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ARE WE COMPROMISED?
From Leonard Ravenhill sermon

"And there was no room for Him in the inn. He got a bit older. There was no room in His family. His family turned on Him. He went to the temple. No room in the temple - the temple turned on Him. And when He died, there was no room to bury Him. He died outside of the city. Well, why in God's name do you expect to be accepted everywhere? How is it that the world couldn't get on with the holiest Man that ever lived and can get on with you and me? Are we compromised? Have we no spiritual stature? Have we no righteousness that reflects on their corruption?"

"And Paul says that's what the world is to me. It's a system of corruption and rottenness and vileness. It's anti-Christ from the word go. Is the world crucified to you tonight - or does it fascinate you?"

"Christianity began as a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. When it went to Athens, it became a philosophy. When it went to Rome, it became an organization. When it went to Europe, it became a culture. When it came to America, it became a business."

"Oh, how pure in heart must he be, who would rejoice to appear before God at a moment's warning!" - John Wesley

The following is by Sermon Index moderator, Greg Gordon. It was previously published in his online newsletter. Greg's website is highly recommended: www.sermonindex.com.

SALVATION THAT DOES NOT SAVE **by Greg Gordon**

A vital message exposing spurious preaching of the gospel

MOCK SALVATION

In the last days the Apostle Paul declared that there would be a segment of people that would give heed to "seducing spirits and doctrines of devils." We are living in the reality of this passage of Scripture for there are "doctrines of demons" being preached from many pulpits worldwide. But you might argue that the gospel is being preached and we should approve! My friend we must realize that there were many false gospels preached in the apostles days and there are many false gospels being preached today. God has no interest and is not required to honor such a gospel that is false. There is an epidemic of a sort of "mock" salvation being preached from many pulpits today. It is a gospel message that is not authentic. It is correct in doctrine but false in reality. It is a salvation that does not work! It is a salvation that does not save! The holy Scriptures warn of a "falling away" apostatizing from the faith of Christ. Christ spoke of a strong word of emphatic warning to his disciples: "Take heed that no man deceive you." Oh believer! It is possible for you to be deceived with a gospel that is spurious, false, and counterfeit. You might ask what is this "mock" salvation that is being spoken of? Simply defined it is a salvation that does not make men holy. It was warned about in the Epistle of Jude in this phrase: "turning the grace of God into lasciviousness." Catherine Booth in her book "Popular Christianity" speaks of this gospel and her dismay of many that follow in its deception: "Alas, many false, delusive, disappointing christs; so I have to show that there are many make-believe, mock salvations, which only deceive, disappoint, and damn those who trust in them. As I walk about the world, and as I look at professing Christians, my soul cries: O God, make haste to help us raise up a holy people, in order to show the world what salvation really means, for they do not know. They are utterly befogged and bewildered, and I do not wonder."

SINNERS SAVED TO SIN?

Perhaps no other evangelical phraseology has caused more damage to true gospel preaching than this simple coined phrase: "sinners saved by grace." Thus the Scriptures read to most such as: "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the sinners which are at Ephesus, and to the unfaithful in Christ Jesus." No, ten thousand times no! Rather the Holy Ghost spoke a message that did not glorify sin but rather the holiness and salvation of God in believers from sin. The deception is real and persuasive. The simple question can be asked, "What have you been saved from?" Not positionally but practically. Are there any sins which Christ has delivered you from? Christ was manifested that he might "take away our sins." He spoke to the women caught in adultery, "Go, and sin no more." Paul stated that we "who are dead have been freed from sin." A French infidel, answering a cavalier against holiness, said the other day, "You believe and sin, I do not believe and sin: where is the difference? It seems to me I am the better of the two." Exactly, for however true or grand a man's beliefs, of what

use are they if he does not act them out? Can faith save him? Nay, verily, but such a faith can damn him. This is false security to believe that we can act, talk, and walk like the world and still claim salvation in Christ. Sinners are not saved to sin but rather saved to holiness and good works. We are the light of the world so that our "good works" may be manifest before men that they may "glorify our Father in Heaven." This is biblical Christianity.

