

Bryan Station Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT ESTABLISHED 1786 MISSIONARY

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

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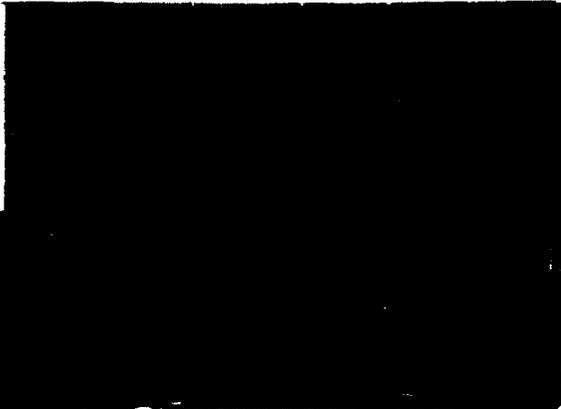
THE INDISPENSABLE MAN

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). "And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land" (Isa. 32:2).

During political campaigns we hear much of the indispensable man. The major parties claim their candidate is indispensable to the welfare of the nation. Each party paints a rosy picture of the good times to be enjoyed if their candidate is elected, and warns of the woes to be endured if the opposite candidate is elected. Isn't it a pity, yea is it not a shame that Christians are not as fond of their leader as politicians are of theirs? Every politician is at some time or another, in one way or another, a disappointment to his followers, but Jesus Christ, the Captain of our salvation, will bring every son to glory. Salvation will prosper in His hand while every other saviour is doomed to failure and his followers are doomed to despair.

It is natural for people to have their favorites whether preacher, doctrine, teacher, or what not. But we need to be careful in thinking any of our favorites are indispensable. This is what leads to dictatorship in government. Whenever any man begins to feel that he is indispensable as a ruler and gets the people to thinking so, a dictatorship is in the making.

But no mere man is indispensable anywhere or in any position. This is proved by human mortality. The indispensable man cannot die,



Location: 3.3 miles out Bryan Station Road. Right on Briar Hill Road.

- Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
- Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
- Evening Service 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Air-Conditioned Nursery Provided

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or if he should die he would not remain dead.

There is one indispensable man--there is one man whom no man can do without--one man without whom every other man is doomed to eternal misery. This man is the Lord Jesus Christ, who is both God and man--the God-man. Both of our texts introduce this man. Saved people are those who have lost hope in themselves and in every other man and have found the good hope that is in Christ.

Christ is indispensable because He can do for us what no other man can do. He is indispensable in every office He holds. When God wanted to save sinners He laid help upon one that was mighty. Believers are safe not because of their strength, but because Christ is mighty. The Bible presents Jesus Christ under many indispensable figures such as bread and water, light and life. In the physical world, bread and water or food, and light and life are indispensable. The same is true in the moral realm. Men considered as moral beings need food and light.

An indispensable man is one who does not need any help. Every work Jesus came to do He did it without any help. He was alone in Gethsemane--on Calvary--in the resurrection and ascension. He is indispensable.

Christ is indispensable:

1. As Redeemer. The idea of redemption in the Old Testament takes its start from the thought of property. Money is paid according to law to buy back something which must be delivered or rescued. There are two aspects of redemption--it is deliverance by price and by power. Sin makes redemption man's most desperate need. Sin brings the curse of the law and the blood of Christ redeems us from that curse. Sin separates us from the favor of God; Christ brings us back into God's favor. The price of redemption is the blood of Christ. We are redeemed not with corruptible things as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ. The power of redemption is the Holy Spirit. He delivered us from the dark dungeon of sin and brought us into light and liberty. Christ is indispensable as Redeemer. None other could pay a price to satisfy divine justice and set us free.

2. As Ruler or Governor. Christ has the authority to rule. "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matt. 28;18,19). "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man" (John 5:22-27). Christ's authority is from God. His kingdom is not a democracy--a government of the people, for the people, and by the people. Christ is a dictator. His word is law. We are to teach and to do all He has commanded. A dictatorship is not necessarily bad. It is the ideal form of government when the dictator is holy and almighty. The only real freedom is to be Christ's servant.

Christ's administration is in two aspects or stages. He is now conquering and ruling in grace. He is now putting down human rebellion by His gracious operation in His elect. His people now trust Him as Saviour and bow to Him as Lord. He is our dictator by voluntary choice. In the day of judgment He will put down rebellion by punishing the wicked.

3. As Provider. Provisions is a big word these days. Food and equipment need to be provided our men in service. For every man who has a gun there are many men employed in providing him with that gun and ammunition and food. During World War II our heroes starved for lack of food, and it was impossible for us to get the abundance we had to them. Men tried to provide but failed. But there is no failure with our God and all His supplies come through His Son. Having Him we have everything else we will ever need.

What is it that determines what we have in this life? Is it our wisdom? No. Our industry? No. It is His providence. There are many smart men who have little. And many hardworking men have little. It is He that giveth us power to get wealth. "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" (Matt. 6:31-33). "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19).

Our greatest needs are eternal, even eternal life. And this need is met by Jesus Christ. He is the bread of life, of whom we may eat and never die. Outside of Christ everything else is temporary and disappointing.

Napoleon and his army were once crossing a desert on one of their long marches. The hot sun came down on the white sands, and the light and heat reflected made the men pant for water, as they marched across that terrible desert. In their fierce thirst they looked everywhere for water, but the wells were dry and no water could be found. Then they looked out there a little distance ahead and saw a beautiful lake of water right in their path. They lifted up their voices in a shout of joy and started running for that lake, but as they ran toward that lake, the lake ran. As they got nearer the lake receded and got farther away. It was not a lake of water at all. It was a mirage of the desert. It was a deception and delusion. It was a cheat. Oh, my fellowmen, traveling with me to an eternity endless, that picture of the mirage in the desert is the picture of human life without Christ!

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C. D. Cole