

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

No. 94

December 2019

The Christmas Message

Introduction

At this time of year it is sometimes pondered, "Why did Christ come into this world?" It is true that He came and showed us an example of how to behave, even under provocation (1 Pet. 2:23). Others would say he came to show us how God intended man to be, that is, free from sins distorting for He did no sin (1 Pet. 2:22), He knew no sin (2 Cor. 5:21) and in Him was no sin (1 Jn. 3:5). However, there were three prime reasons He came:

- a) To glorify God (Jn. 17:4)
- b) To reveal God (Jn. 1:18) and His heart of love (Jn. 3:16)
- c) To be a sacrifice for our sins (Heb. 10:12).

All these are gloriously true, but there are three others which I think about and they explain exactly what the gospel is.

- a) It is well known that the word "gospel" means "good news" in that it tells us how to get right with God and be assured of being where the Lord is at the end of life's road (Jn. 14:3).
- b) It informs us how to have peace with God (Rom. 5:1).
- c) It teaches the only way for forgiveness of sins (Col. 1:14).

This then leads us to major questions.

What is the gospel?

The writer to the Hebrews asked, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" (Heb. 2:3) and this begs the question, "What makes salvation so great?" There are at least four avenues of thought that makes the gospel great and they deal with the questions:

- a) Where did I come from?
- b) Why am I the way I am?
- c) Why am I here, what is the meaning of life?
- d) Where will I go when I die?

Question 1: "Where did I come from?"

Since only God was there when man first appeared on the earth, it is evident that He ought to know. Interestingly, we are not told much about when, but how. I speak clearly, it was not by any sin darkened imaginative theory of man such as evolution, but with a distinct divine act of God. Observing in Genesis chapter one, each time it is recorded, "And God said, Let". There is a distinct act of divine activity, not dependent on that which had gone before.

- a) Day One - There is one distinctive act
 - i) “*And God said, Let . . .*” (Gen. 1:3)
- b) Day Two - There is one distinctive act
 - i) “*And God said, Let . . .*” (Gen. 1:6)
- c) Day Three - there are two creative acts
 - i) “*And God said, Let . . .*” (Gen. 1:9)
 - ii) “*And God said, Let . . .*” (Gen. 1:11)
- d) Day Four - There is one distinctive act
 - i) “*And God said, Let . . .*” (Gen. 1:14)
- e) Day Five - There is one distinctive act
 - i) “*And God said, Let . . .*” (Gen. 1:20)
- f) Day Six - there are two creative acts
 - i) “*And God said, Let . . .*” (Gen. 1:24)
 - ii) “*And God said, Let . . .*” (Gen. 1:26)

Day 6 there was the creation of the animals and the creation of man. There will never be found a missing link because between the two creative acts there is a, “*And God said, Let*”. Man was never created from any animal, nor they of any slime. Both were acts of God and were distinct.

A further observation is made in that God never ever made something without a purpose. All one has to do is read Genesis and He tells us there he made the sun, moon, stars (Gen. 1:14-19) and man (Gen. 1:26-28). On the lower level, man was made to be God’s viceroy on earth, ruling over it for God. On the higher level, He was made for to do the will of God (Rev. 4:11). He, Adam, was a perfect human being, living in a perfect environment, given a free will to live in the highest dimension. That dimension is living in fellowship with God, enjoying God, and God finding supreme pleasure in fellowshiping with man.

Question 2: “Why am I the way I am?”

As we look around the world this Christmas, the world is not a lovely place and people are without mercy and without a moral anchor or rudder. Every aspect of cruelty is thought of as good, slaughtering an innocent little infant and selling it’s parts. The darkness of the human mind which speaks of some 50+?? sexes and murder on every level. Where has humanity gone astray?

In that garden of Eden Satan came and intimated “God is holding back on you”; “he cannot be trusted, for He says one thing and doesn’t follow through”; “besides He is a God of love and would never chastise His children”. Therefore, Eve ate of the forbidden fruit and gave to her husband. Therefore, man losing his place of high glory became a slave to sin and death. No matter what man does to hide, the face of death stares in stone cold blankness back at him. The result of Adam’s sin is that every child of Adam and Eve are born under the slavery of sin. All are under condemnation, not because of what they have done, but because I am that by birth and that cannot be changed. I am Rowan Jennings by birth, I have my father and mother’s characteristics and that cannot be changed. Likewise, each of us are sinners and no matter how hard we try, we cannot stop sinning. No matter how many resolutions each of us makes, be they rituals performed or religious duties, this thing called “sin” rules as a king in each of us. Furthermore, it is only a matter of time until each of us dies. Every one of us is a dying individual. Our eyes fail, our hearing goes, that part of me is dying and I can do virtually nothing about it. Thank God Christ came into this world to change that. I can be “born again”, “born from above” and be made a son or daughter of God, and ultimately have this sin germ eradicated from my body.

