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EDITORIAL

WILL THERE BE A SECOND CHANCE ?

What will happen to all of those who go through this life and fail to obey God ? Many of them are good moral people. Their intention is to eventually obey their Maker. Surely God loves them and would have them to be saved. Will he not therefore give all such people a second chance to be saved in the world to come ? Or will all such people be condemned to a devil's hell ?

The Bible teaches that one and all must obey God in this life if they are to be saved. (Acts 17 : 30). As long as one lives he may have opportunity after opportunity to obey the Lord, but once life is over there is no promise of another chance. This does not mean that God is willing for man to be lost but it does mean that when man fails to accept the grace of God there is no more opportunity for him to be saved. The Lord has warned us over and over to obey him now. (2 Corinthians 6 : 2). If we do not respond to the warning then we must accept the consequences.

If it were possible to have a second chance at salvation then that would basically suggest universal salvation.

Surely the Lord would not give one person another chance but refuse to give others the more opportunity. On the other hand, if all were given a second chance then it would result in all accepting God. The Bible does not teach this though.

With the knowledge then that there will be no second chance to be saved in the world to come, we should realize the seriousness of making the most of the opportunities while we have them. Those who wait for the death bed to repent are certainly treading on dangerous ground. This is especially true since we do not know what will be on the morrow. (James 4 : 13, 14). Death can come at any moment. To procrastinate and to put off one's salvation is only to court eternal damnation.

What will happen then after one dies? The Hebrew writer says, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." (Hebrews 9 : 27). As for the judgment, the apostle Paul declares, "For we must all appear before the Judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (2 Corinthians 5 : 10). That doesn't leave much room for anything else, does it? Not even a second chance!

Concerning the Lord's coming, Paul writes, "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day." (2 Thessalonians 1 : 7-10).

These statements from the scriptures are all we know of what will take place after death. If the Lord should choose to set aside something he has said when he returns, and save one or more in spite of it, then that is his business. He has the power to do so. But be assured that we have no promise that he will do so. He has taken every possible step to provide salvation for all of mankind. (Matthew 28:19, 20 ; Acts 10 : 34, 35). He has even died for the sins of the world. (Romans 5 : 8). He has given his promises in writing and has sent his servants out to declare the message of salvation to a lost and dying world. (Mark 16 : 15, 16). Surely it cannot be said that he has not done enough and that therefore man deserves a second chance. Be not deceived and rest your salvation on such false hope.

If you really want to be saved, you can be saved, and *now*, through obeying the Lord's word. Christ said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved ; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16 : 16). Woe be to you if you go through this life and fail to obey him.

ASSOCIATE EDITORIAL

WHAT WILL I GET ?

If there is anything in the world which has been highly misunderstood by men through the centuries then that is Christianity of which the Bible speaks. It has not been misunderstood only by those who are ignorant of the wonderful teaching of the Bible, and Christ, its founder, or those who are prejudiced in their views about religion. But also scores of people who profess to be followers of Christ have not understood what it actually means to be a Christian.

There are several people who believe that to become a Christian is to become physically rich, and all their physical problems will be solved immediately, and that they will be able to lead an easy life in this world. I say this because from time to time we use to receive such letters from different ones in which they proclaim that they want to become Christians, and that they need our guidance in this regard. And then the individual asks: "Upon becoming a Christian, what will I get?" Some of them even put their specific conditions before us that if they become Christians they would want us to fulfil their requirements. A few months ago, for example, we received a letter from a young man, who was also studying the Bible Correspondence Courses from us, telling us that he wants to become a Christian provided we can arrange his marriage with a girl who lives in the same city where he lives. She probably would be a member of some denominational church. We wrote him back that we couldn't help him in this matter, but encouraged him to study the Bible diligently if he really wanted to become a Christian. You know what happened? He stopped studying the Bible lessons and told us that he is not interested in them! A number of such people ask for a job, money, etcetra. In fact, they are seeking material gain only, with no interest whatsoever in spiritual matters.

The reason why people have this kind of attitude toward Christianity is that they have never studied the Bible for themselves to see what Christianity is in fact, and what it provides for those who faithfully follow Christ. One of the most important thing that one must remember is that in nature Christianity is spiritual and thus it is not of the world but it belongs to heaven. Christ, with whom it originated, came from heaven and went back to heaven with the promise that one day he would come again to receive his faithful followers, so that they might live with him forever in heaven. (See John 14:3; Acts 1:9-11). Christ, while he was upon the earth, taught his disciples, "Therefore I say unto you,

Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek :) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:25-33).