It might seem strange to say that ministers of religion are "pleading for impurity and sin." Yet, dear reader, this is exactly what multitudes of professors preach and teach that you cannot be free from sin. That you must sin! This is a unbiblical emphasis and the Apostles and Christ always preached from the vantage point of the possibility to walk holy and free from sin. Is "Christ the minister of sin? God forbid!" Christ is the minister of holiness and righteousness in God. Hear the lament of Fox over this opposition to the truth: "But they could not endure to hear of purity, and of victory over sin and the devil. They said they could not believe any could be free from sin on this side of the grave. I bade them give over babbling about the Scriptures, which were holy men's words, whilst they pleaded for unholiness. Then I bade them forbear talking of the Scriptures, which were the holy men's words; 'for,' said I, 'the holy men that wrote the Scriptures pleaded for holiness in heart, life, and conversation here; but since you plead for impurity and sin, which is of the devil, what have you to do with the holy men's words?'" The warning of Christ is against this gospel where professors of religion are forbidding people to be a part of the holy body of Christ: "But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in."

Can there be preached a gospel that damns people? The warning of the last days is that "there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies." They teach the gospel of God in a way that damns and does not free people. It speaks of life and heaven yet does not offer a release of the bondage of sin in believers. The great falling away will damn people even though they believed in a supposed gospel: "That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." The true Gospel will free people from the pleasure, potential and possibility of sin. This is not a crucial matter and not something to accept as tolerable. The extent of this modern day "mock" salvation that does not result in producing a holy people is damning people to hell. Does this seem strong? Harsh? It is better to be offended over these words and repent from this gospel rather than meeting Christ as the judgement seat being found "in your sins" not "in Christ" and the freedom of sin that our precious Saviour offers. Yes! He is the Saviour from sin. Not of covering it, but removing it. Catherine Booth again speaks to this contradiction of true biblical preaching: "It is doubtless better to have right opinions than wrong ones, but the best opinions will not save a man. I am afraid there is a great deal of preaching that amounts to a mere putting of the different theories about salvation, instead of persuading men to come to Christ and be saved." This error is subtle for it appears there is a preaching of the right texts and emphasis, yet alas it does not bring people to the person of Christ. Mere theory will not remove sins, but an encounter with the living Christ who died to take away sin.

PREACHING WITH TEARS

Preaching with tears is the mark of true gospel preaching. Not just the tears themselves bear witness to the truth but are an outward manifestation of the greatness and loftiness of the gospel that actually saves a sinner from their sins. Catherine Booth gives us her estimation of preaching that was worthless in her day. It was a preaching that did not save from sin, did not offer the sinner much except a theoretical pardon from their guilt complex: "The main idea of much of the preaching of this day seems to be that of teaching people, instructing them, which too often results in hardening their hearts, and finding them an easier way down to perdition than they would have found without it. Unfortunately a man feels more comfortable when he has been to a place of worship and heard a fine theory about salvation, then he would if he had not been, although he may be no nearer being saved. All preaching or any other instrumentality which has not for its end the immediate salvation of the people, only leads them to trust in mere teaching, which is a mockery. You can see the want of it in the way they fail to bring men to Christ. How my heart has ached over this aimless, pointless preaching, I could not express."

Preaching that is not impassioned with the goal of bringing people to the living God who can break the fetters of sin is then in turn pointless preaching. Catherine Booth relates this story showing forth an example of not mere doctrinal preaching but showing the power of God and effectual working of God's Word: "Would to God there were more preaching in the fix of a Baptist minister in a town where we are just now having a glorious work, who has been so stirred up and awakened to his responsibilities, that, on a recent occasion when he had read his text, he broke down, weeping, which had more effect than all the sermons he had preached during the years he had been in that town. His people wept too, and many of them got converted over again. I wish that a few thousands of the ministers of this kingdom could be brought to a similar state of mind before next Sunday; what a commotion there would be in the land, and what a stir in hell, ah, and in heaven too!"

