

Good News

Contained within the gospel there is power to engender a hope that endures to Eternal Life. When this hope is revealed to the human spirit there is a quickening which brings such love to the human heart for YHWH, our Father, that our cup overflows in this realization that He could love us *so much*. The good news brings to light the life and immortality, which is in the atoning sacrifice of the Lamb of God. The gospel brings to light things hidden in darkness — things *obscure and unrealized*. His blood has taken away our sin and our sins. We are now pardoned. We are *free from slavery, no longer hopeless*. The gospel says, "There is hope for the hopeless."

If we come to understand the Gospel it will bring to light life and immortality. *The desperate need today is for the gospel to be preached in that light. Preachers must preach believing the message preached is the way to be saved* (Rom 10). The Spirit of YHWH will quicken our mortal body by our believing the good news of the Son of YHWH, Yahshua, the salvation of YHWH, *that He became sin for us*, dying on the cross, His blood forgiving us of our sins, and not only ours, but for the world. His death was for me and in Him I also have died. His resurrection has abolished the effect of death, defeating death in this life by our no longer being under the fear of it and the "last enemy" will soon be abolished forever through His resurrection life. Death can no longer hold me in it's claws. Our Master ascended into Heaven and was crowned both Lord and King. And He now waits for those on the earth for whom He died and rose again to do on the earth what He has commanded them to do.

Well, we know what YHWH's will is on the earth today. Titus 2:14 says that Yahshua "gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds." This was the purpose for Yahshua's sacrifice — his suffering and death — to redeem us, not merely from external damnation, but even from doing lawless deeds, and to make us into a purified people — a holy nation — which will then be zealous for good deeds. But "good deeds" apart from accomplishing His will can only be reckoned as *lawlessness* — a more subtle form of lawlessness than murder or

fornication, but according to Yahshua's words in Matthew 7:21-23 calling Him Lord, prophesying in His name, doing "good deeds" like casting out demons or performing miracles are not acceptable. Only doing the will of His Father is acceptable. All else will be called lawlessness by Him, if it does not come forth from the holy nation which it is His Father's will to establish.

So what about the famous philanthropic works that are being done on earth today? Yahshua says, "When you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you." Famous charitable works may accomplish many things, but they are not very successful at obeying the words of the Son of God. And if they have heard His words and do not obey them, then they are like a foolish man building his house on sand (Mt 6:3-4; 7:26-27).

Yahshua spoke of many people who did their good deeds to be noticed by men. They looked good on the outside — so good that it would take a prophet to detect it — but inside they were full of corruption. It always surprised his disciples when he spoke of the Pharisees and the affluent members of Judaism in this way. They seemed to do so much good, how could he possibly say that *they* would not enter the kingdom? And yet that is just what he said. Mt 21:43 says, "The kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and be given to a nation producing the fruit of it." Yahshua knew what His Father's will was, and so when people were not doing His will, He knew they were not motivated to do their deeds by His Father. He even went so far as to call them hypocrites, fools, blind guides, sons of hell, serpents, brood of vipers, and whitewashed tombs (Mt 23:13-33, especially verses 27-28). He told them that although they appeared righteous to men, they were inwardly full of pretense and lawlessness.

So it is today. Men do many *good deeds*, but when it comes to being gathered together into a holy nation, they love instead their selfish independence. Christianity today is like Jerusalem of Yahshua's day (Mt 23:37) — "How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling." Something in her is fundamentally opposed to the gathering of the little ones into a holy nation.

And so Yahshua had hard words for the leaders of Judaism. It would seem that He who said, "Judge not lest you be judged," was judging them. Someone might say, "Yes, but he was the Son of God; that's different." But no, it's not different. In John 12:47-49, He makes it perfectly clear that His purpose was not to judge the world but to save it. He did not even judge those who rejected Him and His message, for he knew that the divinely inspired word he spoke would judge the hearers on the last day. So he was not judging (passing final judgment on) the Pharisees. He was just preaching the Good News. And the Good News condemned their sin. The truth always condemns the lie, but not the individual, if he repents.

