

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
Donald E. Martin, Sr.

*“Not willing that any should perish,
but that all should come to repentance”*

II Peter 3:9

Dear beloved in Christ, over my thirty-eight years of walking among the various Baptist of our society, I cannot count the number of times I have heard ministers in their attempts to persuade people to decide to follow the Lord Jesus Christ using the title subject indicated above.

*This verse is a perfect example of scripture taken out of its intended context and being used to mean something which it does not. This verse is used often in an attempt to convince the conscience that the religious Christian world is neglecting to do its **DUTY** when it comes to gathering folks into the kingdom of God and that because they are not obedient to this challenge, many are perishing daily into the dregs of hell.*

*To determine the **TRUTH** of this scripture text, we must determine to whom the text is addressed. Is it to include the entirety of the human race? Or to whom is it addressed?*

***FIRST**, we must look to whom Peter is writing. Peter writes, “Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, **to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.**” This greeting is emphatically addressed to the believer’s in Christ. This is the key to understanding the message in Peter’s epistle.*

***SECOND**, Peter proceeds in chapter three verse nine as follows; “The lord is not slack concerning his promise, but is longsuffering to **US-WARD**” (Note: The “Us-ward” is **ONLY** addressing those believers to whom he is writing) not willing that any (note: “ANY” of the “Us-ward”) should perish, but that all (Note: “ALL” refers to the “Us-ward”) should come to repentance” (II Peter 3:9). The text is indicating that **NONE** of*

God's chosen ordained, appointed, elect, and called children shall perish and that ALL of these heirs of grace chosen in Christ shall come to repentance.

This IS NOT a general comment to include the entirety of the human race of all mankind as have been misrepresented by the evangelical zeal message. As proven, it is addressed to the children of God of whom has been chosen in Christ by God the Father before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4). These under consideration are quickened with Spiritual **LIFE** by the sovereign work of divine grace to see themselves as depraved sinners, which were alien to the things of God and spiritually dead by nature's sinful curse. When one sees them self in this condition brought about by divine quickening, a poor and needy condition is felt and Godly sorrow leads the hopeless sinner to **REPENTANCE**. Repentance is a attribute and gift of grace granted Gods children bringing them before the throne of the Almighty as beggarly souls with a contrite heart, mind and soul. This work of repentance is granted of God (Acts 11:18), and given by God (Acts 5:31).

Unless one is given genuine, God granted repentance, there shall not be a true Godly sorrow for sin. This Godly Sorrow which works repentance causes a change and desire to walk in a **NEW WAY as spiritual awakening is manifested**.

THIRD, Initial repentance in the conversion experience is just the beginning. For who the Lord loveth he **CHASTENS**. This chastening is evidence that one is a child of God. And repentance is the result of our Lords divine love and chastening. "But if ye be without chastisement, **wherefore ALL are partakers**, then ye are **BASTARDS**, and not sons" (Heb. 12:8).

Sad to report, there are many which have been "emotionally" persuaded by men's means and methods to "make a decision for Jesus" as he is waiting and wanting you to come to him? "Choose Jesus" and be saved from the condemnation of hell. Those who have (so called) come to a belief in Christ by the persuasion of man's beckoning, result in being merely "SHAM" conversions, only an emotional experience that is exempt of the quickening of the Spirit and the evidence of genuine Godly sorrow and granted repentance. There is not evidence in time of a **NEW CREATURE** born of God.

Only those chosen in Christ to be the adopted heirs of divine and sovereign grace will be true witnesses of God by granted repentance and desire to follow the Masters voice as he says, "FOLLOW ME"Repentance shall be a virtue of the true heir of grace, as sin is evident in our walk here below, we are brought to continual repentance as we find ourselves unable to live in perfection in these mortal frames. For repentance is just as much a work of God as salvation itself. It is ALL by GRACE and GRACE alone, by HIM to who alone deserves ALL honor, praise and glory without end, yea even Christ our Saviour of whom we have to do.

IN CONCLUSION, If, in fact, "God is not willing that ANY perish but that ALL come to repentance," how does one explain the destruction of the human race in the flood?

Whereas ONLY eight souls were saved? Was it not Gods will that ALL of mankind perish in the 40-day deluge? Then when God in his sovereign act of destroying the cities of Sodom & Gomorrah and all their inhabitants, was this not in the perfect will of the Almighty? Not to mention the perishing of thousands of rebellious Israel by the opening of the earth and swallowing the multitude in death. When one is revealed that God “is in the heavens and doeth whatsoever he pleases” and He alone has “declared the end from the beginning” of those things which have not come to pass as yet, who is it that can question the works of the Almighty?

May we be persuaded that God in his divine purpose can destroy the totality of mankind and be JUST and RIGHTEOUS in all that he is pleased to accomplish.

Respectfully submitted,

This message was preached at Fellowship Primitive Baptist Church on Sunday, November 1, 2009