Question 3: “Why am I here, what is the meaning of life?”

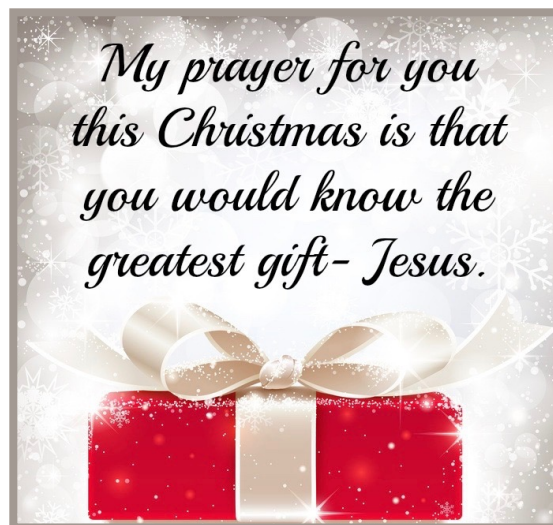
The Westminster Catechism sums the meaning of life beautifully and Biblically, “Man’s chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever”. The holy Apostle John wrote that which he heard in Heaven, “Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure (will) they are and were created” (Rev. 4:11). Man was never put on earth to carve out a meaningless existence of slavish drudgery to work, sleep and eat until the individual dies. Humanity was given a glorious work to do. There was implanted within man the inward quest for knowledge and curiously seeking things and better ways to function, and get places and produce. He was put here to live for the delight of the heart of God and bask in the delightfulness of His presence. Life was meant to be free from all cares, from all anxiety, to know God as Father and rest in that love. This is why the gospel is good news for it tells how man can rest from all his labors for salvation. The Bible speaks of, “a rest to the people of God” (Heb. 4:9), rest of mind and activity. Rest, knowing that no works need to be done for salvation, knowing that Christ has done it all, knowing what it is to be free from the never ending toil of doing ones best to try and please a perfect God and gain admittance to Heaven and escape the damnation of Hell.

Question 4: “Where am I going when I die?”

One matter of fact we all realize is that time is passing. We start on Monday morning, a new week lies ahead, then suddenly it is Wednesday and then a blink later it is Saturday. The new year begins and by November and December we wonder, “where has the year gone?” The years slip by like a ship on the slip way. Then we pass the funeral homes and out of respect go to funerals or visit the graves of loved ones and wonder, “What is there after life ends?” Does the individual die as an animal, am I no different than a dog? Is there something beyond the curtain of death?

God made man different from animals in that He gave them a questioning mind, a curiosity. They were given a God consciousness, a spirit, and a free will. These are things no animal has. My curiosity asks where does my spirit go when I die? I know the body goes in the grave or by cremation, but the “real me”, where does my spirit go? I know there is something after this life for God is eternal, consequently, when He speaks of eternal life or eternal death it is clear there is another life. The spirit of an individual will never die, only the body dies. When an individual dies the spirit leaves and goes elsewhere. What is that “elsewhere?” That is where free will comes in. The individual must make a choice, “Do I want to go to Heaven or not care if I go to Hell?” Do I want to live in peace and perfect happiness and joy in an environment that knows nothing of death, sorrow, pain, tears or crying, or do I not care if I am banished from God in the depths of Hell and experience pain with nothing to ease, a hopeless darkness that no light can penetrate, a loneliness deprived of any company, a sorrow that can never be erased. The decision is the individuals.

Christ came to give us a free will to choose. He provided full and free salvation on the cross of Calvary. As another has said, “He bore my hell for me”. The decision is, “Will I accept His great gift or reject it?” There are only two places, after death there is a step between them, a step of acceptance or rejection. No one knows when God will take a decision as “Your final answer”, there will be no turning back or changing the mind, the decision is reached. I had an aunt whom I loved dearly. She said just a few weeks before her death, “I will never accept Christ”. That was her final decision and God accepted it. When will you make that final decision? You do not know, this could be the last time the Spirit of God will prompt you to accept Salvation, the gift of God, the reason Christ came into this world.



***“The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”
(Romans 6:23)***

... Rowan Jennings

www.scripturaltruths.org

e-mail: scripturaltruths1@shaw.ca

If you don't wish to receive future Newsletters, please send us an email and we will take your name off the Mailing List.