

THE



HARVESTER

"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

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DESTROYED FOR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE

"Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel." (Exodus 19:5,6)

Moses was told by God to tell the children of Israel that if they obeyed the voice of God then they would be a peculiar treasure or people. Israel would be special in the sight of God and God would consider them his possession. Israel would be above and greater than all the nations around them. Israel would be

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to God a kingdom of priests and a holy or sacred nation of saints. They would be all these things in the sight of God if they obeyed his voice, kept his covenant and commandments. The commandments of God would be revealed to Israel in Exodus 20:1-17. Israel had to have a knowledge of these commandments before they could keep them. They also had to apply this knowledge in the right way.

Let's look at what happened to God's first possession, Israel. Hosea 4:6-9 says, *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame. They eat up the sin of my people, and they set their heart on their iniquity. And there shall be, like people, like priest: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings."*

The preceding verses tell us that God had a controversy with the children of Israel because there was no truth, nor mercy, nor KNOWLEDGE of God in the land. The children of Israel had been swearing, lying, killing, stealing, and committing adultery. They had allowed the sins of other nations to become a part of their way of living. No longer would Israel be a peculiar or special people to God. No longer would they be separate and above the nations around them because they had become like all these nations. Israel would no longer be a kingdom of priests or a holy nation. Their glory would be changed into shame and all because they lacked in knowledge and they failed to keep God's commandments. The sad part is told to us at the end of verse 6. God said, *"I will forget thy children"*. The children would suffer because mother and daddy lacked in knowledge.

With this thought in mind let's apply this to God's second possession of people, Christians. I Peter 2:9 says, *"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."*

If we keep God's commandments then we too will be to God a peculiar people, a special people, God's possession. We will be a royal priesthood and a holy or blameless sacred nation of saints. We, just as Israel, will only be these things to God if we keep his commandments and that is where KNOWLEDGE fits in. Before you can keep the commandments of God, you must first of all have a KNOWLEDGE of his commandments. If we lack in knowledge then we will be destroyed also. If we allow the sins, weaknesses and false doctrines of the "churches" around us to come into Christ's church then we will no longer be a royal priesthood and a holy or sacred nation of saints. We will no longer be a peculiar people to God because we will be like all the "churches" around us.

The sad part is, our children will suffer. If they grow up in a church that lacks in the knowledge of God's commandments and practice false doctrine then they will suffer because it will be the only way of worship that they know. (Remember: children tend to follow in the steps of their parents.) If our children continue to worship and live by the false doctrines of the churches around them then they will die and go to hell and mother and daddy will be held accountable because they lacked in knowledge to the extent that they could not detect false doctrine in Christ's church and also because they taught their children these doctrines. That is why we must study and grow in the knowledge of God's will so that we will be able to teach our children and each other the truth and

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not have anyone's blood on our hands on the day of Judgement. Also, if we have a knowledge of God's commandments then we will be able to detect the false doctrines of other churches and keep them from coming into the church of Christ.

Paul had a lot to say about knowledge. Colossians 1:9-11 says, *"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the KNOWLEDGE of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the KNOWLEDGE of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness."*

We could say that one must be *"filled with the knowledge"* of God's will before he can walk worthy of God. Before one can please God, he must have a knowledge of those things that please him. Also, we can only have a fruitful faith when we have a knowledge of the inspired word because *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto ALL good works"* (II Timothy 3:16,17). As we study and grow in knowledge then we obtain the strength of

patience. We are able to suffer long and forbear one another and we also rejoice when our patience is tried. The man of God will rejoice when his patience is tried because he knows that joy the Lord shall give to those who have suffered for His name's sake.

Paul also has commanded that the word of Christ must "*dwell within us*"(Colossians 3:16). There is no possible way that we can keep this commandment unless we have a knowledge of the words of Christ. Christ is our source for knowledge for in Him "*are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*"(Colossians 2:3).

Finally, we must be "*filled with knowledge*" before we can make our calling and election sure (II Peter 1:5,9,10). We, just as the brethren at Berea, must search the scriptures daily (Acts 17:11) so that we will be able to detect false doctrines and teachers when they come into Christ's church dressed in sheep's clothing. Let's not fail where Israel fell. We must study and help our children to grow in knowledge so that they will not suffer and so that God will be able to call them a peculiar people, his possession.

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FROM THE SCRIPTURES ...

ABOUT THE MEEK

The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the Lord that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.(Psa. 22:26)

The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.(Psa. 25:9)

But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of

peace. (Psa. 37:11)

Thou didst cause judgment to be heard from heaven; the earth feared, and was still, When God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth. (Psa. 76:8,9)

The Lord lifted up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground. (Psa. 147:6)

For the Lord taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation. (Psa. 149:4)

The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. (Isa. 29:19)

Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger. (Zeph. 2:3)

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. (Matt. 5:5)

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (Matt. 11:29)

But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. (1 Pet. 3:4)

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It is said of those listed as church members that ...

10% cannot be found

20% never attend a single service

25% admit that they never pray

30% never read the Bible even a little

40% never give to any church cause

50% never attend the evening service

60% assume no responsibility in the church

85% never attend mid-week Bible study

95% never win a soul to Christ

BUT ...

100% expect to go to heaven when they die!!!

GOSPEL MEETINGS

[continued from page 8]

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place & Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
July 10-15	Durango, CO	Various speakers
July 12-17	Moffat Road Church Mobile, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
July 12-17	Lake Charles, LA	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
July 19-24	Oak Grove Church Woodland, AL	Lindeal Greer (Bogue Chitto, MS)
August 2-8 (Su-Sa)	Sun Hill Road Birmingham, AL 7:30 each evening	Lindeal Greer (Bogue Chitto, MS)
August 9-14	Brushy Creek Church Lucedale, MS	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
August 14-16	Mt. Olive Church Morgan City, AL	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
Aug. 31 thru Sept. 6	Ashlock Church near Celina, TN	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Sept. 11-13 (F-Su)	Godby Road Atlanta, GA	Chris Melton Dana Chandler Marty Livingston Greg Moore
Sept. 21-26	Mt. Zion Church Crab Orchard, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Oct. 4-10	Athens Church near Liberty, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Nov. 13-15	Godby Road Atlanta, GA	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)

REMEMBER to send in the appropriate information of your congregation's meeting at least 1½ months in advance!

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place & Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
April 5-10 (Su-F)	West Broad Street Wedowee, AL 7:30 week nights	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
April 10-12	Mt. Olive Church Morgan City, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
April 10-12 (F-Su)	Godby Road Atlanta, GA 7:30pm EST	Jerry Routon Keith Archibald Bruce Kessler Richard Sargent
May 4-10	Rich Hill Church Liberty, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
May 31 thru June 7	Athens Church Casey Co., KY 7:00pm CST	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
June 1-5 (M-F)	Taylor's Crossroads Roanoke, AL 7:00 each evening	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
June 7-14	LaPrada Church Dallas, TX	Various speakers
June 14-20	Pleasant Ridge Woodbury, TN	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
June 14-20 (Su-Sa)	Pleasant Grove near Alex City, AL 7:00pm (10:30am Sun)	Lindeal Greer (Bogue Chitto, MS)
June 21-26	Godby Road Atlanta, GA	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
June 21-26 (Su-F)	Claud Church between Claud & Tallassee, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
July 5-9	Cloud Nine Church Sierra Vista, AZ	Sam Dick and Gerald Carter
July 5-11	North Warren McMinnville, TN	Lindeal Greer (Bogue Chitto, MS)

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