

INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Photo

Dr. Peter D. Wynn

Entry 9 - 3

A - Ω

The Mission Mandate

Despite our doctrine or persuasion, the grace factor for salvation is more involved than some of us have been taught. Jesus expects us to be active with His mission of caring for His people and tells us that our salvation is connected to that mission. I am always adjusting my life to line up with the Bible; I trust that you are as well. Jesus said, **“Then the King will say ... ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was in prison and you came to visit me ... whatever you did to the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.’” Mt. 25: 31-40**

These are not my words but Christ's. Those who go to heaven are those who care for the hungry, thirsty, naked, the stranger, the sick and those in prison. Jesus said if we don't do these things we will go to Hell.

Read this. **“Then He will say to those on His left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ He will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for the least of these, you did not do for me.’ Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.” Mt. 25: 41-46**

These words of Jesus and their meaning are not in the thinking of most Christians, yet here they are, in the Bible, the exact words of Christ. He says that in order for us to inherit His kingdom we must do these things, and if we don't we will be cast into Hell.

Perhaps a new born Christian is exempt; after all the thief on the cross had no time to do good works. If, however, we are veterans of the faith, there must be evidence of God's grace at work in us and the evidence God looks for is that we care for His people.

It is not my intention to put you under a guilt trip but rather to call you up to your ministry of partnership with Christ. This is a great blessing and a privilege but some of us may need a little motivation to be more involved in mission. Now you have motivation.

You cannot do everything, nor are you required to do more than your means allow, but all of us can do

something. Yes, God judges us according to our hearts, but our actions reveal what is in our hearts.

There is still more to this teaching and it will serve us well to balance it with the rest of scripture. So here are some further thoughts.

1. Just because we help the needy and do the work of the ministry, we are not guaranteed a place in heaven. We must also have a personal relationship with Jesus in order to enter heaven.

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles? Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me you evil doers.’” Mt. 7:21-23

Some people may be involved in ministry, even spiritual ministry, yet not have a personal relationship with Christ. They will be cast away from the Lord. Works alone will not get us into heaven. Everyone must have a personal relationship with Christ by grace and have the works of mission to prove it.

2. Another point easily overlooked is who Christ said we are required to care for. In the middle of this

teaching, He said, **“whatever you did to the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.” Mt. 25:40**

The focus of caring for the needy is aimed at the least of Christ’s brothers.

It is good to care for all needy people but Jesus specifically requires us to care for His brothers, *His family*.

Who are Christ’s brothers and sisters? I think there are 3 obvious categories.

1. Those who do the will of God.
2. Children. 3. Jews who have the faith of Abraham.

1. Jesus answered the question, ‘who are my brothers?’ when His disciples came and said His mother and brothers were looking for Him. He said, **“Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” Pointing to His disciples, he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”** Mt. 12: 48-50

So obedient believers are His brothers.

2. Secondly, children are His brothers and sisters because they are alive unto God. Paul was speaking of his own childhood when he said, **“Once I was alive apart from the law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died.” Rom. 7: 9**

Before the age of self-awareness, Paul was a child and alive unto God. All children are immature, but alive unto

God. At self-awareness a child becomes responsible for his sin. Then, when he sins, he dies spiritually and remains dead in sin until he repents, confesses Christ, and is born again. So, the young children are brothers of Christ. If any of them die before growing up, they go to heaven.

3. The third category of those who can be considered brothers of Christ are Jews who have the faith of Abraham. They will have to confess Jesus as Messiah, for there is no name whereby a person can be saved except the name of Jesus. All Jews do not have the faith of Abraham but I believe, those who do will come to Christ. How God brings them to Christ is His business.

Taking about the Jews, Paul says, **“I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel.” Rom. 9: 3-4**

Paul calls the Jews his brothers. Jesus is a Jew; in heaven He is called the Lion of the Tribe of Judah and the Root of David. The Jews are His brothers. (See Rev. 5)

Heaven is open to all but to enter we must be saved through faith and grace. Then, we must exercise the mission to care for the least of Jesus’ brothers. The mandate to care is specifically focused on 3 groups; true Christians, children, and Jews who have the faith of Abraham. AΩ



Christians for Messiah Ministries

Instructions in Righteousness is produced monthly by “Christians for Messiah Ministries (CFM).” Dr. Peter D. Wyns is the President of CFM. After 40 years of extensive ministry in more than 35 nations, he is now based in the USA. This ministry continues because of your prayers and financial support. Your partnership is greatly appreciated. For information of Dr. Wyns availability to minister at your church, contact “Christians for Messiah Ministries.”

Christians for Messiah Ministries PO Box 36324, Rock Hill, South Carolina, 29732

ph: 803-324-0739 or 704-608-7793 e-mail: reachus@peterwyns.com www.peterwyns.org www.lifeatantioch.org Facebook

MAKE DONATION CHECKS PAYABLE TO CFM FOR TAX RECEIPTS