

The Gospel Herald

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

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS
by
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Almost Persuadest me to be a Christian

The apostle Paul appeals before King Agrippa of his testimony of spiritual conversion and Paul said, “King Agrippa, believeth thou the prophets? I know that thou believest, Then King Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds” (Acts 26: 27-29).

I would not hesitate to say that ALL who read these words, who have children of their own, would hope that their offspring would be as “YOU” are with the hope of sins forgiven and life everlasting, and have the sweet and wondrous revelation of the unlimited and Almighty sovereignty of the God of the scriptures.

It has been said by a preacher of years past, “there is nothing more powerful in this world than a changed life brought about by the supernatural power of God Almighty through his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.” It is a sure thing that NONE can question a man who lived in sin’s dominion, and all of a sudden walks in a righteous manner, opposite to that which he was accustomed. This witness of change is a powerful demonstration of God’s almighty power in causing one to be transformed into a new creature in Christ. The onlooking world may question the Bible, and the truth of its words, yet, they are hard-pressed to question a CHANGED LIFE by a power outside the efforts of the creature.

The apostle Paul was convinced that King Agrippa believed the prophets, and Agrippa was “moved” by Paul’s conversion experience, yet, being MOVED by one’s experience is NOT the means that causes one to BELIEVE the gospel to the saving of the soul. “For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them; but the word preached did not profit them, NOT BEING MIXED WITH FAITH in them that heard it” (Heb. 4:2). We, as witnesses of God’s so great salvation, can proclaim the GOOD NEWS of this glorious experience of God’s power and sovereign grace, yet unless God, by divine mercy, causes

this message to ring true in the heart of those who are under the sound of the message of God's redeeming love, CANNOT perceive nor understand its spiritual truth and application UNLESS it be mixed with the "faith of Christ."

Faith, the SUBSTANCE of things hoped for, and the EVIDENCE of the things not seen shall ONLY cause one to lay hold upon the person of Christ and behold him as the ONLY sinners' Saviour. This operation of grace is the manifestation of the evidence of the Spirit within the heart, mind and soul of the former wayward sinner. Many dearly beloved have been under the heralding sound the gospel over time and, yet, are NEVER able to come to the knowledge of the truth. If God was so pleased, FAITH would have been given King Agrippa to CAUSE the acknowledgement of Christ Jesus as his ONLY hope of deliverance; but the scripture record does not suggest that such GIFT of GOD was given. Therefore, the King was merely "ALMOST" a Christian. "He that is of God heareth God's words; ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God" (Jn.8:47).

Beloved of God, this reiterates the fact that unless God, by sovereign, determined, and predestined mercy, bestows his Spirit within his elect chosen heirs, the gospel is vain babbling in the ears of the natural man. "For the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit, neither can he know them." But, Oh! How sweet the GOOD NEWS, the gospel, is to them which have been given ears to hear it, "for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."

Finally, I see where the apostle had a heartfelt concern for those whom he addressed, as he said: I would to God that all that hear me were as I am. Is that not the desire of the God-called gospel preacher - That those who be under the sound of our voices as we attempt to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, ALL might experience what God has brought about within our poor and sinful hearts? Redeeming love and sovereign mercy.

"For thousands of sinners the Lord bow his head; For thousands of sinners he groaned and he bled.

"My spirit rejoices, the work it is done! My soul is redeemed, salvation is won!

(Gadsby Hymnal #41, third verse)

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