Christ himself lived a life of self denial to set forth an example for those who would want to follow him. His whole life was full of pain and suffering. He, being the Son of God, was born in a manger, a place where animals were kept. (Luke 2:7). When he grew up he didn't have a home in which to live. Once a certain scribe came and said unto him, "Master, I will follow you wherever you will go." Jesus said unto him, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." (Matthew 8:20). He rode on another's beast. (Matthew 21:2). When he died he was buried in another's tomb. (Matthew 27:60).

No, Christ didn't promise his followers (Christians) an easy life in this world. Neither did he promise a life without problems. But on the contrary he warned his followers,

"In the world ye shall have tribulation." (John 16:33). On another occasion he exhorted them, by saying, "Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad : for great is your reward in heaven : for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." (Matthew 5:11, 12).

No one can ever become a Christian without faith and obedience to Christ's will. One cannot become a Christian by giving a bribe, in any way, or by force. Christ said, "IF ANY MAN will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Matthew 16:24). No doubt it is true that there are hundreds of people, not only in our country, but also in several other places, who are generally recognized as Christians by others. But in fact they are not. They had been converted into so-called man-made Christianity by some different people or organizations who have nothing to do with the church of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 15:9 and 13). They have accepted the name Christian, of course with some other human title, simply because they were given some kind of material help. Believe it or not, it is true.

No, Christianity is not material but spiritual. It can bring you salvation from your past sins, and can lead you in a way that sin shall not have dominion over you in the future. It provides one a way that is right and cannot be wrong. It can give you everlasting peace in your heart and untold happiness in your life. It brings one closer to Almighty God. And gives the hope of eternal life. (See Colossians 1:5 ; John 14:1-3). And finally, those who remain as Christians to the end, to them the promise is made that they will receive a crown of life. (Revelation 2:10). This means a happy and everlasting life with God in heaven. For what more would one ask ? Jesus said, "For what is a man pro-

fited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange of his soul?" (Matthew 16:26).

BETTER NOT TO BE BORN

by John Wadley

"Woe to that man through whom the Son of man is betrayed, good were it...if he had not been born," Matthew 26 : 24. Why would some people be better off if not born? Because of their conduct in this life, they condemn themselves to a punishment worse than death. Hebrews 10:26-31 ALL must stand before Christ and be judged. Revelation. 20 : 12. Everyone not saved by Christ is destined to punishment in hell. Revelation 20:15.

TYPES WHO WOULD BETTER NEVER HAVE BEEN BORN

TRAITORS who **BETRAY CHRIST**. It was Judas of whom Jesus spoke. But the person who sells out Christ for convenience, fame or fortune is as bad as Judas. So is he who sells out His church and His people:

ATHEISTS WHO DENY HIM. "Enemies of the Cross of Christ : whose end is perdition." Philippians 3:18-19. Woe to those men who fight against God, Chrjst, His word, His Church. Christ will war against them with the sword of His mouth. Revelation 2:16.

HYPOCRITES who **DISHONOR HIM**. "Ye hypocrite...how shall ye escape the judgement of hell?" Matthew. 23:33.

FACTIOUS MEN who **DIVIDE** His Church. Factions and

divisions are works of the flesh and he who practices such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19-21.

The APOSTATE who RENOUNCES Him. If the Christian is "again entangled in sin and overcome, the last state is become worse with them than the first. For it were better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment..." II Peter 2:20-21.

Your destiny is in your hands. Will it be better for you to never have been born ?

BEING A CHRISTIAN AT WORK

Raleigh Wood

Being a Christian at church is not enough ! We must be Christians at work or at home or wherever we are ! Jesus worked with his hands as a carpenter (Mark 6:3) to show the dignity of honest toil ; but also that we can be loyal to God even at our place of work.

Particularly, Jesus showed that we need and can be loyal to God in a secular context, because Jesus never lost sight of a higher goal motive in life. His will was to do the will of Him that sent him (John 4:34) and to always do those things that please Him (John 8:29). Jesus both taught and practiced keeping the eye single. This higher goal of living with and like Jesus and to live with Him eternally elevates menial work to purposeful living. Paul tells us that the Christian is a new creation (II Corinthians 5:17), and would remind us that if we have been raised with Christ in baptism we

need to look to those things that are above (Colossians 3:1). The citizenship of the Christian is in Heaven from which we await the Saviour (Philippians 3:20) who will change us from what we are to a glorious new life.

Jesus worked ! Can you imagine Jesus grumbling? We are told that there was no guile found in His mouth. Do you not believe that Jesus took delight in His work in that carpenter shop? If you wanted the best carpenter in Nazareth, would it not have been Jesus? Being a Christian ought to mean that we should excel.

Jesus worked ! But He had a devotion to a higher work ! Paul made tents ; many of the apostles had been fishermen. But in every case they had a devotion to a higher work. They had an upward look! Their treasure was in heaven !

