies, but Christ was not biting. First he tried hunger and the lust of the flesh. It did not work, as Jesus had meat to eat he knew not of. Second, he attempted to "lift" him up to the very pinnacle of the temple (pride). It didn't work either because Jesus was humility itself. Lastly, he tried the lust of the eyes and showed him a shortcut to all the kingdoms of the world. The first invited the flesh "sit down." (there was no flesh, beyond flesh and bones, so the offer sunk like pebbles on a pond). The second, was to "jump down." The third "fall down" and worship me. Outrageous. Christ's answer to this last was quick and powerful, sharper than a two edged sword: "It is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Worship and Service are twins when they are in Spirit and in Truth. Somehow men and demons think they can divide the two. Faith without works is dead. Evil is not alarmed when worship is simply lip-service as opposed to spiritual service (as in Rom. 12:1). Spiritual service is doing what we are asked. Doing for God, what we are not asked, or what we wish or prefer is not worship and it is not service. "Why," said Jesus, "do you call me Lord and do not the things I ask you?" (Lk. 6:46).

To the Angry and Afraid

From sitting on a rooftop in Katrina's flood,
to dying in Chicago where streets run red with blood
to drinking up Flint's Cool-Aid heavily laced with lead
or getting shot some 14 times
to make sure that you are dead
even the disenfranchised
can say, "enoughs, enough."
And when they do, don't be surprised
when a raging sea gets rough.
Somewhere in the middle class is a feeling of unease
the Constitution and Ship of State is caught in troubled seas.
Some want a better Captain, with a kind hand at the wheel
Others want a winner, who knows how to cut a deal.
Some call for battle stations, or call "All hands on deck."
Others think that all is well as the Ship's about to wreck.
There are those who blame outsiders, but never give a thought
That a Nation that forgets the Lord, has sold itself for naught.(continued on back)

Well Done

Christ the Lord was the Servant-King
Whom Gabriel called "that holy thing"
in manger born and in stable lay
He came to save and show the way
Glory to God sang heavenly host
the greatest life is which gives the most
God so loved that he gave his Son
when all was said and all was done
Christ rose in triumph from the dead
He simply did what the Father said -id

Womankind

Be she maiden, mother or midwife, a woman is a help-meet. Women are there when we are born and they are first to the tomb. They weep when they send sons off to war and with a red crossed cap work near the battlefield binding up the wounds of war. She is the woman at a million wells drawing water for the thirsty, or stoking a million fires in the hearth. She was the keeper of the home, and her hand that rocked the cradle, can rule the world. This, the fairer sex was made by God, on purpose: a caregiver.

By nature she is gentle, by nurture she is genteel. In her element, she is a giver and a nurturer. Long into the night, she serves; the last to turn in, and turn out the light. She is the first to rise and appraise the needs of those around her, to stir in the kitchen to start the day. She is made soft to lessen the hardness of life. She is made fair to fill the air with beauty and grace. This help-meet was made by God and so it is odd when this unique and special god-like creature casts away her birthright. In God's grand design she was made a help fit for the Master's use.

Jesus said the greatest among you is a servant. Not a slave, not chattel, but the soul that willingly has the servant's heart is the holiest, happiest, and the greatest. Only faith can see the sainthood in service and the wonderful role of the woman. Many have been all this and more, in science, in business and in the betterment of all mankind. God's calling is a high calling. Only faith can fathom this. Jesus said, "take my yoke upon you..." Mary, the mother of Jesus said, "Behold the handmaiden of the Lord. Be it unto me as according to thy word." (Luke 1:38)

Who's I am and whom I serve

These words spoken on a rolling deck of a foundering ship sum up the source of and the force of Paul's faith. It was spoken mid course on a journey first began when he knelt in prayer on Straight Street, and when he asked the two most important questions of life on the Damascus Road: "Who art thou Lord?" and "What do you want me to do?" They comprise the "Who" and "Do" of the faith-filled life. In this Face Book, and selfie generation where much energy goes into presenting "Who I am" in social media and cultivating a following, Paul reminds us that the "Who's I am" is more important. In the Old Testament Moses learned the same lesson at the burning bush when he asked "who am I?" and found out it's not who we are at all, but who God is that makes the difference. We are God's and we are bought with a price. We are not our own. We are God's property or child (depending upon how you look at it). This leads from the "Who" to the "Do" of the Christian life. We are not saved by what we "do," but by what Jesus did. Having said that, we are saved to serve. Life is something we do (or did).

Jesus marveled at the Centurion's faith who understood the power and authority of a single word spoken by him. "I also am a man under authority." Faith places us under God's authority (power, protection, and purpose). Then he explained what that is in a practical sense. "I say to one 'come' and he comes; to another 'go' and he goes; and to another 'do' and he does. That is a picture of the Christian life of faith and service. **Come, Go, Do.**

(Angry and Afraid continued)

Do not look to government,
to Emperors or to Kings
or put your trust in riches, in self, or
man-made things
do not follow others who seek earth's
silly crowns
or worry what mere mortals think,
or of this world's smiles or frowns.
Render unto Caesar
only what belongs to him,
and what belongs to God, to God
who can change the heart within -id

Politics

While America, like a city set on a hill, has been used of God and played an important role in sending forth the light of the Gospel, so was Great Britain for a time. Only God knows if America's time is up or if there is still a mission and a service to render. Fighting over government or who will be King seems unseemly and seldom ends well. We are in the world, but not of it. Nothing is more "of it" than politics. Even the disciples argued over "Who was the greatest," and who was getting preferential treatment (the Grecians or the Hebrews) in Acts Chapter 6. Some said I am of Paul others of Apollos. Some think Trump can save America, some believe in Beck. Neither George Washington or Abraham Lincoln could govern a godless nation well. As many look for the next Lincoln or Washington it would do us well to realize that Jesus is still offering crosses, not crowns.

Force Field

"except a grain of wheat fall into the ground and die it abideth alone, but if it die it bringeth forth much fruit."

John 12:24

Greatest Seed

Greatest Need

Greatest Deed

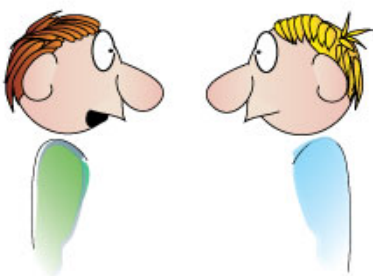


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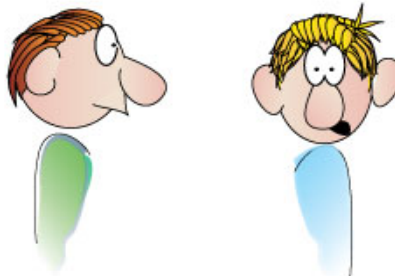


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My Mom thinks Football is too Violent



That's why they call it Wreck-reaction.



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