

The Gospel of Righteousness

“I am Christ”

“Heresy”

“No, it is the truth”

“Prove it!”

That is the challenge to most Christians who walk around claiming the name, but not knowing their identity. Some who claim to be Christians (including regular Church-goers) are not really Christians because they have never been born-again. (John 3:6-7 NKJV) ***“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”*** The word Christian is derived from the Greek root meaning “anoint”. It also means followers of Christ. In this sense it does not mean to walk behind! It means to follow them in their doctrine, teaching, do what they do and say what they say - in other words be like them in every area. How much following after Jesus do we see in the Church today?

With few exceptions, we do not find His hallmarks - love (the God-kind), deep relationship with the Father and the fruit! He left the early Church a legacy - the legacy of a Gospel that changed the world through the early Church. That Church was feared by the authorities because it would turn their world upside down! (Acts 17:5-7 AMP) ***“But when they failed to find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brethren before the city authorities, crying, These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also,”*** The Church that turned the world upside down was one ruled by the love for Christ and each other, caring, sharing, dominion and tenacity!” Read the Book of Acts!

The final chapter of Book of Acts has not yet been written, but has been summed up in these words (Ephesians 5:26-27 NKJV) ***“26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”*** That same Holy Spirit at work in the founding Apostles and believers is still at work now! Tongues have not ceased! Miracles have not disappeared! The “dunamis” power that was at work raising the dead, making cripples walk, opening deaf ears, casting out devils and causing the blind to see is still very much present and available today! The best news of all is that it is available to every single believer in Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God!

What has changed? What has caused that fire to dim?

The Spirit of Religion stepped in and, from the time the Church was birthed, instilled in it a doctrine that Jesus died for us, redeemed us, restored us into right standing with God, but we still have to do something to be worthy. In other words, in spite of the Blood, in spite of Jesus having paid the full price for all, in spite of the victory over all the powers of hell, in spite of the Resurrection - we are still unworthy, we still have to do something.

The Jewish hierarchy decided that even though the people were saved and baptized in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues they still had to be circumcised!

You know what? That is the real heresy! We do not have to be circumcised, we do not have to keep the Sabbath, and we do not have to travel to Jerusalem. This is the time of grace. The Sabbath we keep is the Sabbath rest in Jesus! That rest means He did all for us! We do not have to do a thing by our own works in order to make it to Heaven. Our Heaven starts right here on earth during this lifetime - but we must know how to appropriate it!

Our father in the faith, Dr. Christian Harfouche said *“If you don't know who you are in Christ, you won't qualify for answered prayer”*. I believe that goes for anything in the life of the Christian!

When we say “We are Christ” I am speaking in the spiritual sense - there will only be one Jesus Christ the first begotten Son of the Father who never knew sin and therefore the only one qualified to be the Mediator of the New covenant, and be our High Priest and Intercessor!

We are Christ in that we were crucified in Him, we were buried in Him, we conquered satan in Him and we are seated in heavenly places at the right hand of the Father in Him. Just as we were in Adam and subject to sin when he sinned even though we were not physically present! (Romans 5:12-21)

In His name we have all authority on earth - that means authority over everything that exists except the will of other human beings. God Himself does not exercise that option!

If this is the case, why are most Christians the way they are? The answer is that they are called Christians, but they are not Believers!

What prevents them from being Believers?

There is a sin consciousness that is embedded in mankind because of Adam's sin. That sin-consciousness has been reinforced by well-meaning men and women who have preached a negative message throughout the ages!

To be continued next week