There are more impressive truths about the life of Jesus than that He worked with His hands in a carpenter's shop. Obviously, we are impressed with His life, teaching and miracles. But there is an important lesson in this homely truth relative to our understanding of Jesus and our own lives.

MODERNISM AND THE BIBLE

Modernism is just another name for infidelity. It is infidelity trying to parade itself in the livery of scholarship and religion. It is a wolf in sheep's clothing. The thread-bare claims and the oft-answered arguments of such men

as Celsus. Porphyry, and other ancient enemies of Christianity have been revived and revamped and dispensed to a gullible people as the "assured result of modern scholarship." Satan and his henchmen have well learned that an outspoken infidel, like Paine or Ingersoll, is not so effective as the contemporary type which poses as "angels of light." Infidelity is more acceptable when presented *a la Fosdick* than when delivered *a la Ingersoll*. Modernism professes a form of religion, but denies the power thereof. The claims of modernism and the teaching of the Scriptures are irreconcilable.

A few examples will show that there is a great gulf between the two. No one can believe in the Bible and modernism at the same time. Modernism denies the most vital claims of the Bible.

1. Modernism claims that the Bible is merely a record of the best thoughts and the most heroic efforts of the race, or a portion of it, in its evolution up from the ignorance and superstition of barbarism. It is inspired only in the sense that Shakespeare, or any other great masterpiece, is inspired. The Bible teaches that "all scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Timothy 3:16) ; that "no prophecy of scripture is of private interpretation. For no prophecy ever came by the will of man : but man spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:20, 21). This revelation is so complete and final that neither man nor angel can add to or take from it. (Galatians 1:7-9 ; Revelation 22:18, 19).

2. Modernism claims that Jesus was the Son of God only in a sense true of all good men. It admits that he was divine only in the same sense that all men are divine. It denies his deity ; whereas the Bible teaches that he was and is, the only begotten of the Father. (Matthew 16:16 ; John 1:14.) He is equal with God (Philippians 2:6), and he is God (John 1 : 1).

3. Modernism rejects the virgin birth as being unscientific and offensive to enlightened minds; while the Bible teaches that he was begotten of God Almighty through the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. (Luke 1:35; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6). The Biblical accounts of his birth describe it as a virgin birth. To deny the virgin birth is to impeach the predictions of the prophets as well as the records of the evangelists. Denial of the virgin birth makes Mary, his mother, an immoral woman. It makes Jesus an illegitimate child of unknown paternity. It makes the atonement a farce and his mission a failure.

4. Modernism describes the death of Jesus as merely that of a martyr. He was far ahead of his generation in his social and ethical teachings, the modernists say. His religious views were revolutionary, they say, but his death was premature and unfortunate. This claim lays the infidel axe at the root of the gospel tree. Admit this claim, and the gospel is devitalized. The mission of our Lord ends in inglorious failure. But the Bible teaches that Jesus was a lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8); that he died voluntarily, not because he was overpowered (John 10:18; 19:10, 11; Matthew. 26:53); that he gave his life a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28), a propitiation for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2). Apart from the shedding of his blood there is no remission of sins. (Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 9:22; 10:4; 1 Peter 1:18-20; Revelation 1:5.) Men are not saved merely by following the moral and ethical teachings of Jesus. It is necessary to obey him in order to be saved, but this obedience involves faith in the atoning merits of his blood. Without his death we could not be saved. We are reconciled to God through the death of his Son. (Romans 5:10.)

5. Modernism asserts that Jesus did not rise from the dead, and, consequently, that faith in his resurrection is

unnecessary. If this claim be true, we have no reasonable explanation of the empty tomb, or the changed attitude of the apostles and of their consequent sufferings and death. If this claim be true, the gospel witnesses are unreliable; for they testified that Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, as he said; that he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs (Acts 1:2); and that Thomas examined the wounds in his hands and side (John 20:27). If he did not rise from the dead, "then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain Ye are yet in your sins Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." (1 Corinthians 15:14-18).

6. Modernism, since it denies the virgin birth, the vicarious death, and the bodily resurrection, naturally has no faith in the second coming of the Lord. If he did not come from God nor ascend back to him, he could not be expected to come the second time from heaven. There could be no second coming if there were no first. But it is part of our faith to look for the "blessed hope and appearing of the glory of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." (Titus 2:13.) The Thessalonians were "turned unto God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, who delivered us from the wrath to come." (1 Thessalonians 1:9, 10.) He "shall appear a second time, apart from sin, to them that wait for him, unto salvation." (Hebrews 9:28.) He promised his troubled disciples that he would "come again" and receive them unto himself. As David Livingstone would say: "These are the words of a gentleman. We can depend on them." "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise." (1 Peter 3:9.)