The saintly Edward Griffin who was used of God in the second great awakening and gives us an example of bringing people to a Christ who is a savior of sin. The church historian David Smithers gives us this word picture: "A hearer of Mr. Griffin in New Jersey in 1829 gives us a description of his preaching and of the love and brokenness which gave that preaching its power. "During most of the sermon his face was wet with tears, and for nearly an hour he spoke to us with such tender and appealing sentences that it seemed as if his hearers must cry out in an agony of fear and trembling . . . But what a climax the ending was! It was a wonder how he endured the strain so long and that he had not given up physically exhausted. The mental agony, the heartbreaking sympathy, were enough to break an angel down! When he fell on his knees as if he had been knocked on the head with an ax, with outstretched arms, tears coursing down his face, he cried out; 'Oh! my dying fellow sinners, I beseech you to give your heart to the Savior now. Give your life to Jesus Christ, do not put it off! Do not leave this house without dedicating yourself to His service, lest you be left at last to cry, the harvest is past, the summer is ended, and I am not saved.'"

What consolations can you offer to your hearers? Do you preach as one that has a freedom of sin and liberty in the gospel of Jesus Christ? This statement was given by the 'General Conference of the Protestant Missionaries of China' in 1877, yet perhaps in our generation we need a release of the tyranny of sin over the Church! "How long shall this fearful ruin of souls continue? Ought we not to make an effort to save China in this

generation? Is God's power limited? Is the efficacy of prayer limited? This grand achievement is in the hands of the Church... We want China emancipated from the thrall of sin in this generation."

May we experience this "emancipating" power that the Church of God may sin no more!

* * *

(Thomas Boston, "Human Nature in its Fourfold State")

"Haters of God." Romans 1:30

"The carnal mind is enmity against God." Romans 8:7

"Men set up for themselves, an idol of their own fancy, instead of the true God, and then fall down and worship it. Every natural man is an enemy to God-as He is revealed in His word. The infinitely holy, just, powerful, and true God-is not the God whom he loves, but the God whom he loathes! The Pagans finding that they could not be like God in holiness, made their gods like themselves in filthiness; and thereby they show what sort of a god the natural man would have. God is holy; can an unholy creature love His unspotted holiness?"

**ASK PASTOR M.:
ANSWERS TO YOUR BIBLE QUESTIONS
by Pastor Jackson Morro**

Question: Why did both water and blood flow from the side of Jesus when He was pierced?

Answer: There is both a medical reason and a spiritual reason why both blood and water flowed from the side of Jesus. Let's look at the actual scripture, John 19:34:

"...but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water."

At the moment of this piercing, Jesus had already died. The soldier pierced His side to make sure Jesus was really dead so they would not have to break His legs to hasten His death before sundown which was the beginning of the Jewish highest holy day, the Passover, when dead bodies could not be left hanging on trees or crosses because it would bring curse on the land. The Jews probably would have revolted against the Romans if they didn't accommodate this Jewish custom and Pilate would have been removed as Roman governor and executed by Caesar for not keeping peace.

By all outward appearances Jesus seemed dead. In fact, He was physically dead at that moment (but spiritually alive and in Paradise). The soldier thrust a spear into Jesus to make sure He really was dead. The Bible really doesn't say which side the spear was thrust in. Traditional representations of Jesus on the cross show Him pierced on His right side. A long Roman spear with a sharp edge would have done the most damage by being thrust into the right side, so this traditional representation is probably the correct one. A 5 or 6 foot spear thrust in the right side could be put in just under the rib cage (so no bone would be broken) and on an upward angle damage the lungs, heart, possibly also the liver and stomach.

