



The Voice Of Truth

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WHAT WOULD YOU ASK HIM?

By Jimmy Pettigrew

If you could have the complete fulfillment of one desire, hope, or longing, what would it be? Would you ask for happiness? Would you ask for a better job? Would you ask for material substance? Would you ask for physical health? Such a question opens so wide a field for thought that the imagination is staggered.

Has any person of history grappled with this question? Yes! David, the "man after God's own heart," not only grappled with it, but also dared to make reply. He said: "One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple," Psalm 27:4. David, desiring "one thing" of the Lord, shows he was not a man of divided aims or allegiance. David longed to ascribe praise and honor and glory unto God. He loved to go to the place of public worship and praise his God. He loved to worship God. How needed this attribute is today!

Every child of God on earth today should make David's goal the end and aim of his life. But, sadly they don't. Too many professed Christians are spiritually dead. They are too religious to commit themselves to the world and too worldly to commit themselves to the Lord. They are seeking to serve two masters, but Jesus said: "No man can serve two masters ...," Matthew 6:24. If a person loves the world, he becomes an enemy of God (James 4:4). So many lukewarm Christians are "halt" as were those of old "between two opinions," 1 Kings 18:21.

The true servant of the Master is characterized by absolute commitment. "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth," John 17:17. "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly ...," 1 Thessalonians 5:23. To sanctify is to set something apart for sacred or holy uses. The very meaning of the term "sanctification," is used to describe the follower of Christ. It is an absolute commitment, dedication, consecration to reverence the Lord in our heart. Since Christians have been set apart for God's purpose, they are to continue to live consecrated, holy, and pure lives before God and the world.

Do we live as God's sanctified people? Are we truly demonstrating actions that we are "set apart" for God's service? Have you "given yourself to the Lord?"

HYPOCRISY

Jimmy Pettigrew

Nothing is more repulsive to sensitive souls than hypocrisy; pretending to be what one is not. Our English word is traceable to the Greek "*hypokrisis*", which refers to the playing of a part on the stage. In the Greek theater, a hypocrite was one who wore a mask and played a part on the stage, imitating the speech, mannerisms, and conduct of the character portrayed.

One of the places where hypocrisy is mainly found is religion. Throughout His ministry, Jesus vigorously exposed and denounced the hypocrisy of many who opposed Him, especially the scribes and Pharisees. They paraded their charitable deeds, praying and fasting as a theatrical display to win the praise of men (**Matthew 6:1-2, 5, 16**). They sought to give the appearance of being godly, but they were actually blind to the truth of God (**Luke 20:19-20**).

A lot of people say they believe in and love Jesus and refuse to obey His commandments. He once challenged some people by asking, "*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*" **Luke 6:46**. He was saying, in effect, that their actions belied their testimony. He was accusing them of hypocrisy.

It is highly probable that you know some people who go to church services on Sunday, yet these same people live very sinful lives on the other six days of the week. These people are hypocrites! They have a very shallow type of religion which makes no real difference in their lives! True religion does make a difference in one's life! Has it made a difference in your life?

WHAT DOES THE CROSS TEACH?

Jimmy Pettigrew

The fact of a crucified and risen Savior is the very heart of Christianity. It is not within man's power to save **himself (Jer. 10:23)**. How thankful we should be that we can be reconciled to God only through the cross of Christ, (**Eph. 2:16; Col. 1:20**). May we consider some things for which the cross teaches

- (1) Man's guilt. Romans 3:9-10, 23
- (2) God's righteousness. Romans 3:24-26
- (3) God's power to save. Romans 1:16 Romans 8:3
- (4) God's gracious offer. John 3:16 Titus 2:11
- (5) God's love. Romans 5:8 John 3:16
- (6) Necessity of man's obedience. Philippians 2:8 Hebrews 5:8-9
- (7) To assure Christians that cleansing is available. 1 John 1:7-10
- (8) Shows the worth of the church. Acts 20:28 Ephesians 5:25.
- (9) The need for holy living. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 1 Peter 1:15
- (10) The need for humility. Philippians 2:5-8

Christ came to earth to do the will of His Father. He willingly endured the persecution and pain that wicked man brought upon Him. He humbly obeyed God, and died on the cross for the sins of mankind. Looking at what the cross teaches should cause us to gladly and willingly give up anything that stands between us and God. It should result in an attitude of commitment and dedication like we have never seen. It should motivate one to be restored. It should cause one to become a Christian.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17; John 6:45; 17:3

Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:21

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17