Picky, Picky! And More Picky! v21n13

Jesus Christ plainly tells us not to be as the hypocrites are, who like to go out and pray at the widest street corners, so that people will take notice of who and where they are, and the noise and commotion that they are making for attention. (And they use their fancy clothing to draw even more attention to themselves). Jesus Christ plainly tells us, that in doing this, they have already received their reward. (Reminds me much of those that promote these marches for Jesus, or promise keepers). Jesus Christ also said to them not to use the vain repetitions, or recited prayers, chants or mantra’s as the heathen or pagans do. Yet, what do they do, they turn right around and use the outline for prayer that Jesus Christ gave us, and recite it over and over again, just as He warned us of how the heathen pray. They will immediately put together books and pamphlets on prayers and pat answers, and sell them, and bring the people into the same bondage that they themselves are in. How often have you recited a prayer you have heard someone else pray, or responded from the book of pat answers?

Have we become so hard in our hearts, and dull of hearing with our ears that we ignore that which Father has clearly placed before us? We have openly refused His instructions as well as that which He has asked of us. The same people that have been telling you that you should be praying, witnessing and shouting from the street corners, are the same ones that have told you that there were three wisemen at the manger. And yet, we will continue to listen to what they say, we will continue to support them in what they do; and yet continue to totally refuse to listen to what Father has to say to us within His Word!

Having begun in the Spirit, do you now really think that we are brought to perfection by operating in and by the flesh and its emotions? Are you so blind that you will follow the ways of the world before you will follow the ways of God? Is the so-called church of today really that much different than those of Galatia?

Galatians 3:1-5 You foolish Galatians! Whose sophistry (subtle deception) has bewitched you--you to whom Jesus Christ has been vividly portrayed as on the Cross? 2 Answer me this one question, "Is it on the ground of your obedience to the Law that you received the Spirit, or is it because, when you heard, you believed?" 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now going to reach perfection through what is external? 4 Have you endured such sufferings to no purpose--if indeed it has been to no purpose? 5 He who gives you His Spirit and works miracles among you--does He do so on the ground of your obedience to the Law, or is it the result of your having heard and believed: (Weymouth)

Galatians 3:1-5 O senseless Galatians, who has bewitched you--- you who had Jesus Christ the crucified placarded before your eyes? 2) I simply want to ask you one thing: did you receive the Spirit by doing what the Law commands or by believing the gospel message? (Romans 10:17 And this proves that faith comes from a Message heard, and that the Message comes through its having been spoken by Christ. Weymouth). 3) Are you such fools? Did you begin with the Spirit only to now end with the flesh? 4) Have you all had all that experience for nothing (if it really has gone for nothing)? 5) When He supplies you with the Spirit and works miracles amoung you (Mark 16:20 And they went out, preaching everywhere, the Lord working with them, and giving witness to the word by the signs which came after. So be it. Cambridge) is it because you do what the Law commands or because you believe the gospel message? (Moffatt)

Having begun in the Spirit, most think that they are made perfect by operating in and by the flesh as well as emotions. They somehow assume that this type of action and attitude is pleasing to Father. They are asked quite bluntly, who has cast a spell on them! Who has caused them to give ear to the doctrines of devils? How many of you had begun in the Spirit, and now think perfection is brought about by being a slave to the flesh?

2 Peter 2:17-19 These people are waterless fountains and mists driven by squalls (tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine that blows through) for whom the nether world of darkness is eternally reserved. 18) By talking arrogant futilities they beguile with the sensual lure of fleshly passion those who are just escaping from the company of misconduct. 19) Promising them freedom, when they are themselves enslaved to corruption (for a man is the slave of whatever overpowers him). (Moffatt)

They have promised the people liberty and freedom, and yet they are still always searching for that peace and contentment. They are stirred in and by their emotions for a few hours each week, while their ears are tickled and their flesh is pampered. However, once they leave that building, there is little peace or contentment in their lives.

In many ways this reminds me of what the world call new years’ day. (Colossians 2:16, Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: (KJV)). They make all kinds of promises, but soon fail to keep any of them. A good example of this would be gym memberships. The men visualize a sleek muscular body; while the women visualize their favorite models. Yet, once they get to the gym, they soon begin to see and realize all of the hard work that is really necessary, as well as the daily training and dedication that it will take to get to that place, and they are soon discouraged and quit. They now have once again settled for their old lifestyle.

This is the way that most also are when it comes to dealing and operating in the Spirit realm. Many would like to be like Paul the Apostle, and have the faith as well as the ministry that he had. They want to be used by and for God in the same way. However, they are quick to find out the discipline and dedication that it takes to learn to walk in the Spirit, and live in that way, day in and day out. They soon understand that much study is indeed a weariness to the flesh. They soon recognize that by rightly dividing the Word of truth, will soon cause separation from most they thought were friends, or even brothers and sisters in the Lord. Being used by and for Father does come with a price, and the flesh usually wants nothing to do with it.

At Paul’s first answer, no man stood with him, but rather all forsook him. They thought he had become to fanatical. Some even said that his much learning had made him mad. He had become too picky with the Word. And besides, he was not one of the original apostles, so who did he think that he was? They thought and assumed that he was only a wannabe!

In such a few short years after the Lord’s departure from this earth to heaven, and Paul’s call to the ministry, he makes a very bold statement that few want to hear, let alone believe. How about you, are you really willing to hear what the Word of God has to say?

2 Corinthians 2:16-17 And for such service as this who is competent? 17 We are; for, unlike most teachers, we are not fraudulent hucksters of God's Message; but with

transparent motives, as commissioned by God, in God's presence and in communion

with Christ, so we speak. (Weymouth)

2 Corinthians 2:16-17 And who is qualified for this career? 17) I am! For I am not like the most, adulterating the Word of God; like a man of sincerity, like a man of God, I speak the Word of Christ before the very presence of God. (Moffatt)

Have you forgot how Jesus Christ had thrown the moneychangers out of the temple? Declaring to those scribes and Pharisees who had appointed these very people to sell these goods within the temple, that they had made the very house of God a gathering place and market place for those willing to make a profit in and on the Word of God. In the above verses, Paul is openly declaring the same thing. Paul boldly says that he was not as most of the preachers that were around him. These other preachers were selling and peddling the Word of God for profit to line their own pockets. They were not concerned for the people, but only with what was in their pockets and wanting to maintain the lifestyles they had become accustomed to.

Here we are some 1950 years later, and most think that most have progressed far beyond this ever happening to them. And yet the truth is known, they have regressed much further back than they would ever really like to admit. Most have used the Word of God to advance their own position, establish and build up their own kingdom, erect monuments to their own works, rather than for the furtherance of the kingdom of God. How sad it really has become.

1 Corinthians 9:18 What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel. (KJV)

Definition for without charge; 77 adapanos (ad-ap'-an-os); without expense, requiring no outlay, costing nothing, from 1 (as negative particle); and 1160; costless, i.e. gratuitous: KJV-- without expense.

Father has already had His Son pay the price, and pay that price in full! The gift of God, Christ, is free for whosoever. And so is the message of those that are truly at work in Father’s field.

It is time for judgement to begin at the house of God. Are you finally willing to take a stand for His Word, or are you going to continue to support man and his traditions, doctrines and follies?

I have made my choice, and will continue to be picky about and for God’s Word!

That you may know Him,

In the service of Jesus Christ

Larry Gazelka