

Back to the Basics of Salvation

To be saved is not a difficult process at all, it is very simple. In fact, it is so simple that most do not even realize what has just taken place immediately after they have received Christ. Why is it that we need to complicate the way of salvation for those that have received Jesus Christ as their Savior. Why is it that we have the three step methods of coming to Jesus, and then compounding it with extra tasks, when God has made it very simple.

Jesus says in John 6:37; *and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.* And also in John 1:12; *12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

When we read in the word of God the occurrences of those that encountered Christ , and believed that He was who He said He was, we don't see any complicated additions added. Such as Church by-laws and a list of things that you have to abide by now that you have become a member of **our** Church! Take for instance the man that was born blind in John chapter 9 beginning at verse 34: *34 They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out. 35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? 36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? 37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. 38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.*

See, sometimes we can allow our history of church attendance, our ancestral history and our supposed knowledge of the scriptures blind us to the real truth. This was the case with the Pharisees. This man that Jesus had made to see rebuked and corrected their understanding and unbelief, and they were offended at him, and put him out of the church, if you will. But when Jesus heard of it and found him again, Jesus asked him a very simple question..."do you believe in the Son of God"? And after Jesus revealed Himself to him, the word says that this man believed and then worshipped Jesus. That was it, he was saved! End of story!

What about the man possessed with the legion in Mark 5 beginning at verse 18? *And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. 19 Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.*

20 And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

This man was not given a list of do's and do not's. He was not told to go and find a local assembly where the word of God is preached; (well, for one reason, none were established at that time). He was not taught tithing and the principles of giving, he was simply told to go and tell what the LORD had done for him! Sometime people who have really been delivered out of drastic situations can waste valuable time on biblical classes and the basic fundamentals, instead of just being a witness of God's goodness. Am I saying that being involved in learning the word a waste of time, not at all! Because we are to go and make disciples of men, but sometimes we can bombard new believers with too much information, that they soon become discouraged.

One final example; Acts 15 and starting at verse 23; *And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:*

24 Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:

25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

26 Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

27 We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth.

28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

You see, there was a dispute among the brethren, as to whether or not the Gentiles could be saved apart from being circumcised and observing commands written in the law. The brethren laid no extra burdens on these new Gentile converts. Their only command, as they were led by the Holy Spirit was to abstain from idol worship and fornication, which no of us as believers should be partakers of anyway!

There are many scriptures that warn against putting a stumbling block before a weak or new brother (or sister) in Christ, I admonish you to seek them out.

But I believe, as a new convert is taught about Christ, and his love for Him is increased; I believe that the Holy Spirit of God will begin to open up the understanding of the individual and teach them the things of God. Yes, there are times when human intervention is needed, because God has set teachers in the body to do just that, to teach! To teach the things of God out of a pure heart and not for what is popular, or for money. But to lay it out as the scriptures reveal, even if it means being in disagreement with what mainline denominations teach.

When the Apostles Paul was converted, he said that he did not seek out a man to instruct him, but he was led to Arabia and there taught by the Lord Jesus Himself; Galatians 1:13-20; *For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: 14 And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. 15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, 16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: 17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. 18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. 19 But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother. 20 Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not.*

So what am I saying...well simply this. It is time that we return back to the basics and the simplicity that is in Christ and stop making the Church a place of carnal business! And running it as if Iococa or Trump were the CEO's!

Yes, there must be structure! Yes, there must be organization! But it should be the Holy Spirit's structure and order. I mean, when was the last time any church got together to make a major decision and they prayed and really waited on an answer from the Lord, no matter if waiting for the answer went beyond their set time schedule; or was the decision made by the board?

It is time to allow the Holy Spirit to do what Jesus said that He was sent to do! And that is to teach, to reveal and to guide into all truth for the believer. I believe that many times we over burden new believers with our own ideology and church doctrine and very little about Jesus Christ! And that is part of the reason, I believe that we see many new converts struggling with sin issues in there lives, and battling thoughts of not measuring up failing and self-condemnation! Because many churches or so dogmatic and legalistic in their teachings that there isn't room to breathe!

As a new born convert, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow. And after you have become seasoned, then move on to the deeper things of Christ.

Brother;

Michael Williams Sr.