

The Gospel Herald

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

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
Donald E. Martin, Sr.

Let the Almighty God of the Bible be the Lord of Your Life

In watching a television ministry in passing through the channels, I came across the aforementioned statement made on a certain program. It caught my attention because it totally contradicted itself. How could God be ALMIGHTY, yet be restricted by being limited to being just a saviour and NOT the Lord over them of which he has chosen to save?

The speaker proceeded to say to enjoy all the benefits of God, one must allow God to be the Lord of one’s life. This same message, if examined carefully, can be the exact teaching of the “Conditional Time Salvationist” Primitive Baptist. They would totally agree that those of God’s divine choosing were elected aforesaid and are destined to eternal immortal glory as their eternal home. Yet, would preach in order to be blessed with all the sweet benefits of God’s favor and blessings in this time world pilgrimage would depend upon the creature’s devotion and obedience. This is the jest of what is called “Two salvation” among most Primitive Baptist. The first being established from the foundation of the world, yet the second aspect is hinged upon the obedience of the believer in this time world, that is why it is called “Time salvation”, it refers to the believer’s obedience as to whether he shall taste of the sweet blessings of the Lord along the Pilgrim way.

This “two type” Christian view opens the door for the so called “carnal Christian”, one who gives lip service to a belief in Christ, yet lives a life lacking Spiritual priorities as part of their life style. If the believer is left up to performing the Christian life by their own devotion and efforts, I can assure you of total failure as the result. For Christ expressed, “Without me ye can do NOTHING.” “For the flesh profiteth NOTHING.” What creature can resist the will of the Almighty? What creature has the ability to let God be the Lord of one’s life? If the Almighty God does not cause the believer to walk in paths of righteousness and had not ordered their steps, we would be utterly helpless to perform nothing more than sin and serve self. To those our sovereign God calls into life everlasting through the vicarious sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ, these same one’s are made NEW CREATURES in Christ and walk a new path as God works in them to

WILL and to DO of his good pleasure. For He that hath begun a good work in us shall perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

TIME SALVATION is just as must a work of grace as eternal salvation!!

Gospel obedience is not of works, duty and out of obligation, but by the means of the Holy Spirit working in the believer as his treasure in earthen vessels. "For he PERFORMETH the thing that is appointed for me" (Job 23:14).

"I will cry unto God most high; unto God that PERFORMETH all things for me" (Psa.57:2). "In thy righteousness shall they be exalted" (Psa.89:16).

"And be found in him (Christ), not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through to FAITH OF CHRIST, the righteousness which is of God by faith" (Phil.3:9).

Anything less than Christ righteousness being worked in us by God's Spirit is mere duty efforts trying to merit God's blessings, what a sham gospel of nothing less than Arminian duty works of vanity which can be boasted of.

The TRUE called, elect, chosen heir of God "is blessed to perform good works", not working to merit blessing, and the blessings of grace to perform the Christian life is passive, as God needs not the creatures assistance to manifest holiness, for that alone is the evidence of grace in action.

Work Oh duty man! Seek obedience through the efforts of thy strength, and watch thyself fail time and time again, for when the Almighty shall teach you of his sufficiency, then only shalt thou know the true source of holiness.

April 16, 2006