



The Voice Of Truth

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Look What Christ Has Done

By Jimmy Pettigrew

"Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us out of this present evil world, according to the will of our God and Father," (Gal. 1:4). It was important that the Galatians completely realized that if they fully embraced the doctrine of the Judaizers, they were spurning all that Christ had done to redeem them. One needs to understand the significance of Christ's death as the center in redemption. Let us look at this verse (**Gal. 1:4**), and see what Christ has done for us.

(1) He gave Himself for our sins. *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many," Mk. 10:45. "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all...," Rom. 8:32.* When sin entered, the need for Christ followed. *"Therefore, as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin; and so death passed unto all men, for that all sinned," Rom. 5:12. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God," Rom. 3:23.*

"For the wages of sin is death," Rom. 6:23. But Christ gave Himself for our sins to restore man with God. The saddest event in the history of mankind was the death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Yet, for a lost world, it was the happiest event, for out of His death came hope of eternal life. *"Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory," 2 Tim. 2:10.*

(2) That He might deliver us from this present evil world. This present evil world is a world of sin, Satan is its god, and its people are spiritually blind and dead (**2 Cor. 4:4**). Christ and the gospel is a rescue from a state of bondage (**Rom. 6:20**). There is no deliverance from the evils in this world until we are delivered from our sins. Sin is the cause of the evil of the world. This is why Christ gave Himself. *"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the*

forgiveness of sins..." **Eph. 1:7**. Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, to deliver from this evil world (**1 Jn. 2:2**). If Christ is rejected, there is no deliverance from this present evil world.

(3) All of this was according to the will of our God and our Father. All that Jesus has done was in complete harmony with the will of God. This was the purpose and plan of God (**Eph. 1:9-10; 3:11**). God's greatness becomes very clear when one begins to consider the marvelous plan God had to redeem sinful men. The scheme of redemption truly proves that God is great! Only an infinite mind could conceive such a great salvation.

HINDERING THE GOSPEL

Jimmy Pettigrew

In **Acts 5:39**, Gamaliel warned the Sanhedrin to be careful concerning their treatment of the apostles, *"lest haply we be found even to fight against God."* The Sanhedrin were trying to stop the apostles from spreading the gospel of Christ (**Acts 5:27-28**). They were trying to hinder the gospel of Christ (**1 Corinthians 9:12**). They were foolish to hinder the progress of the gospel. It is a fearful thing to hinder the truth of God, and God's wrath is revealed against all who hinder His truth (**Romans 1:18**). Even church members often hinder the truth! How?

1. When we fail to live as we should (**1 Peter 1:14-15; Titus 2:12; Romans 12:1-2**).

2. When we do not attend the assemblies (**Hebrews 10:25; Matthew 6:33; Psalm 122:1**).

3. When we fail to develop and grow as Christians (**Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 Peter 2:1-2; 2 Peter 3:18**).

4. When we fail to depend on God (**Hebrews 13:5; 1 Peter 5:7; Psalm 37:5; 55:22**).

5. When we fail to give as we should (**2 Corinthians 9:6-7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Acts 11:29**).

These are some ways that we as Christians hinder the gospel of Christ. Satan is having a "field day" with many professing Christians. Brethren, *"Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ,"* **Philippians 1:27**.

DO YOU JUST BELONG?

Are you an active member? The kind that would be missed?

Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock?

Or do you stay away to criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part to help the work along?

Or are you satisfied to only just belong?

Think this over, my dear friends: I know you won't go wrong.

Are you an active member, or do you just belong?

"Reasons Why I Don't Wash"

(The following are listed to parody excuses for not attending services.)

1. My parents always made me wash as a child.
2. People who wash are hypocrites; they think they are cleaner than other people.
3. There are so many different kinds of soap: I could never decide which one was right.
4. I used to wash, but it got so boring, I stopped.
5. I still wash on special occasions, like Christmas and Easter.
6. None of my friends wash.
7. I'm still young - when I get older and need it more. I might start washing.
8. People who make soap are only interested in your money.
9. I'm so busy; I just can't find time to wash.