This is different from what has happened to some people in Christianity. They have had their sin condemned without having forgiveness offered. There was no ministry of reconciliation. No preacher of Good News invited the sinner to leave his old life behind and come spend the rest of his days with him (the preacher) and his friends in his house. But such condemnation without offering forgiveness is not our way, because it isn't the way of the One we follow. The way of the One we follow is a narrow way, but it is the only way anyone can be saved from living a lawless, self-centered, and independent life. There's nothing a man can do to save himself. He can only follow the One who *will* save him. That is why it is so important for a man to *know* the will of the One who *will* save him.

Jn 5:40 — There's something of the will that decides. Jn 5:24 — "He who hears my Word and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life." Jn 5:21 — "... for just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wills." Jn 5:39-40 — "You search the scriptures ... and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life." If a man is willing to receive what the Father has for him ... some men initiate their *salvation* — and some receive what they hear and respond, in baptism. One man does the willing himself, while the other receives YHWH's will. In one instance a man originates — and in the other, a man receives.

Jn 3:27 — a man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. You can scream, holler, jump, and shout — but unless it has been given from heaven you can do nothing.

Jn 1:12-13 — To those who believe, He gives the power to become sons of YHWH — "Who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." Man is not saved because he wills it. We cannot think that because a man seeks and wills to be saved, that he will be a good disciple of Messiah. Not so. Only by the will of YHWH can we be born again — otherwise it will be a vain attempt to follow Messiah.

Rev 22:17 — Man cannot initiate. Does this seem to contradict Jn 5:40? YHWH desires no one to perish, but for all to come to repentance. 2 Pet 3:9; also 1 Tim 2:4 — "Yahweh our Savior who desires all men saved and come to the knowledge of the truth." There are some that He will let perish forever, but the problem here is man's attitude toward YHWH's will. If one decides to be a disciple because it is an excellent thing to do — or because he has always wanted to — then he is just as far off as the greatest sinner. Or if one chooses to be a disciple in a moment of excitement or emotion, it is vanity. What is a person's attitude toward YHWH's will (desire)? YHWH loves him, but will he accept His love? Messiah calls him, but will he come? YHWH wants to give him life, but will he be born again?

If a man searches for salvation, he is likely to end up in any cult. (Man cannot come on his own terms, his own schedule ... calculated. In fact it is vanity to "search for the truth" here and there in the world — as if the standard of truth is somehow already in you and you will therefore be able to sift and measure all things until you find the truth.) But, if a man, upon hearing the good news, is willing to accept what YHWH is offering him, he will be saved. But the man who originates, who says, "next week I'm going to get off from work and be baptized" ... nothing coming from self is accepted by YHWH. Can you receive that He wants to save you? All other activities except what He does through us are in vain. Who is going to build the Church? Peter? Us? No! — He is. He needs more than our spirits — He needs our *souls*. That is why the work has floundered for 2000 years. He has not possessed men's souls. We need to learn this in the beginning stages of our salvation. How do we react to YHWH's will? Do we care about it? If we don't, our fall will come. We know nothing of a man, except by his *will*. The will is the man.

It is his essence, his true measure. To love YHWH is to love His will. We must love His will and know that in Yahshua, YHWH has activated His will to save us.

But he is not passive. He does not just sit around doing nothing about what grieves Him. He is not unable to save from destruction those who are His. He has authority. He brings judgment. He scourges every Son that he receives (Heb 12:6). He is capable of sending messengers. If he can't find a human being, he will send angels (Heb 1:14). But His plan is to send human beings because getting a communication from an angel isn't very humbling. Many who receive something from an angel think that they came up with it themselves. This is part of His intent in sending His Son in the flesh. All who receive from a human being must become like little children to do so. In fact, Rom 10:13-17 says that one is not saved without trusting in Yahshua, which cannot happen without *hearing* (not reading), which does not happen without some person preaching, and that preacher cannot truly bring the message unless he is *sent* bearing the word of the Anointed. But then who can be sent unless they first have been disciples and had their feet shod with the *preparation* of the good news of peace (Eph 6:15). And no one can be his disciple unless he first has received the call to give up all, take up his personal cross, hate his own life, etc. (Lk 14:26-33).

