

The Gospel Herald

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

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS
by
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A Portion of the Gospel

I was watching television the other evening when I ran across a channel that was running classics of Billy Graham’s early ministry crusades. This particular program was Billy preaching in a tent meeting in the 1960s.

He had just walked to the pulpit and was beginning his discourse, so I tuned in on what was said. He stated the condition of the nation in regard to its sinful condition and proceeded to proclaim that the ONLY answer to mans’ sin problem is Christ and what was accomplished on the cross to reconcile sinners.

The next fifteen minutes of his message were impeccable regarding the sufficiency of Christ’s redeeming work and that Christ alone is the saviour of sinners.

Now, the discouraging part of the discourse as he concluded, was his “famous” invitation of Christ into one’s life to be saved; to make a “decision” and “choose” Christ as one’s saviour. Now we, who have by sovereign revelation been revealed the truth of the matter, know that ONLY the Holy Spirit effectually calls the lost sinner by the operation of the quickening Spirit of the living God, and then and ONLY then, can one endorse and hear the Gospel with spiritually hearing ears.

I have heard most of the critical comments over the past 35 years about Billy Graham, even from numerous Old Baptists and Sovereign

Grace Reformed Baptists, that Billy Graham was preaching “another Jesus!”

Was he preaching “another Jesus?” When he quoted all the scripture regarding Christ’s sacrificial work on the cross from the KJV Bible and emphatically expressed that “Christ is the ONLY way to eternal life and to obtain the forgiveness of sins,” is this ANOTHER Jesus?

If any mortal stand and read John 14:6, whether they believe it or not, does it nullify the truth of the Scripture? Absolutely not. The word of God is forever settled in heaven whether a man believe it or not. I have been guilty in days past of being very critical of those proclaiming the Arminian freewill message, but has it all been in vain? Has God ordained the limited, freewill, free offer invitation, message by mans’ limited understanding for naught?

Has this Arminian message of Christ’s gospel been used to sow any seed of truth in the ears of God’s elect? Those of you brethren that have come out of the neo-evangelical missionary assemblies from years past, was ANY of what was heard in those meetings profitable to the Spirit man? Did you first hear and learn of Christ under that missionary ministry, until God by his sovereign grace and determined timing brought you into the full revelation of an ALMIGHTY God, unlimited in all His character?

I must confess that the latter is true in my experience. I ministered a “freewill” message until God brought the revelation of Christ’s sovereignty and ever-ruling grace.

Now, if I was brought up under the sound of the “unlimited” gospel of Jesus Christ in a Primitive Old Baptist Church, I would have (most likely) a completely different concept of those of the Arminian missionary persuasion, and possibly question if any under such message could be of God’s elect.

I am persuaded that although a man preaches a freewill, free offer, decisional message, that the scriptural verses used in such discourse can be used as God determines to sow the seed of the word of truth in the heart, mind, and soul of an elect child of grace. For some shall

SOW, others WATER and God add the increase. Those SOWING and WATERING are NOT always Primitive Baptist brethren.

“Some, indeed, preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of goodwill: The one preaches a Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel. What then? Notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, CHRIST IS PREACHED: and I do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice” (Philippians 1:15-18).

PRETENCE: make believe, fiction, false show, professed rather than real.

The apostle expressed that even if the preacher proclaim CHRIST as a false pretense; nevertheless, CHRIST IS PREACHED!

The sovereign Almighty God of the Holy scriptures can cause STONES to cry out praise if he so desire. Who is man to limit the determined purpose of God in a mere PUPPET of a man stand as a professional unbelieving minister and read the scriptures referencing Christ as the SOWN seed of truth to an elect’s hearing ear?

Brethren, we need to focus our eyes upon that which we have been blessed to see as divine truth regarding the absolute almighty character of our God and proclaim it from the housetops! How easy to point the finger and say, “they are wrong,” yet, many are guilty of hiding that which is the TRUTH. If you truly believe the “Lord God omnipotent reigneth,” then may our Lord cause us to tell the seeking soul the truth of the matter.

We as kings and priest are the means the Almighty has chosen to deliver the Good news of the everlasting gospel.

As I have said in times past, I am NOT a missionary, yet God has set us all (who believe) on a mission, that “ye SHALL BE witnesses unto me when the Holy Ghost shall come upon you” (Acts 1:8).

You that have been brought out of the arminian missionary assemblies, be mindful, if God had desired, he could have left you there.

Take that which he has entrusted to you and PROCLAIM as long as you have breath; for by grace we have been revealed the truth, and by grace we shall testify of its power of God unto salvation to them that believeth.

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