

The Goal of the Believer

The year was 1967. It was harvest time. Jesus came with a sword as He says He would. He brought with him a whole bunch of problems. Or should I say He let me know I had a whole bunch of problems. My life as I knew it came to an end. I did not have to leave my mother, father, husband kids, dog, cat, home, etc., as Jesus commands. My conversion was so profound that nobody could relate to me or I to them. Jesus did, indeed, come with a sword and stuck it right into the core of our natural family. Woe is me, now what? And He said unto me, "Follow thou me."

Now all conversions are not that drastic, but if you have met Christ you have to find out why He has come into your life. What is the goal of the believer????

It is not to make you a better person. It is not to minister to the people. It is not to proselyte the world. It is not to carry the gospel.

In the age that is closing, the Gentile age, we have seen nothing but the many wonderful works of which the disciples reminded Jesus. His answer must have left them tail spinning, as He answered in an irritated voice, "Get thee hence, I never knew you." He was really saying, "That is not what I called you for. I have a much higher goal for you."

Paul's cry from his bowels was, "That I may know him and the power of the resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death. If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I have already attained."

Now, had Paul met Christ??? Of course, he had. On the road to Damascus he had a profound experience with the Lord. However, that was but the beginning. That was not the resurrection.

Now he states several "happenings" between the "doing for God" and being His will. The sufferings that made him conformable to Christ's death was the loss of all things. That includes his family, friends, ministry, thoughts, voice, righteousness — all of his "Adam man".

Every person who has ever left Piecemakers was for the same reason. They refused to be conformable to the sufferings of His death and to the loss of all things.

Then they contact other people who also think you can come into the Kingdom with the old nature, old thoughts, old man. And they get the counsel they want to hear. Poor, deceived children of hell are they — seven times worse than if they had never known the truth.

Then 1 Corinthians 3:9 states that his righteousness is a filthy rag and he is crying out to God to be found in Him not having his own righteousness but the righteousness of God. Self-righteousness is a grave clothes and is needed when in the grave. However, when it is your time to come into the resurrection your righteousness becomes a filthy rag and whatever was right in the grave is not right in the Kingdom of God.

Now let us review: First he says that he suffered the loss of all things. Then he gave up his righteousness. He was conformed unto the death of Christ. He likened the righteousness of God, the resurrection and being perfect as one and the same. And to attain the resurrection and come into the new age, being a new man you must suffer the loss of all things. All, all, all, do you get it???

This is Jesus' gospel, it is Paul's gospel, it is my gospel. I have heard the agape road gospel, the last days persecution of the Jews gospel, the faith will get you rich gospel, we will all be raptured, or should I say all the people that I think should be raptured will go bye-bye gospel and dozens of other gospels and frankly they make me want to vomit.

Now, the Bible plainly states that if you have received Christ, your spiritual soul is alive but your spiritual body is dead. The Bible also says that you as a Christian speak in part, understand in part, we know in

part and we think in part until that which is perfect has come. I want you to hear this. You, as a Christian are just as dead as those who have not met Christ. Your deception is that you are alive.

So my dear sojourner, it behooves all of us to put away our Gentile age experience, our childish things, and grow up into God, our Father, where He will be our all in all.

What is our goal then? To be complete, to be whole, to be filled with the Godhead bodily, God himself abiding in us with His laws written on our hearts. Then we can truly say, "He is my God and we are His people." With the tree of life now feeding us daily out of our bellies will come rivers of living water and we can say with our Lord, "All those who thirst come and drink of Me and you will find life for your soul."



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