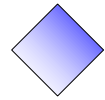


The Voice of Truth



March 10, 2013

Saint or Sinner

By Jimmy Pettigrew

I was asked recently: Are saints also sinners? Is there a difference between a Christian and a sinner? I replied: One cannot be an idolater and an ex-idolater at the same time. When one quits worshipping idols, he is no longer an idolater. When one obtains pardon, he no longer has guilt from his prior activities. One is not a sinner and a saint simultaneously! A saint may commit a sin, but the practice of sin has been put away because of repentance. *“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; and on his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, that bringeth forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also doth not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The wicked are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the wicked shall perish” (Psalm 1:1-6).* The blessed man does not walk the course of his life in the counsel of the ungodly or sinners. Sinners will not stand in the congregation of the righteous. The sinner; at first he walks merely in the counsel of the ungodly; but after that, he becomes habituated to evil, and he stands in the way of sinners who willfully violate God's law; and finally, he becomes a teacher of evil and tempter of others, as he sits in the seat of the scornful. A saint may commit a sin (**1 John 1:8**), but the practice of sin has been put away because of repentance. *“Know ye not, that to whom ye present yourselves (as) servants unto obedience, his servants ye are whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But thanks be to God, that, whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto ye were delivered; and being made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness” (Romans 6:16-18).* These verses show they have obeyed, and were made free from sin. They had been sinners, but all that is past when they enter into Christ! Obedience unto the form of doctrine

(shown before in **verses 3-6**) had brought them into Christ where there is no condemnation (**Romans 8:1**).

We see the Corinthian letters the many sins the Corinthians were guilty of; Paul indicted all fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers and extortioners; but then he said, *“And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).* Would you call them sinners? Paul addressed them as “sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints” (**1 Corinthians 1:2**). Sure, they had been vile sinners, but that was BEFORE! After coming into Christ they drank of the Spirit, and were members of His body (**1 Corinthians 12:13, 27**). Who dares call the redeemed sinners? Saints are not slaves to sin; we died to sin (**Romans 6:2**). *“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God” (1 John 3:9).* Someone might say, “If Christians are dead to sin, how can they still sin?” Paul never teaches that a Christian never stumbles nor slips occasionally; John tells us this in (**1 John 1:9-10**). Paul only teaches that we are no longer in bondage to sin (**Romans 6:6**); it no longer has dominion over us (**Romans 6:9**); we are dead unto it (**Romans 6:11**), so it ceases to reign over us (**Romans 6:12**). The saint who abides in Jesus is not going to be habitually in sin. Sin is not his general rule of life. Why does the person who is born of God not sin habitually as the rule of life? Because his seed (**1 John 3:9**, God's seed, which is the Word of God, **Luke 8:11**) abides in him, and it is a great restraining power.

A sinner is one who practices sin. He may do well occasionally, but that does not make him a saint or servant of righteousness, for he does not voluntarily choose this course. A saint is one who serves the Lord; he may occasionally stumble and sin, but that is not his practice; it is not the course of his life. Let me use myself as an

Continued on Page Two

In This Issue...

Pages 1 to 2 - Saint or Sinner
Pages 2 to 3 - “The Gospel Of Christ”

Page 3 - "WHICH CHURCH SHOULD I ATTEND?" | Do You Just Belong?
Page 4 - The Power of a Goal | HOW TO GET WHAT YOU WANT

Continued from Page One, "Saint or Sinner"

example: I have sinned, weakness occurs, what am I to do when such transpires? The proper action on the part of anyone in such a situation is to repent (turn from the sin or sins) and confess it with shame, and pray for its prompt pardon. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9). He has promised to forgive us on the condition that we confess our sins . . . *"and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin"* (1 John 1:7). Therefore . . . *"their sins and iniquities will I remember no more"* (Hebrews 10:17). If this is the case, then why should we call saints sinners? There is no sin in their life! If God remembers them no more, it will be as if they

had not been committed, the Christ bears them (1 Peter 2:24). Therefore, he is not a sinner!

Paul wrote to saints at Ephesus and Philippi, and to saints and faithful brethren at Colosse. Paul never called the saints sinners! They had been saved by the blood of Christ. Paul recognized the difference! *"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints"* (1 Corinthians 14:33). Are saints' sinners? NO! Is there a difference between a Christian and a sinner? YES! *"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints"* (Psalm 116:15). Not the death of sinners (Ezekiel 33:11). •

"The Gospel Of Christ"

By Jarrod Jacobs

The gospel of Christ is something that deserves our respect. Paul said, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek"* (Rom. 1:16). Jesus Himself spent three years preaching the gospel to a lost and dying world (Matt. 4:23). What can we know about the gospel of Christ and why does it deserve our respect?

The Focus Of The Gospel — Christ

When the gospel was preached in Acts 2, it centered on Christ. In Acts 2:22-36, we read the preaching of Peter. Here, we learn about Jesus' life, death, burial and resurrection. As a result of this sermon, about 3000 were baptized into Christ, and added to the church that same day (Acts 2:38-41). From that time on, when people were taught the gospel, those who had honest and good hearts obeyed God's word and were saved (Acts 8:12, 35-39, 10-11, 16:30-34, etc.)! The gospel will save people today just as it did in the first century if we have the attitude of those first century converts.

The Image Of The Gospel — A Sword

The gospel of Christ is not for the faint of heart; nor for those afraid of confrontation! Paul, by inspiration, told the Ephesians, *"And take the...sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"* (Eph. 6:17). The Hebrew writer said, *"For the word of God is living, and active, sharper than any two-edged sword..."* (Heb. 4:12). The word of God is not a defensive weapon (Eph. 6:16); it is an offensive weapon (Eph. 6:17)! This weapon is to be used to *"destroy strong holds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ"* (II Cor. 10:4-5). It is high

time that we used it in this manner! We shame the name of Jesus when we refuse to use the gospel as the sword it is. The reason there were 3000 saved on the day of Pentecost was because they were *"cut to the heart"* by the Gospel (Acts 2:37)! It will work today as well!

