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THE PIONEER BAPTIST

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

THE HEATHEN LOST WITHOUT THE GOSPEL

C.D. COLE

Christianity is a missionary religion. Its vital breath is missions. The church that is not missionary minded has the death rattle in its throat. Missions is preaching the gospel to the lost and in this way Christianity is propagated and perpetuated.

The gospel to every creature is predicated upon the fact that every human being is lost. The gospel is for the lost people and is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.

The Bible emphasizes that all men everywhere are sinners exposed to the wrath of God. And men are lost because they are sinners. If the heathen are not lost then they do not need the gospel. If rejecting Christ is the cause of their being lost, then we should not send the gospel to them because many of them will reject the gospel and thus become lost. In this way the gospel would not be unto salvation but unto damnation. Missionaries would not be in the saving business but in the business of damning people.

The heathen are not lost because they reject Christ, but because they are sinners. When a person hears the gospel he remains lost because he does not trust Christ. Just as a sick person remains ill because he does not take the medicine, but refusing to take the medicine was not what made him ill.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36). Rejecting Christ is the crowning sin but it is not the only damning sin.

The heathen are lost and will remain lost without Christ; but they will not have to answer for the sin of unbelief - they will have to answer for the sins they do commit, such as theft, murder, idolatry, etc. It will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment because they did not hear Christ preach as did the people of Capernaum and Bethsaida.

AMERICA IS LAUGHING ITSELF TO DEATH

Anything for a laugh. On television and radio, in the movies and newspapers, we see people knocking themselves out trying to entertain us.

Everywhere you go, billboards shout at you: "Hilarious....funniest comedy of the year." Entertainers seem to feel that if only America would collapse in a paroxysm of mirth, all our problems would be solved. But frankly, I see American ideals and heritages dying before our eyes. I believe America is laughing itself into hell.

At a Washington cocktail party, some top government officials stand in the corner, glasses in hand, planning defense strategy. Around them, partially drowning their conversation, is the hollow laughter of men and the shrill cackling of sophisticates. One tells of having lost his shirt at the race track. He makes it sound funny and all the listeners laugh.

In a big city night club a half-nude woman comes out on stage, goes through some contortions and tells a filthy story. What happens....wild and raucous laughter rocks the room.

Someone caricatures Stalin and we laugh.

Overseas the entertainers "make the boys laugh." After all, they might die tomorrow. Let's laugh today!

Two men stand on the corner talking. Of a passing girl they say: "She's quite a chicken," and they both laugh. A drunk staggers down the exit of a football game, shouting and singing. Everybody laughs.

Whether we believe it or not, America finds sin hilariously funny. But we are not the first nation. Babylon saw it that way, and the handwriting came on the wall. France followed suit and the moral decay became a cancer. Now America laughs at sin, and I see the handwriting on the wall.

Today all around us there seems to be an absolute absence of heartfelt sorrow for sin. We need a real recognition of sin and

a genuine heart sorrow combined with a turning away from sin, if we are to survive. To a nation of old, God said in 11 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

What is so funny? Are atomic bombs and broken bones funny? Are drinking leaders and shady business deals causes for mirth? Are open gambling and full sanitariums funny? Are dirty books and immorality causes for hilarity? Why laugh when the fiber of a whole nation is being wrenched apart by godlessness?

But there is good news for America and for you. Deliverance is found only through a personal faith in the Son of God who died for our sins and rose again. The Holy Scriptures say: "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15).

Instead of seeking to drown sorrow and uncertainty in the pleasures of sin and hilarity, the Lord Jesus Himself gives you this gracious invitation: "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.....Behold I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with Me." (Matt. 11:28; Rev. 3:20).

"What must I do to be saved?..... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:30,31).

—Edgar M. Arendall

—A hypocrite may often look more like a Christian than the genuine article, when actually he is just a counterfeit.

CHRIST OUR REFUGE

C.D. COLE

"That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us" (Heb. 6:18).

"Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf" (I Peter 4:16).

"And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:26).

"Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian" (Acts 26:28).

The name "Christian" was invented by outsiders, and occurs but three times in all the Bible. It was a designation by which Christ's followers were known to others, and not a name as employed by themselves. They spoke of each other as brethren, disciples, saints, or the like. Sometimes they used more expanded names of which our text is an example. It sets forth a part of the characteristics of those whom the world knew as Christians. Our text gives an essential feature in the description of a saved man. He is one who has fled for refuge to Jesus Christ--the hope set before him. This text strikes a good many off the list who claim to be saved. A saved man is one who has fled to Christ for refuge. It is not birth, nor baptism, nor church membership, nor a good life that makes a man a Christian, but the personal act of fleeing for his life to Christ.

This text is a rebuke to those people whom when you talk to them about their need of Christ and urge them to trust Him, say that if they are one of the elect, they will be saved, and that they are to wait until God gets ready to save them. I believe in election and would not dare to say a word against this Bible truth. I believe every one of the elect will be saved, but

election is God's secret council, and is not to be the thing that determines a man's duty. Man's duty is determined by God's revealed will and commands. And He commands men to flee to His Son for refuge.

Let us illustrate this doctrine:

The death of Christ was God's decree, but it was not man's duty to crucify Him. God nowhere commanded men to murder His Son. "It must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh" (Matt. 18:7).

