

The Gospel Herald

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

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
Donald E. Martin, Sr.

The Keeper of the Spring

John 7: 37-38

I begin by sharing an historical (supposed) true story. There was a village of people in the Middle East that relied upon a spring which flowed from a nearby mountain to obtain their water in the little village below. At the spring head was a man the villagers paid with food and other necessities, to maintain and make sure the spring was clear of debris and dead animals, etc., so the water would always run clean and clear.

One day the villagers struggled for the needs of the people over time. One of the elders of the group suggested that they eliminate the man at the spring head to cease his duties, to save the people from having to reward him with dwindling commodities. So, they told the man to cease his duties and abandon his post at the spring head.

Well, it wasn’t but a few weeks that the stream began to be contaminated and started having a green foam showing up and the water was no longer clear. The villagers became quite concerned and begged the old spring keeper to resume his duties, as they were persuaded that they needed him to keep the water clean and pure once again.

I have drawn from this analogy the progressive demise of the purity of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ over the hundreds of generations of time. We read of the historically inspired writings of the apostle Luke in the book of Acts and the some thirteen epistles of the apostle Paul and John’s composition of the Revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ of the purity of the gospel and the simplicity of divine worship among the Lord’s people.

Yet, we see all around us, via social media, internet, television, and the immorality of our current society, that we have left the “spring head” unattended in most of “so-called” Biblical Christianity. Its purity has been contaminated with socialistic religion, name it and claim it, self righteous, positive thinking, entertainment programs, Christian comedians, etc, etc.; on and on. Biblical Christianity on the most part has taken a progressive slow turn from it’s straight and narrow way to a turn away from the purity of the gospel once delivered unto the saints.

The Christian religionists have become absorbed with self-righteousness and a legalistic gospel which is "ANOTHER GOSPEL" than that which the apostle Paul warned the Galatian Church about saying, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him called you unto the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, are an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, LET HIM BE ACCURSED" (Galatians 1:6-8).

I recall the early ministry of Peter proclaiming the gospel mixed with the Law and the Commandments of the old covenant to the gentiles until the apostle Paul with stood him (Peter) to his face rebuking him for not proclaiming the pure gospel of CHRIST ONLY excluding the law and the commandments. (Galatians 2:11-16)

"Our Lord Jesus stood and cried during the last day of the feast saying, if any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:37-38).

We who have been born of the Spirit of Christ and made new creatures in Christ Jesus have been entrusted with being the "KEEPERS OF THE SPRING," of the purity of the pure gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ has entirely taken upon himself to seek and save a people for his names sake by granting us the complete and unadulterated gospel of our Father's free and sovereign grace toward undeserving sinners.

And this experience of grace is evidenced by a transformation of the heart, mind and soul making us New Creatures in Christ and being given us the Spirit of Christ entrusting us to keep the gospel SPRING pure from contamination of humanistic works, religious laws and commandments, and traditions of men....

May we be those found continuing on the straight and narrow way proclaiming that Christ has declared "IT IS FINISHED" as he hung upon that old rugged cross in our behalf, completing ALL that was necessary to redeem a fallen remnant of people called the elect, chosen, called, ordained, appointed, predestined heirs of free and sovereign grace which was determined before the foundation of the world.

May by divine grace, we as a believing people of God, be steadfast in proclaiming that "CHRIST IS THAT LIVING WATER" which he declared to the dear Samaritan women at the well. (John 4: 13-14).

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst, come. And whosoever will, let him take the WATER OF LIFE FREELY" (Revelation 22:17).

Respectfully submitted, April 5, 2016