The Purpose Of The Gospel — Salvation

There is only one gospel by which we are saved (Gal. 1:6-7). While there are many who try to pervert the gospel of Christ (Gal. 1:7), we must *"test the spirits,"* and see whether they are of God (I Jn. 4:1). If they are of God, we need to listen. If they are not, we need to reject the doctrine and rebuke the teacher (Rom. 16:17)! Who is willing to do this? Who will *"fight the good fight of faith"* and *"take hold of eternal life"* (I Tim. 6:12) by using the gospel not only to protect, but to actively fight against Satan who *"disguises himself as an angel of light"* (II Cor. 11:14)? In case some are uncomfortable thinking about fighting, let them remember that Paul said, *"But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one you we preached to you, let him be accursed"* (Gal. 1:8). I do not want to find myself facing God's wrath (Heb. 10:31). Thus, I must use the gospel skillfully as the sword it is. I want to be in fellowship with God and His Son. This means that I cannot give consent, or appear as giving consent to the enemies of righteousness, regardless of what form they take (II Jn. 9-11; Rom. 1:32; Acts 13:10)!!

The Reality Of The Gospel — Power

The gospel is not weak, but is powerful because it is the very words of Christ to man! In Romans 1:16, Paul said the gospel is God's "power." The word "power" comes

Continued on Page Three

Continued from Page Two, "The Gospel Of Christ"

from the Greek word "dunamis" from which we get the word, "dynamite." The gospel has the power to break the hardened heart that has been hardened by atheism, denominationalism, institutionalism and the like to reveal a heart willing to obey God. However, just like real dynamite, nothing will happen until the fuse is lit! One lights the fuse of the gospel by teaching and spreading God's word to others (II Tim. 2:2; I Tim. 4:2).

Conclusion

The gospel is an important tool. Without it, people wander through this life in ignorance and in sin. Without it, man has no hope, no goal, and no purpose for living. Who will deprive their friends and loved ones of a chance to hear the "glorious gospel of the blessed God" (I Tim. 1:11)? Jesus brought this gospel to us, and it is our responsibility to spread this gospel to the world (Matt. 28:19). Who will do it? Will you? *Credit: The Old Paths - 2/10/13* ♦

"WHICH CHURCH SHOULD I ATTEND?"

One Where His Name Is Glorified

Acts 4:12 - No other name whereby we might be saved.

Acts 11:26 - God gave the name Christian

1 Peter 4:16 - We can glorify God in this name.

One Where His Teachings On Salvation Are Followed

John 14:6 - Only He is the way to heaven.

Hebrews 5:9 - All must obey Him to be saved.

John 8:24 - He said we must believe on Him.

Luke 13:3 - He said we must repent.

Matthew 10:32-33 - He said we must confess Him.

Mark 16:16 - He said we must be baptized to be saved.

One Where His Will Is Followed In Worship

John 4:24 - Worship must be sincere and proper actions.

Acts 20:7 - Lord's Supper on the first day of the week.

Colossians 3:16 - Singing praises to God.

Acts 2:42 - Prayer and teaching.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 - Giving of our means on the first day of the week.

YOU SHOULD ATTEND THE CHURCH OF CHRIST *"The churches of Christ salute you."* (Romans 16:16) ♦

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 meeting 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? ♦

***If a hypocrite is between you and God,
He must be closer to God than you are.***

The Power of a Goal By Jonathan L. Perz

One of the greatest goals set before mankind can be found in God’s word. Among His final instructions before departing this world, Jesus gave His disciples a mission. He said, *“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:15-16).*

of those spies clearly saw the goal that God had set as impossible for them to achieve. They proceeded to complain and rebel against the Lord. As a result of their faithlessness, they died and the rest of the people wandered in the wilderness for forty years. Only Joshua and Caleb had the fortitude and faith to move forward and achieve God’s goal (Num. 13:16-14:38).

At the time, this goal may have seemed more than challenging—even overwhelming. Some may have even thought it impossible. Indeed, preach the gospel to the whole world with twelve men and a sparse group of followers. Do this in the face of adversity, trial and even death. Preach this message to a disinterested world.

Do we have the same fortitude and faith today that they did in the first century to meet the goal God has set for us? In their day, the disciples preached the gospel to every creature under heaven (Col. 1:23). They achieved that seemingly impossible goal the Lord had set!

This goal is reminiscent of a similar one in a parallel period of time, where the twelve tribes of Israel were sent to go forth and take the land God had promised them. When God commanded that twelve spies search out the land they were to take, despite their initial good report, ten

That goal still stands for us in our generation. Will we preach the gospel to every creature under heaven? What other goals has the Lord set for us that— at the onset— seem impossible, but with a working faith, can be achieved? The Lord clearly sees a great power in setting a goal before His people. Do we? *Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com ♦*

HOW TO GET WHAT YOU WANT



- If you want friends — **be friendly.**
- If you want someone to smile — **smile.**
- If you want courtesy — **be courteous.**
- If you want knowledge — **study.**
- If you want a good name — **live right.**
- If you want to reap well — **sow well.**
- If you want to be a Christian — **obey God's word.**
- If you want to go to heaven — **live a Christian life ♦**

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; 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; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27
- Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew

How to Contact Us	Our Address	Schedule of Assembly
<p>Telephone: (920)499-5677 E-mail: hillcrestcofc@live.com</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>	<p>1621 Hillcrest Drive Green Bay, WI 54313</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*</p> <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month</p>