Our text is highly figurative. It is either an allusion to mariners, who make all haste to get into port and then cast anchor; or to runners in a race who make haste to reach the goal that they may lay hold of the prize; or rather to such as fled to the cities of refuge, which were types of Christ. The names of these cities and their meaning show them to be types of Christ:

1. Kedesh means holy. Christ was the Holy One.

2. Shechem means shoulder. Christ has borne the sins of His people, and also has the government of their affairs upon His shoulder.

3. Hebron means fellowship. We have fellowship with the Father through Him.

4. Bezer means a fortified place. Christ is a stronghold and tower--a place of defence to His people.

5. Ramoth means exaltation. Christ is exalted to God's right hand, and through Him our exaltation will come.

6. Golan means manifested. Christ is God manifest in the flesh.

MEN NEED A REFUGE

Men are strangely blind to their danger. They are spiritually insane. "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart" (Eph. 4:18). "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love.

and of a sound mind" (II Tim. 1:7).

CHRIST IS THE REFUGE

He possesses every qualification as a place of refuge for men who are in danger of hell.

1. Because of who He is. He is God's only begotten Son, in whom He is always well-pleased. It is an insult to God to suppose that a man who has fled to His Son for refuge would be cast into hell.

2. Because of what He has done. He has done everything necessary for man's salvation. Tell me a need if you can that Christ did not provide for when He died upon the cross. He is an anchor that is sure and steadfast.

I command you to flee to Him. A pupil once asked his teacher, "When shall I repent?" "The day before you die," was the answer. "But, I may die today," said the pupil. "Then repent today," answered the teacher. To illustrate this point: A dam away up in a mountain in Italy gave way at midnight. Mounted messengers were sent down the valley to gallop as hard as they could to arouse the sleeping villagers. Those who arose and fled in an instant were saved. Those who slumbered and slept were swept away by it. Arise, escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plains. Escape to the mountains lest thou be consumed. The following are testimonies of dying infidels:

Voltaire: "I am abandoned by God and man. I will give you half I am worth if you will give me six months of life." When told that it could not be done, he cried in despair: "Then I shall go to hell, and you will go with me."

Churchill: "What a fool I have been."

Hobbes: "I say again if I had the whole world to dispose of, I would give it to live one more day. I am about to take a leap into the dark."

Tom Paine: "Oh, Lord, help me. O, God, what have I done to

suffer so much. But there is no God. But if there is, what shall become of me hereafter? Stay with me for I cannot stand to be alone."

Anatole France, greatest novelist France ever had: "If you could read my soul, you would be horrified. There is not an unhappier creature than I in the whole universe. People think me happy. I have never been happy--not an hour, not a day--I have spent my whole life in twisting dynamite into ornamental curls."



THE BUSY MAN

If you want to get a favor done
 By some obliging friend,
 And want a promise, safe and sure,
 On which you may depend,
 Don't go to him who always has
 Much leisure time to plan;
 But if you want your favor done,
 Just ask the busy man.
 The man with leisure never has
 A moment he can spare,
 He's always "putting off" until
 His friends are in despair.
 But he whose every waking hour
 Is crowded full of work,
 Forgets the art of wasting time,
 He cannot stop to shirk.
 So when you want a favor done
 And want it right away,
 Go to the man who constantly
 Works twenty hours a day.
 He'll find a moment sure, somewhere,
 That has no other use,
 And fix you while the idle man
 Is framing an excuse.

**READ
 THIS COPY
 and
 PASS ALONG**

You and Your Children

Do you suppose that all who use their children as an excuse for not being able to come to church would want God to remove what hinders them from coming?

The greatest defense against juvenile delinquency is love, understanding and training by parents.

Training a child the way God says includes bringing (NOT sending) him to church.

Did you ever notice how much a child becomes like its parents? Dad and Mother are its first heroes; he wants to be like them.

How often is juvenile delinquency the result of parental delinquency?

Have your children ever heard you pray? Do you have family worship daily?

The Bible Friend

- A child that lives with ridicule learns to be timid.
- A child that lives with criticism learns to condemn.
- A child that lives with distrust learns to be deceitful.
- A child that lives with antagonism learns to be hostile.
- A child that lives with affection learns to love.
- A child that lives with encouragement learns confidence.
- A child that lives with truth learns justice.
- A child that lives with praise learns to appreciate.
- A child that lives with sharing learns to be considerate.
- A child that lives with knowledge learns wisdom.
- A child that lives with patience learns to be tolerant.
- A child that lives with love and beauty will find happiness.

— Selected

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As you know, THE PIONEER BAPTIST is sent without charge to those who request it. However, recently the Post Office has DOUBLED the cost of Second Class Mailings. Because it is wasteful to send THE PIONEER BAPTIST to those who do not read it, it is necessary to evaluate our mailing list. IF YOU DESIRE TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THIS PUBLICATION, WE MUST HEAR FROM YOU IMMEDIATELY. Just clip and mail the following form to insure that you will continue to receive THE PIONEER BAPTIST.

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—All great work for Christ in the world has commenced not by committees but by consecration, self-sacrifice, and devotion of single individuals.

—R.L. Middleton

The most remarkable kind of a person on earth is the Christian. He is a son of the living God and filled with astonishing potential. While living in time he can accomplish the things of eternity. He can bring a touch of heaven to the darkness of this earth. He is a human vehicle of the transforming power of God to reach the hearts of a lost mankind.

—Unknown