

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Need of a New Birth

Edited from an Article by C. H. Spurgeon

I was staying at an inn in one of the valleys of Northern Italy where the floor was dreadfully dirty. I had it in my mind to advise the landlady to scrub it, but when I perceived it was made of mud, I reflected that the more she scrubbed the worse it would be.

The man who knows his own heart soon perceives that his corrupt nature admits to no improvement. Outward “cleaning” will not change his nature. There must be a new nature implanted, or the man will be only washed like that mud floor.

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.” John 3:6-7

Ours is not a case for mending, but for making new. No outward actions can make you clean. Your leprosy lies deep within, and only accepting the sacrificial death of God’s only Son, Jesus, can change one’s heart and make one born into the family of God.

“I would rather go into the Kingdom of Heaven through the poor house than go down to Hell in a golden chariot.” — D. L. Moody

Just As I Am

Edited from an Article by Pentecost

A London artist had hired a dirty, wretched beggar to come to his studio that he might paint the man's want and woe. The painter was disappointed to have the man appear with face washed, hair combed, and store clothes put on.

"I don't want you that way. I want that beggar I saw in filth and squalor."

Many a sinner feels that, before he comes to Jesus, he will fix up a little, improve his condition, and borrow the second-hand garments of an empty righteousness; instead of coming just as he is, waiting not to cleanse away a single blot.

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” *Romans 5:8*

The Wrong Doctors

Edited from an Article by C. H. Spurgeon

Have you been to Doctor Ceremony? He is, at this time, a fashionable doctor. Has he told you that you must heed him and obey his rules? Has he prescribed you so many prayers, and so many church services? Ah! Many go to

him, and they persevere in a round of religious observances, but those yield no lasting ease to their conscience.

Perhaps you have tried Doctor Morality? He has a large practice, and is a fine old Jewish physician. He suggests, "Be good in outward character, and it will work inwardly, and cleanse your heart!" A great many persons are supposed to have been cured by him and by his assistant, Doctor Civility, who is nearly as clever as his master. I have it on good evidence that neither of them apart, nor even the two together, could ever deal with inward sin's disease.

Do what you may; your own doings will not heal the wounds of a bleeding heart. Doctor Mortification has also a select practice; but men are not saved by denying themselves until they first deny their self-righteousness.

Doctor Excitement also has many patients. However, his cures seldom outlive the setting of the sun.

Doctor Feeling is much sought after by tender spirits. These try to feel sorrow and remorse; but, the way of cure does not lie in their efforts.

Everything that is done apart from accepting our blessed Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour, will not better the sin-sick soul. You may try human remedies for a lifetime, but sin will remain in power, guilt will cling to the conscience, and the heart will be as sinful as ever.

“A young woman refused a friend's appeal by saying, "I only want time enough when I die to say two words to the Lord, ‘Save me ’”

Having neglected her soul's salvation, she was suddenly called away, but the only two words she did utter were words of despair, “Too late! Too late!”

What Christ Did

Edited from an Article by Clarence Larkin

Those that are saved, the Bride of the Lamb, are from a disowned and outcast race made so by the disobedience of the head of that race in the Garden of Eden (Adam). However, Jesus, the Bridegroom, saw her and loved her.

To redeem her, He came from His own lovely home in Heaven to her sin-cursed home on Earth. It was there He was rejected by members of her family, seized and subjected to a mock trial and nailed to a cross as a malefactor. He voluntarily laid down His life for her though, thus demonstrating His love, and opening up the way for her redemption from the Law that held her in bondage.

Jesus then left her to return to His Father's House to prepare a home for her. During the period of her betrothal, He has left her with her own family. He sent the Holy Spirit to teach and protect her, and fit her for the day

of her marriage. One day He will descend midair to meet her on her way to the bridal halls of Heaven.

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” I Thessalonians 4:16-17

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

Romans 10:9

\$5,000,000!

D. L. Moody

Suppose a man should say to me, “Moody, there was a man in Europe who died last week, and left five million dollars to a certain individual.”

“Well,” I say, “I don't doubt that it's rather a common thing to happen,” and I don't think anything more about it.

Now, suppose he continued, “He left the money to you;” then I pay attention.

I say, “To me?”

“Yes, he left it to you.” I become suddenly interested. I want to know all about it. We are apt to think Christ died for sinners; He died for everybody, and for nobody in

particular. However, when the truth comes to me that eternal life is mine, and all the glories of Heaven are mine; I begin to be interested. I say, "Where is the chapter and verse where it says I can be saved?" If I put myself among sinners, I take the place of the sinner; then it is that salvation that is mine, and I am sure of it.

No Caste in Christ

C. H. Spurgeon

Martin Luther saw, in one of the Roman churches, a picture of the Pope, cardinals, bishops, priests, monks, and friars all onboard a ship. They were all safe; every one of them. As for the laity, poor wretches, they were struggling in the sea, and many of them were drowning. Only those were saved to whom the good men in the ship were so kind as to hand out a rope or a plank.

That is not our Lord's teaching. Jesus' blood was shed for many, and not for the few. He is not the Christ of a caste, class or a position, but the Christ of all conditions of men.

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13

Recklessness of Sin

C. H. Spurgeon

The Grecian emperor, Archaeus, was going to a feast. On the way, a messenger brought him a letter, and insisted he read it. It contained tidings of a conspiracy that had been formed against the leader, and stated that he would be

killed at the feast. He took the letter, and put it into his pocket without even reading it.

In vain, the messenger urged that it was concerning serious matters. "Serious matters tomorrow," put off Archaseus. "Feasting tonight."

That night a dagger was plunged into the ruler's heart while he had on him the warning, which had he heeded it, would have averted the peril. Alas! Too many men say, "Serious things tomorrow!" It is wiser to let these grave affairs of one's whereabouts in eternity come first.

"And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." *Luke 12:19-21*