There is a physical, medical reason why both blood and water came out of Jesus' side. The position of crucifixion was set up so a person would have extreme trouble breathing and would in most cases cause death by suffocation because the lungs could not work efficiently and the heart would overwork (like when somebody has a bad cold or flu and can't breathe well). When lungs don't work properly, fluid accumulates in them and also there is a sac around the heart called the pericardium (it's like a "baggie" around the muscle of the heart to protect it) and when the heart can't pump properly, fluid can collect in the pericardium (this is a common condition in today's disease of congestive heart failure). So, because of the severe stress that Jesus' respiratory system had undergone, it is very likely that water had accumulated in both His lungs and pericardium. Also, upon death the elements in blood (corpuscles, water, plasma) start to separate into their separate components. It is possible that this was beginning in Jesus' body, but that depends on how long He had been physically dead, so we just don't know. A spear thrust and puncture would have released both the blood and water from Jesus' internal organs.

But more importantly, there was a spiritual reason why blood and water came out of His side. Remember, EVERYTHING JESUS DID HAD A SPIRITUAL REASON AS WELL AS A PHYSICAL REASON.

The water and blood coming from Jesus' side represents Jesus giving up part of Himself so His bride, the Church could come into existence. When God was making Eve, the bride for Adam, He put Adam into a deep sleep and took one of Adam's ribs and formed it into a woman (scientists think they are so smart with "cloning" - God already did this kind of thing back in the Garden of Eden).

The Bible calls Jesus the New Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45) and the Church is His bride (Ephesians 5:25-27). How did Jesus' bride, the Church come into being? Jesus went into a deep sleep (physical death) but instead of a rib or bone, He gave His water and blood to bring the Church (us) into existence as a spiritual living bride.

The blood represents salvation. Our sins are forgiven by being washed away by the blood of Jesus.

The water represents the empowering of our spiritual life by the Holy Spirit. In John 7:37 Jesus said if any man was spiritually thirsty they should come to Him and Jesus would cause living water (the Holy Spirit) to flow from their innermost being. The water coming from Jesus represents His giving to us the same Holy Spirit that He had within Himself.

If you have any questions for Pastor Morro for future issues, please email pastormorro@faithontheearth.com.

The following was sent in an email. It is a beautiful writing about how we should never give up, that God, in His divine moment, will change us into what we are intended to be.

THE BUTTERFLY **by Pastor Victor Omoosa**

Hello Saint of the most high GOD:

I was reading an article the other day that suggested that when a caterpillar is about to become a butterfly it has no idea that its life is about to change forever. I found that to be amazing! How could it not know? How could something so small and fragile not

realize that it was on the brink of something special - something so wonderful and sought after that not even the artistic genius of mankind has been able to capture the wonder of this moment with any real eloquence or power. And yet the caterpillar remains so profoundly unaware until all of a sudden forces beyond its control thankfully interrupt its misery and compel it to fly.

Isn't it funny how you can be right on the edge of the greatest moment in your life and not even know it. After years of crawling and struggling to make it you would think that we would intuitively know that something profoundly good was about to happen but often it is only after we have been delivered that we are able to look back and trace the truth of how we got here. Sometimes victory comes with all the sensations of the defeat. Sometimes God has to take your sight before he can restore your vision; but the truth of the matter is we never know. We never know when this might be the day that it all comes together. Or that this might be the exact moment in our lives when it all makes sense and we emerge from the shadows ready to fly.

I would have you to know that possibility is real. It is not just a word or an idea created in a dark room by men who were themselves too afraid of the light to live. Ask the butterfly. The next time you see a butterfly ask her if she has any memory of what her life was like before she learned how to fly and she will tell you no. Ask her to recall the exact moment that she realized that she was about to become beautiful and she will answer your questions with silence, partly because she was always beautiful, but mostly because just like you, life never tells us when something good is about to happen. This is why we have to keep on living. This is why we have to keep on believing that midnight cannot last forever and truth crushed down to earth will rise again. You owe it to yourself to go a little further. And while it is true that the journey can make you weary, it is also the case that in the end it will make you strong. In a little while everything will be different. In a little while you won't even remember what it was like to crawl so close to the ground. What used to make you cry is about to make you dance; and I can't wait to see you fly. I can't wait to see the look of satisfaction on your face the first time you feel the soft secure squeeze of earth between your toes and you whisper to yourself - I finally made it!