Modernism will join hands with almost any other "ism" to discredit the Bible and subvert the foundations of our faith. In our own country modernism and communism have

joined forces to destroy genuine Christianity and banish all sound religious teaching from the press and the air. If they had the power, they would be as unreasonable and tyrannical as Catholicism in the darkest and bloodiest days of the Inquisition. Modernism has sought and found expression on the radio and through the press ; also its claims are being fostered in the schoolroom and in the home. Textbooks are filled with evolution and other theories and speculations of modernism. Modernism often appears in the guise of "science." Especially is this true of sociology and psychology. We hear much of the "social gospel" and "new psychology."

The "up-to-date" teacher of psychology is a purveyor of modernism. He glibly talks about "self-expression." by which he means that the child should be permitted to do as he pleases, lest his originality be cramped and his freedom of expression be lost and his personality all but destroyed. Of course, Solomon and Paul, in particular, taught that children ought to be taught, trained, and disciplined ; but what of it ? They tell us the writers of the Bible were illiterate men. They were old-timers ! They knew nothing of the "new psychology"! It is no wonder that the problem of juvenile delinquency is becoming more and more of a national danger. It is the fruit of this modern, let-'em-do-as-they-please psychology. Such teaching is a preliminary course in anarchy. If children are not taught to respect authority in the home, they will not want to respect in the school and in the state. If they have the freedom of "self-expression" in the home, they will expect it wherever they go.

Parents should be on the alert to discover any modernistic teaching or influence that may be brought to bear upon their children. Anything that weakens or destroys their faith in and respect for the Bible should not be tolerated. Parents

should see to it that the money they spend for the education and training of their children be not used to destroy their faith in the Bible and to disqualify them for service in the church. Moreover, parents should not send their children to schools that are filled with modernism. They are inviting heartaches and disaster when they do. Any institution that will tolerate modernistic teachers and teaching is unworthy the name "Christian," and has no just claim to the patronage of a people who believe the Bible. Modernism is the archenemy of the Bible, of the home, and of our civilization, whether it parade itself in the garb of avowed infidelity or seek tolerance and acceptance in the name of "science," falsely so called. It will destroy faith in the Bible and make of this generation a race of rakes and libertines.

ARE WE UNDER THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ?

Many people believe that the Ten Commandments compose the law for religious conduct today. You hear someone say : "What we all need to do is to return to the Ten Commandments." Another says : "If we would keep the Ten Commandments, we would all be better Christians."

These laws were the best code of laws ever given to men, prior to the laws of Christ. They served admirably in the place and time for which they were designed by Jehovah. The law of God given by Moses, called the law of Moses (including the Ten Commandments), was not God's final will to man. It was perfect for the purpose for which it was given : "as a schoolmaster" to bring the Jews to Christ. Galatians 3:24. It was temporary in that it was to

continue only until Christ made His laws effective. Galatians 3:16 and 19.

A person today could keep the Ten Commandments to the letter and still not be a Christian. One who does not believe in Christ could keep the moral principles of the Ten Commandments, but certainly, one who does not believe in Christ could not be a Christian.

"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." John 1:17. The law given by Jehovah through Moses dealt with **the act** that was wrong. The truth of God given through Christ dealt with **the wrong thought** behind the act that is wrong.

NOTE :

The sixth commandment said : "Thou shalt not kill." Exodus 20 : 13.

JESUS SAID : "Whosoever hates his brother is a murderer . . ." I John 3:15.

The seventh commandment said : "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Exodus 20:14.

JESUS SAID : "Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Matthew 5:28.

This illustrates the fact that the law of God given by Christ is far above the limitations of the law of God given by Moses. Christ deals with the higher aspect of Godliness in purifying the mind of man.

God has given a better covenant through Christ than He gave through Moses. The book of Hebrews was written almost wholly to show this to be so. The law of God given

by Moses, including the Ten Commandments, falls far short of the better law revealed through Jesus Christ.

For the Law of God through moses, including the Ten Commandments, says nothing about :

1. CHRIST AS SAVIOUR.
2. THE SAVING BLOOD OF CHRIST SHED FOR REMISSION OF SINS.
3. THE CHURCH AND CHRISTIAN WORSHIP.
4. THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.
5. THE CROSS OF CHRIST.

The need of the human race is supplied in Christ, who brought life and immortality to light through His gospel. 1 Timothy 1 : 10. God's power to save mankind today is the gospel of Christ, not the law of God given by Moses. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ : for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth ; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Romans 1 : 16.

"Some people throw away a bushel of truth because it contains a grain of error, while others swallow a bushel of error because it contain a grain of truth."

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