

the Servant

newsletter

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Christ was Less

God on Earth was homeless
when Jesus was a babe.
The Almighty appeared so helpless-
when in the manger laid.

And found once too as penniless
He asked men for a coin
to teach the world a lesson
tried their reason to enjoin.

One day the Lord stood friendless
as His friends all ran away;
but alone, He was the fullness
on the cross on Judgment day.

But in all this was fearless
as He did the Father's will;
was crucified though blameless
and the Scriptures did fulfill.

Taken down, once lifeless
laid in a borrowed grave
But what He did was priceless
He shed his precious blood to save.

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Right and Upright

The Gospel: for there in is the righteousness of God revealed (Rom. 1:17)

What happens when a person or a people turn their back on God? (Rom. 1:21-32). What would the Pilgrims think of America? That person or that society that turns it's back on God becomes vain, vile, and vulgar. Vain in imagination, vile in affections, and vulgar in behavior. They became "*vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart, was darkened*" (1:21). I had a dear old friend who had a prosperous exterminating business in Brooklyn, NY (New York has an abundance of cockroaches). He always tried to speak of Christ and engage a customer's greater need. When he was rebuffed or found no response, he would say "no light there." Isaiah wrote, "to the law and the testimony, If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." We could say the same about the News Media, or what we call entertainment, "no light there." A godless person is a vain person. The first result of turning away from light is darkness. "Their foolish heart was darkened." Vanity is it's own kind of darkness because it employs an artificial light and is focused on self.

The second result of turning one's back on God is vileness. After vain imaginations, there are vile affections. Pigs love slops. Sheep love grass. Saints hunger and thirst after righteousness. Not so with those who turn from God. Our direction is determined by our affection. We end up in the direction we point. Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom. His wife longed for something that caused her to look longingly back and she perished. Lot's daughters brought Sodom with them in their hearts. Paul describes this turning in Romans. "*For this God gave them up unto vile affections*" (v.26).

The third result of turning one's back on God is vulgarity. Our society, music and Hollywood reek with vulgarity and bad behavior. "*Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them*" (v. 32).

A godless nation, society, or person who has turned away from God is vain, vile, and vulgar. John wrote, "*Love not the world, neither the things in the world, for all that is of the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world and the world passeth away with the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.*" John 2:15.

We live in a world that is "not right." Unfortunately many times the so called Christian Right is not "right." All mankind is fallen in unrighteousness. God's goal for us is to be "upright." Evolutionists think mankind started walking "upright" when it started walking on two legs. No one is upright until they, like Enoch, walk with God. The good news is that God has a plan to make fallen man "upright." The demoniac (Mk.5), like the world suffered from a demon possession displayed by vanity, insanity, and profanity. After his encounter with Jesus, the man was clothed, seated, and (for the first time in his life) in his right mind. Whether demoniacs are rioting in the streets, or wringing their hands among the tombstones, there is still hope and change in Jesus -id



“I will build my church”

He is the answer to sin and strife
He came to give eternal life
to prepare us for eternity
and here to live abundantly.

He died for us a debt to pay
and lives in us to show the way.
He found us lost and dead in sin.
He raised us up to be with Him.

First lesson in this new-life living
He tells us we must be forgiving.
As He on the cross did demonstrate
to forgive who hurt us, our new estate.

The second lesson for this life we live:
To get the most, we have to give.
He lives the most, who gives the most
and thus He gave the Holy Ghost.

The third great lesson from above:
To live for Him means we must love.
Not just those who first love us,
or all the friends we know,
but the unkind, the unlovely too,
and most of all our foes.

His church: not bricks, stained glass or
steeple
but a ransomed, redeemed and
transformed people. -id

When Jesus didn't come

The funeral was over. The last hymn was sung, eulogies were given, kind words were spoken over the body of the deceased, and tears were shed. The sermon was delivered and the benediction was pronounced and the congregants filed out of the cemetery. The opening of the crypt was closed and loved ones went home down hearted and disconsolate. They were more than brokenhearted, they were numb, and still in a state of shock at the turn of events and reverse of good fortune. Mary and Martha did the best they could to accept the reality, their brother Lazarus had died. Neighbors and distant relatives were still there four days later preparing meals and helping give away their brother's things when there was a commotion at the door. News arrived that Jesus was entering the town perhaps six or seven days after frantically sending for their great friend, teacher and miracle worker. They had sent an urgent message, hurry, he whom thou lovest is sick. Come place thy hand on his brow, come speak a word over his weakened body, offer up a prayer, like you did when you changed the water into wine.

But, no answer came- and Lazarus' condition worsened. The disappointment of the sisters was impossible to hide. Martha went out to meet Christ and his little band and entourage, and almost scolded him, “My brother would be alive, if you had come earli-

er, when we needed you.”

Many must have felt like Martha. She had worked in the kitchen, labored for the Master to feed the guests that came to sit like Mary at Jesus' feet. They listened to him speak of a new day, and a new kingdom, and a new creation. Their spirits unfolded their wings and flew around the mercy seat, like the Seraphim in the Holy of Holies. They opened their home and prophet's chamber to Jesus and his band of disciples. “If you had come, my brother would not have died.”

Many I am sure have been disappointed when their letter seemed to go unanswered or their phone call of prayer never returned. They left voice mail, after voice mail as they sat by the sick bed. And nothing! Silence. God is never late, and never lost to our plight and urgent need. Sometimes coming at the snap of our fingers will do little to increase our faith or reach the lost. Sometimes the greatest testimony is first baptized in our tears and our faith finds that God has something far greater than we ever imagined. Mary and Martha had no idea that Lazarus was the seed corn of faith for thousands and hundreds of thousands, who needed to hear the message of Hope and Change. “Lazarus, Come Forth.” He did and many sat with Jesus and Lazarus at a fellowship feast giving all the praise and glory to God. Job wrote, “*He knoweth the way that I take, when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.*” Job 23:10 ☪

Ups and Downs

I may never walk on water
but it's enough to walk with God.
I'm a sheep and not the Shepherd,
not the seed, but just the sod.
At best I'm just a vessel
not the wine that fills the cup
faith will yield not wrestle
He puts down and He lifts up. -id

