



THE HIGH PRICE OF SIN AND UNBELIEF!

February 2013

In Genesis 25:30-34 we read: *“And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee with this same red pottage; for I am faint; therefore was his name called Edom. And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright. And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die, and what profit shall this birthright do unto me? And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he swore unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob. Then Jacob Gave Esau bread and pottage of lentils: and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way; thus Esau despised his birthright.”* The word “despised” means to set little or no value on something! He sold the birthright for a mess of pottage. No man ever played the part of a fool more than Esau. For a little gratification of the flesh he bargained against his own soul. There came a day when Esau changed his mind but it was too late! Whose fault was it that Esau lost his eternal soul? However, multitudes today are following in his steps. They are simply living for the present and the gratification of the flesh; they think nothing of the consequences or of an eternity in hell! Yes, it is a real place and we have the testimony of Jesus for that; see Luke 16. But sad to say many a believer has made the same poor decision – live for the here and now rather than for God and eternity. One only has to think of Lot as a classic example. When given the choice of where he would live, Lot made the choice solely on what would be a good place to raise livestock. His decision to go to the cities of the plain, Sodom and Gomorrah, was simply based upon the fact that the place was well-watered. There was no thought that the residents were homosexuals. Surely he knew! If he didn’t know when he decided to go there, he certainly knew upon arrival. For twenty years things went well with Lot. He prospered and even became one of the rulers in Sodom. Can you imagine that, a believer so compromised that they accepted him? But then God came to judge the place! Lot was told to gather all that he had in that place. Not strange that some of his family mocked him. Then, his wife looked back and perished. You know the situation with his two unmarried daughters; surely they were not saved. It all looked good for a time but Lot lost it all! If you are unsaved, or if you happen to be a believer in Christ who is living like the ungodly, I warn you that judgment is coming. If you are unsaved, God says, **“Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”** ~Luke 13:3,5. You need to change your mind about your sin and turn to Christ! **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”** ~Acts 16:31. If you are saved but living for the world and your own gratification, remember Lot! We might also say, Remember David, Remember Samson! Etc. Repent!

Christian, let me speak to you about another man – his name is Moses. Here is what God has said about him: *“By faith, Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.”* Hebrews 11:24-26. Moses counted the cost! He said living for the flesh isn’t worth it. It never was worth it and it never will be worth it! My Friend, it is up to you; you must make the choice: Will it be like Esau or Lot? Or, will it be like Moses?

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JESUS BUT NOT THE CHURCH! Some way out groups tell us that they like Jesus but not the Church. There are lay movements and extra-curricular organizations today that are not Church related. They endeavor to convert people to Christ, but leave them unaffiliated with any local fellowship of Christians. Christ is the Head of the Church and the Church is His body. We are not preaching the Head without the body or the body without the Head. A bodyless Head is as unscriptural as a headless body. Christ is the Groom and the Church is His Bride. We are married to Christ (Rom.7:4) and espoused to one Husband (II Cor.11:2). There is no marriage without the Bride and Groom. - Vane Havner. I have heard professing Christians say they didn't join a church in the New Testament. What nonsense? It says in Acts 2:41,42 **"There were added unto them about three thousand souls,"** and then it goes on to add: **"they continued stedfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship and in breaking of bread and in prayers..."**

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YOUTH CORNER

WHERE TO LOOK FOR TRUE HAPPINESS!

Not in unbelief --- Voltaire was an infidel of the most pronounced type. He wrote: "I wish I'd never been born."

Not in pleasure --- Lord Byron lived a life of pleasure if anyone did. He wrote --- "The worm, the canker and the grief are mine alone."

Not in money --- Jay Gould, the American millionaire had plenty of that. When he lay dying, he wrote, "I suppose that I am the most miserable man on earth."

Not in position and fame --- Lord Beaconsfield enjoyed more than his share of both. He wrote: "Youth is a mistake; manhood is a struggle; old age a regret."

Not in military glory --- Alexander the Great conquered the known world in his day. Having done so, he wept in his tent because, he said, "There are no more worlds to conquer."

Where is happiness to be found? The answer is simple:

In Christ alone --- He said, "I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you." ~John 16:22. -Clarence Edward MacCartney

SPEAKING THE TRUTH UNTRUTHFULLY!

