

You're Telling Me Right

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

He was an elderly man that I talked too several times about the Lord and coming to church. I found him one Sunday afternoon, working on his farm, hauling in hay by himself. The temperature was around 90 and he looked like he was very tired. He and I had talked a few times in the previous weeks but he didn't seem too interested. I don't think he appreciated me interrupting his work on this particular day. As he wiped his face he pointed to his chest and said, "You're telling me right, and I know it. But it won't do any good till I change in here!" How right he was, we have to change in our hearts if we want to be saved.

Any preacher that is called by God to preach can tell a person what the bible says, which is what God says, but unless the person believes and obeys, it will do no good. I have pictured the bible like medicine in a way. If it sets on a shelf and not taken in, it can't help us. It would be like the woman who spoke of a doctor, saying that he was no good. She went on to say, "He gave me three different kinds of medicine, but I didn't take any of it!" Wonder why it didn't help her? The same

goes for many who have heard the gospel, but didn't accept it. If we hear, but don't believe it with faith how can it help us? **Hebrews 4:2**, "For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it."

Those who heard the word heard the gospel of Jesus Christ, but it didn't help them at all since they didn't open their hearts and believe it. If anything it brought them closer to destruction by their unbelief. How can that be, one might wonder? Simply because the Lord is the only one who can save a person from sin. **Acts 4:12**, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Then the turning away from the Lord Jesus and His plan of salvation puts then away from the only way to be saved. There is not another way to be saved, although man has come up with many religions and even many versions of Christianity. There is only one way and that is set forth by the gospel and the example of Jesus.

Those who think that they can come up with another way to be saved, instead of what God has given us, are fooling themselves and those that trust them. God made the plan of salvation and provided the only

acceptable sacrifice. The only thing man has to do with it is to believe God and live for him, or reject his counsel and be lost. There is no other way, no matter what man may say, or do.

There have been so many false doctrines passed down through the years and some sound good to those who want to live as they wish. Some have even come out and say that a person doesn't have to obey what the Lord has said to do. There are even some who teach that it doesn't matter how you live in this life, you will still go to heaven if you say that you believe. That is calling the Lord a liar isn't it? God said, "As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy,*" **1 Peter 1:14-16**.

So if we are to be holy and live a life that the Lord can and will approve of, we have to be changed in our hearts. To do anything else is to become like the Pharisees and the hypocrites who were trying to look good in the eyes of men. A person may look good but the Lord wants us to be clean on the inside as well as on the outside. We can be told the right things, but it is up to us to accept the truth and to be changed by His grace.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

ABRAM IN EGYPT
ABRAM HAS ACCEPTED THE GIFTS OF PHARAOH, AND NOW, PHARAOH HAS SENT HIS MESSENGER TO ABRAM, ASKING THAT SARAI, HIS BEAUTIFUL "SISTER", BE BROUGHT TO PHARAOH'S PALACE....

...HAVING ACCEPTED PHARAOH'S GIFTS, ABRAM CAN NOT REFUSE THIS ROYAL REQUEST....

ALL THAT I HAVE FEARED HAS COME TO PASS!

...AND GREAT SORROW EXISTS IN THE TENTS OF ABRAM....

BEHOLD, O PHARAOH-LIVE-FOREVER, THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN FROM THE EAST HAS ARRIVED!

LET JOY AND SONG REIGN IN MY HOUSE, FOR THIS IS A HAPPY DAY!

...WHILE THERE IS MUCH REJOICING IN PHARAOH'S ROYAL COURT....

JOHN LEHTI

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