

INTRODUCTION

It is a sad fact, but notable in these last days, that many men and women -young and old, well off or otherwise - find that their lives are lacking. Many feel that the world in which they live is deteriorating, both physically and socially. Their efforts seem to be aimless; many are cynical in disillusionment, repelled by materialism; and, worst of all, without real and satisfactory goals or anticipation. They are seeking - seeking inspiration, seeking purpose, seeking hope,

How impressive and humbling to consider that the Creator of the universe watches and knows the state of all His creatures; knows every heart, and HE is seeking. The God in heaven is seeking the man or woman who will respond to His invitation. He offers a great Hope. He provides a way of life for every day, and more; a way which leads to life for eternity in circumstances so marvelous as to reach beyond our full understanding.

This appeal is to the mind who is seeking and longing for a better way. Let us consider, then,

SOME DOCTRINES TO BE UNDERSTOOD IF ONE SEEKS SALVATION

First of all, it is important to recognize that there is a SUPREME BEING, whose intelligence and power governs the universe.

HE IS GOD !

In considering religion, it is helpful to note that the word comes from the Greek, meaning to rebind, and so acknowledges the need for reconciliation between the Creator and the created. If there were no breach, what need would there be for religion?

The only premise upon which true religion can be established is that the Bible is the wholly-inspired Word of God, The Creator; and, that it alone reveals His will and purpose concerning this earth and those who inhabit it. Shall we let it speak?

"...From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures (Old Testament), which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." II Timothy 3:15.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." II Timothy 3:16.

Concerning the Almighty God, Who in great kindness has shown His purpose, we are told that He is ONE.

"I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me" Isaiah 45:5.

"But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things" I Corinthians 8:6.

The Lord Jesus is His Son, born of a virgin. He lived in perfect obedience to His Father's will, even to the death upon the cross; and, now is in heaven, as High Priest and Mediator between God and His people.

"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...." II Corinthians 1:3.

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14.

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." I Timothy 2:5.

"... We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens." Hebrews 8:1.

Further, the Holy Spirit is God's invisible Power, which cannot be separated from Him, by which His will is accomplished.

"... the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Genesis 1:2.

"Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created" Psalm 104:30.

"... if he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath; All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust." Job. 34:14,15.

The Old Testament foretold, and the New Testament bears record, that the Son of God is the Anointed Saviour; that He taught and desired His disciples to teach THE GOSPEL - the Truth concerning the Kingdom to be established here on the earth, and concerning Himself as its King.

"... he (Jesus) went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God" Luke 8:1.

"But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." Acts 8:12.

"And there was given him (the Son of Man) dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." Daniel 7:14.

"... The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." Revelation 11:15.

It will be noted above that Philip baptized men and women; also, that the Lord Jesus commanded men to be baptized.

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Mark 16:16.

"And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord" Acts 10:48.

"... arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Acts 22:16.

First comes belief or faith; then, baptism is required if sins are to be washed away.

A thinking person is now led to enquire: What does belief in the Gospel of the Kingdom and the Name of Jesus Christ involve? If it can be acknowledged that an actual political kingdom is to be established on the earth, what of popular teachings regarding heaven as a reward, and hell as a place of everlasting punishment for the wicked?

These beliefs can be proved to be false, by the Bible teachings regarding a responsibility which comes with the knowledge of the Truth, and leads to Resurrection and Judgment; and, in the end, the Hope of eternal life.