There is a lot of preaching today that is not really faithful to the Word of God. There is preaching that leaves out the hard things and rests more on man's opinion. Dr. Francis L. Patton said, "The modern minimizers of the Gospel take a few tablets of doctrine, dissolve them in a gallon or two in the rose water of sentimentality, put a little in an atomizer, and spray the congregation to the accompaniment of the sweetness of Christianity and the fragrance of the benevolent life. The New Testament however tells another story: Man is a sinner needing to be redeemed, and the only way of salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ." John Bunyan said, "When sometimes I was about to preach upon some smarting or searching portion of the Word of God, I found the Tempter suggesting, "What? Will you preach this? This of which you yourself are guilty? Do not preach on the subject today, or if you do, mince it..." I remember that many years ago I was preaching in another city and during the week was in a meeting of Fundamental preachers. In the discussion, the subject of hell came up. One of the men said that he was told in seminary, that while hell was in the Bible, there were plenty of other subjects to preach on. Is it not dishonest and deceitful to neglect to warn sinners of their awful doom unless they repent and receive Christ as their Savior? The Apostle Paul said, **"For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."** ~Acts20:27. God help us to faithfully preach the Word!

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

CONGRESS UNANIMOUSLY BANS INTERNET REGULATION. In a move proposed to blunt any attempt by the United Nation's to regulate the Internet, both arms of the U.S. Congress voted unanimously to ban such regulation. Representative Greg Walden said the lawmakers were sending "a strong bipartisan, bicameral signal about America's commitment to an unregulated Internet." The Internet is an American invention and was birthed in an atmosphere of liberty. It is suspected that Internet regulation could be proposed at the ongoing U.N. International Telecommunications Union's world conference in Dubai, where delegates are revising a global telecom treaty. Many of the member nations of the U.N. are tyrannical and would love to stifle free speech and free religion via the Internet. In fact, some, such as communist China, already do this everywhere within their reach. – *FBIS* (12/14/12). Ed. It's good to see Congress get something right!

MORMONS MARCH IN LGBT PARADES. On June 22 Mormons were preparing to march in seven LGBT parades: New York City, San Francisco, Houston, Seattle, Cleveland, Twin Cities and Santiago, Chile. More than 140 Mormons are expected to march in Santiago alone. It is striking to think that it was four years ago that the LDS church issued a letter to be read to California congregations to full engagement in support of Proposition 8, setting into motion a headline-grabbing Mormon campaign to end civil same-sex marriage in California. Since then, Mormons for Marriage founder Laura Compton writes that there have been a number of subtle changes in Mormon positioning on same-sex marriage including: The church handbook no longer suggests that Mormons lobby governments or deny same-sex marriage; LDS rhetoric about same-sex marriage rights is shifting on the need to protect religious freedom rather than the need to protect families; The LDS Public Affairs office actually used the term 'gay' to describe same-sex individuals rather than same-sex... --TBC – Dec. 2012. Ed. One easy way to tell a cult (false form of Christianity) is they change their doctrine and/or methods with the times or trends. I can't think of a cult which hasn't done that. And it is true of all cults, including the greatest one, Roman Catholicism. The truth – the true Word of God does not change. **"Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in Heaven."** ~*Psalm 119:89*. There are many similar verses in the Scriptures. For example see the following: **Psalm 12:6,7; Psalm 119:152, 160; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 5:18; Luke 21:33; John 10:35; I Peter 1:23,25.**

