

A Matter of Will

Luke 13:1-5 KJV)

There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

2And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things?

3I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

4Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?

5I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Jesus here referred to two incidents where people met death unexpectedly and after each, Jesus commanded his audience to repent! One set of people died at the hands of an evil man, the other set died accidentally. Jesus tells us that when people die, do not suppose that they are greater sinners than anyone else. Remember that Jesus is speaking of people who died under the Old Covenant. At that time, everyone who died, did so under the Law and were not cleansed through the Blood of Jesus. Sins were simply covered or “atoned” for.

Under the New Covenant every human being born on earth has the opportunity to be totally cleansed from sin. In this passage Jesus simply confirms one fact to us – men are not sinners because of what happens to them or what they do in their lives, but all mankind are born sinners and are equally condemned before God.

Romans 3:23 tells us *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”*

In a moment of time an individual could be taken from this earth through death. What is that individual’s destination? Seconds after death, your eternal soul is in either heaven or hell. Everyone eventually, faces eternity. Every individual is an eternal spirit. A spirit never dies.

People often say that it is cruel for a loving God to sentence people to an eternity in the torment of hell. God never sentenced anyone to hell. It is a matter of will. That individual made a conscious decision to reject the timely acceptance of the source of salvation – Jesus Christ.

Have you heard of Christmas? Have you heard of Easter? Has anyone told you about Jesus? Have you heard a preacher on radio, television or internet teach about Jesus? Most people have, yet they have never stopped to take the time to listen to the message of salvation. Many have heard the message but refuse the Sender on the premise that they are not

How many have died and gone to hell because of indifference to the Gospel? They have gone there because of their will – they made a decision. Some decided Jesus is not for them, some procrastinated, and some chose to ignore the message.

The unconverted however, are not the only ones in danger. We are living in the final days before Jesus returns. He told us the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. Jesus is telling us to be watchful for His coming. His cry in Luke 13:1-5 is for repentance. To repent is: to be sorry, to turn back, to regret, to change the mind for moral betterment, to change one's attitude towards sin, a real change of mind and attitude towards sin and its cause, not merely the consequences of it.

When we repent, we make a 180° turn and head in the opposite direction! We run towards God and not away from Him.

Are you born- again? If so are you ready for Jesus' appearing?

This is now 2010 and as we told our members, according to the Hebrew calendar this is the year 5770 which experts say should really be 6000 – the end of man's lease on the earth.

As we go about our daily lives, are we cognizant of the shortness of the days before eternity or are we like the people before the flood:

“The Arrival of the Son of Man will take place in times like Noah's. Before the great flood everyone was carrying on as usual, having a good time right up to the day Noah boarded the ark. They knew nothing—until the flood hit and swept everything away.” (Matthew 24:37-39 “The Message”)

Notice here that for the general populace of the earth it was “business as usual”. They paid no heed to Noah's preaching. Sodom and Gomorrah paid no heed to Lot. 2 Peter 2:4-8. Then Verse 9 tells us

“Now if [all these things are true, then be sure] the Lord knows how to rescue the godly out of temptations and trials, and how to keep the ungodly under chastisement until the day of judgment and doom,” God knows how to deliver His Church from the trials. It is our responsibility to keep ourselves from deserving chastisement!

As we go about our daily lives we must remain cognizant of the season in which we live. We do not know the day, the hour, or even the year but the season is Rapture Season. Let us be about doing the work of disciples!

Are you willing?