

## **A SEED FROM THE SOWER**

If you happen to die today, in looking over your life, where do you think God would allow you to go the second after you die? Would it be heaven or hell? Many people today avoid this very subject, which in fact is one of the most important facets of our existence on earth. When Jesus commanded His disciples to go into the hedges (rough places) and highways, and make disciples of all people, can it 'really' be said that we are 'really' obedient to His command? And can you say with certainty that you are proclaiming His Gospel to others based on Peter's message on the Day of Pentecost? He said, "Repent, and be baptized - everyone - in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission (removal) of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Have you received the Holy Ghost since the time you have believed on Jesus? Or do you not believe on Jesus enough to receive the Holy Ghost? This is a question every one of us should ask ourselves. One of the facets of Christ's ministry includes the Spirit-baptizing (i.e. Spirit Baptism) of those who believe in Him and on Him - with the Holy Ghost. And one of the facets of our earthly responsibilities to God is the proclamation of the message of 'good news' to others. Maybe this information is not important to you or to others who are reading it; an alternative to the truth is to allow demons to flood our minds and lives with other things we want to be important to us, more than what God has to say. 2 Timothy 3:4 has fulfilled itself in saying how, that, one of the signs in the last days is that "People will be lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God."

Today people spend hundreds of dollars in sports arenas and the stadiums to watch games, but won't dedicate five minutes to God in prayer. I recall a real-life example when I prayed for a man at a church altar. I asked him, "Would you like to receive the Holy

Ghost today?” He answered, no. He said, “I don’t want the Holy Ghost, I just want to be prosperous.” I said bless him Lord, and just sent him on his way. God doesn’t waste time on people who don’t want Him. It describes the very world we live in where people are more in love with pleasures, more than they are of God.

The books in the Bible are God’s love letters to us. Many people are not in love with the Lord enough to read what He has to say to them. If we do not deem them important to us while we are alive on earth, how do we think the Lord is just going to welcome us into His presence with open arms when we die? The Lord knows we are not in love with Him when we never take the time to read or to hear what He has to say to us. Take this example. If you were on a far away journey from home and wrote letters to your wife, it would greatly disappoint you if she would never take the time to read them. And if she never reads them, it would give you a clear picture as to how she really feels about you.

Physical death is as much of a reality as physical life. All who are born are guaranteed to also die. It is simply the result of the sin nature resident in our human flesh. Flesh and blood cannot inherit God’s kingdom. To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven. There is a time to be born, and a time to die (Ec. 3:1-2). When a person is born-again (Jn. 3:3, 5), their human-spirit is given the eternal spiritual life that comes only from God. The born-again believer is now a new creature (creation), whereas he or she is no longer spiritually dead as the consequence of sin (2 Co. 5:17). And if the subjects of death, Jesus, the Bible, or life after death are all not important to you now; these will be overwhelmingly important to all of us when we die. Rather, it will be too late to look for God at the point of physical death.

My friends don’t let no-body deceive you. There is no such thing as a death-bed confession to repentance and salvation under the New Covenant. The “thief on the cross” doesn’t give anyone an

excuse to look to God when they are about to die. As with Hebrew 3:15, he says, "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts." The Lord also says in the Proverbs 1:24-28 that, "When I called out to you - you refused to hear my voice. I stretched out my hand, and you wouldn't regard me. Therefore when destruction comes upon you, I will mock you, and you will then call out to me but I will not answer. You will look for me everywhere, but will not find me. This fits the very description of the situation of a person who never turned to God all their life. And at the time of death the person attempts to turn to God in fear for their soul. The Lord therefore turns away from the cry of their voice. God is not mocked. Whatever a person sows that they will also reap (Ga. 5:16).

The forgiveness of sins is a miracle. Only God can perform this work for us on our behalf. Repentance is a gift from God, that only by His goodness – it is the Lord who leads us to repentance (Ro. 2:4). In order for a person to repent, repentance has to be given to us by the Lord. All too often, a person feels sorry for wrong behavior, and even may apologize. But they never change. It is because they have not truly repented. It is for a reason such as this, that, people can say they are Christian and keep on sinning at the same time. It is because all the reasons previously discussed, and they have not sincerely committed themselves, and cried out to Jesus in repentance (2 Co. 7:10).

The Lord's reality at that time of physical death becomes your real reality for all eternity when you die. The things of God will then be overwhelmingly important to you. But at that time it will be too little too late. The grave has many regrets and sorrows that can never be reversed. But at the moment before and after you die, and your spirit/soul leaves your body, there is no more opportunity for repentance. Many people in this life are so carnal and so overly indulged in human fame and fortune. As a result, many never take

the time to investigate true spirituality. It is for this opportunity that we seek to help relay biblical truth to all who visit.