QUEEN JAMES BIBLE. Now this foolish generation, which is lurching from one stupid and wicked thing to another as it stumbles along in spiritual darkness, farther and farther from the truth, has produced a "Gay Pride" Bible. It's called the Queen James Bible, and it is \$34.95 on Amazon. It claims that only eight verses in the King James Bible oppose homosexuality, but that's no problem because all eight have been "reinterpreted" in this Bible. Homosexual activists, if they address the Bible at all, claim that it is opposed only to forceful and violent homosexual acts, such as rape, and to homosexuality performed in the context of ancient idolatrous temple cults, and that it does not address homosexuality in general and homosexuality in the context of "a loving, committed relationship." So the Queen James Bible changes Genesis 15:5 to read, "And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? Bring them out unto us, that we may rape and humiliate them." That is clever, but it is not what the Hebrew says. The Queen James Bible translator simply made this up. And it is not what the New Testament defines as the sin of Sodom. Jude says the city was given over to fornication and going after strange flesh (Jude 7). I have heard it said that Jesus did not address homosexuality, but that is nonsense. He addressed marriage and pointed back to Genesis 2 as the divine standard for all men of all centuries (Matthew 19:4-6). Jesus taught that holy matrimony is a divine institute in which one male and one female are united for life. Jesus was opposed, therefore, to "same-sex marriage." The Bible plainly and irrefutably teaches that any sexual relationship outside of or in addition to holy marriage is a grave sin called either fornication or adultery. "Marriage is honour-able in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Heb. 13:4). *FBIS* (12/28/12).

ANTI-ISRAEL SECRETARY OF DEFENSE? The outrage is building. Opposition to President Obama's anti-Israel choice for Secretary of Defense is growing. Even some in the mainstream media agree that Senator Chuck Hagel's radical views make him "not the right choice." Senator Hagel has voted to appease Iran. He has even urged direct talks with the vile terrorists of Hamas, who target Israeli civilians with hundreds of rocket attacks every year. He also supports dangerous cuts to our military as unrest grows in the Middle East. Even more disturbing, Iran publicly welcomed Hagel's nomination, while Israel has stated, "We are worried. The ACLJ is actively engaged, working on Capitol Hill and beyond, to stop this dangerous nomination. Israel and our Armed Forces deserve better. –ACLJ 1/10/13. Ed. While most of the world is against Israel, God will yet save them and make them head of the nations!

HOW DO YOU GIVE?

The Corinthian believers had a number of serious problems but giving was not one of them. The reason for their generosity is found in II Corinthians 8:5: “...**But first gave their own selves to the Lord.**” Someone has observed that the Bible refers to giving about 1520 times! In the New Testament approximately one verse in eight refers to Christian stewardship in one way or another. Someone has defined giving as “the unselfish outpouring of oneself...the voluntary bestowing of one’s own possessions, expecting nothing in return.” Indeed, no gift, no helping hand, no charitable accomplishment can fulfill its divine purpose except it glow with a spirit of Christlikeness --- which is to give oneself with the gift! Paul commended the Macedonian Christians because in their giving, they were motivated by the fact that they had first given themselves to the Lord. Once we give our body and soul to the Lord in total surrender our possessions come trailing along without any difficulty. **“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”** ~Romans 12:1,2. If we are not fully surrendered to the Lord, giving will be a difficult job instead of a joy. The Word says, **“God loveth a cheerful giver.”** ~II Corinthians 9:7. I am afraid that we do not have many “cheerful givers.” What about you, my dear reader?

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THE LOVE OF PLEASURE

The following was written some years ago by T.T. Shields, longtime Pastor of Jarvis Street Baptist Church, Toronto, Canada. “It is a fact that vast numbers of professed Christians are now being carried away by an ever-growing love of pleasure which, like a mighty tide is sweeping over the world. The great question that faces us is this: What is the truly Christian attitude toward these things? The passion for pleasure, for society, for worldly amusements, has made barren churches as it has childless homes. ‘It is only an innocent pleasure,’ you say... It is the simple standard of the new Testament, (that) if there be any pleasure upon which my heart is so set that it is of more interest to me than the interest of a soul for whom Christ died, I am unworthy of my office and I ought immediately to resign that pleasure or resign my office. If there be a deacon in this church who thinks more of an evening at the theater, of the diversion of a game of cards, or the pleasure of dance, than the interest of a soul for whom Christ died, he is unworthy of his office, and he ought to immediately resign either the pleasure or the office. The same is true Sunday School teachers or officers, and also every member of the church. There is but one course compatible with love and loyalty to Christ, and that is to resolve by His grace, and by the might of His Spirit in the inner man, we will put Him always and everywhere first; then we will live to realize the purpose of the cross in our own lives; that we will lose our lives for Christ’s sake that we may find them.”