This is not for giving up. This is for light at the end of the tunnel; because just when the caterpillar thought it was over it became a butterfly.

May the oil of your life be full of his grace.

COMMENTARY ON VIRGINIA TECH SHOOTINGS by Paula Leanes

Should a society that allows mothers of unborn children to kill those children in the womb expect spirits of murder and violence not to be unleashed in that society? We are reaping where we have sown.

God be with the families of the victims of the April 16th shooting at Virginia Tech and give them comfort, and give us all eyes to see and ears to hear the truth of what is going on.

We have become a murderous and insane society. The problem is spiritual in nature and cannot be overcome except by the power of the Holy Spirit operating by the love of Christ in the hearts of mankind. The heart of the problem is the Christless human heart.

When will we wake up? How many more times will Satan and his cohorts target the young, with us sitting on the sidelines, halfheartedly saying "Oh, tragedy"? When Satan

doesn't get them in the womb, he goes into the schools and universities and gets them there. When is this nation going to see the root of its rotten fruit? Perhaps when the Church decides to be the Church again and fight its spiritual battles as Christ taught us.

The following is from a reader who responded to Housecleaning article a few issues back:

NOTES FROM YOU

From Christopher Dart, Connecticut:

Indeed, dear sister, the world has crept into the church. Our shepherds, who should have held the flock accountable to the law, judgement, righteousness, grace, forgiveness and the love of Christ have sold out to the world. Our shepherds, who should have kept the wolves out of the church but, rather, allowed them in if the right sheep's clothing were worn, have given up their responsibilities for an assured paycheck. After all, the elders, who sign the paycheck, insist that there be great programs and activities to keep today's people returning and tithing. A pastoral offense could cause a reduced pastoral paycheck or none at all.

A pastor who plays guitar, sings wonderfully, golfs and knows the best fishing holes (for fish, not men) is seen as the most popular. Time in the closet has been exchanged for time at leisure. Days of fasting have been exchanged for special offers at McDonald's and the Steak House. The result is an apostate church. Preaching of a dead letter proceeded by an obligatory prayer which falls to the ground. Yet impressive programs and enticing outreaches have replaced Holy Ghost wooing of the sinful man to salvation.

Paula, I've been on my face before God. I've been set on the wall as a watchman over the church. I sound the alarm but few listen. My wife and I are nearly finished with the renovation of my ancestral (mansion) home, which will be dedicated as a house of prayer and a place where the lost will be saved and the saved will be set on fire, know their God and do exploits. As for now, I must wait upon the Lord, get on my face before His throne and be faithful in that which He has given me.

The Bible says, "We are the aroma of Christ . . ." Certainly, that's something I sense from you. Your disdain for the apostasy of the church leads me to believe that you are either in New England or California. I do sense that the midwest churches believe that being in the Bible Belt makes them more spiritual, when, in fact, they seem equally apostate.

I believe it would do your spirit and soul good to visit Times Square Church at 51st and Broadway in Manhattan, NY. I attend Pastors' Prayer every month and am given the spiritual lift I need for the rest of the month. Since I live in Central Connecticut, I must spend considerable time in transit. There is no question that the visit, prayer, worship, fellowship and lunch are well worth a day's work. The next meeting is next Wednesday at noon. You are free to attend, as you are a watchman for the church (I believe the most important ministry).

I very much enjoyed reading the excerpts of "The Jeremiah Connection." I hope I can help you get those into the hands of committed believers.

"This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh."

(Thank you, Christopher, for your encouragement! Note: I grew up in New England and now live in Michigan. But I don't know if this is where I plan to settle. All is in God's hands... Blessings from Paula)