So who today can qualify, like Paul, to be a messenger on the basis of having *suffered the loss of all things* (Phil 3:7-11), counting learning, position, power, prestige, and even personal righteousness as dung? And who is suffering as He suffered, being conformed to His death? Does this describe the leaders of Christianity? Have the teachers of Christianity given up all their own possessions, etc., to become disciples? If they have, why do they tell their sheep that they *only have to be willing and give them up in their heart*? Peter said, "Look, we have left everything and followed you" (Mk 10:28). His response to the good news was visible deeds. So was Paul's — "I *have suffered* the loss of all things." Considering all these things, who in Christianity can be sent? If not the leaders and teachers, then certainly not those whom they teach, for they will not surpass their teachers, but only be like them (Lk 6:40).

Therefore, there must be those who come out of Christianity into the Body of the Anointed which is obeying His commands in order that anyone would be able to experience *life*. Jn 3:36 says, "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; he who does not *obey* the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God rests on him." Our Father does not give grace merely to believe without giving grace also to obey. Those who are not obeying have not entered into his grace. This is not necessarily their fault, however, for how can they enter into grace through faith when no messenger has yet been sent to command them to obey? Paul told the Romans that he had received "grace and apostleship to bring about obedience to the faith for the sake of His name among all the nations" (Rom 1:5). In Christianity today this authority and grace is entirely absent, and so His name is profaned among all the nations rather than being hallowed.

Eph 3:9-10 — This is going to be made known, through the Church to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. Eph 4:1 — in light of this, we are entreating to walk in a manner worthy of this calling. Eph 1:11 — He looked ahead and envisioned the economy (administration) suitable to the fullness of the times — when Messiah would be preeminent — in view of this end. He has begun to make known the mysteries of His will, to the Church. Man will consent and obey, but he will not be coerced. In fact, you can't even lay your hands on the sacrifice unless you consent to it. (*Consent* should by now be an everlasting impression on our minds due to the teachings.) When the gospel comes to us, we've got to consent to it — lay hold, grasp it firmly.

Following Yahshua means taking up your own death instrument to die upon and following Him. It is the Spirit who gives life and immortality, "quickening your mortal bodies." This is the song which we sing and if we don't believe it we should not sing it any longer. "Yahshua my Sovereign and King, You make me dance and sing ..." We sing and we dance to it. This is reality, and the whole tribe of Israel dances and sings because Yahshua is our Lord and our King. He gets our feet a-dancing. But there were some who did not believe. They were following Yahshua on their own initiative, originating from themselves (Jn 6:64-71).

Jn 1:11-13 — *Man is not saved because he wills it; he must be born of YHWH. A person cannot because he comes to the community in Island Pond and wants to be saved by seeking or wanting this way of life.* This one will not be a disciple just because he has noble desires and ambitions. *Noble desires are still the will of man and not the will of YHWH.* Unless it is the will of YHWH, it is a vain thought to follow (Rev 22:17 and Jn 1:13). It is not man's responsibility to initiate salvation, but it is his responsibility to hear and upon hearing, whosoever will, let him come. It is not up to the will of man or the will of the flesh, but is of YHWH. *No one can be saved merely because he wants to, but only if he is convinced and convicted in his heart, and hears the voice of YHWH.*

In Jn 5:40 — man refuses to come to Him. He would rather search the scriptures. *Just think how many of these kind of disciples left Him when the going got rough.* They were following Him for noble desires of their own and it was their own initiative, originating from themselves. Jn 6:65,66 — verse 63 — The flesh confers no benefit whatsoever. (One man has his own initiative — contact with the scriptures, but not with the Lord of the scriptures. There is always a danger. These two should not be separate, but go together — the scriptures and the Lord of the scriptures.)

We can get people to accept a set of verses in the Bible easy enough and call him a Christian, but you won't be able to get him to do anything because his will has not yet been redeemed to God's will. (God has not covered his will.) Unless God draws, no one can have eternal life, even if he accepts what the Bible says about sin, righteousness and judgment. God Himself must come to us. *No set of scriptures or principles, no matter how cleverly delivered, can save the soul of man.* The Charismatic Catholics and the Protestants are trying to save the soul of man in the flesh *without bringing them to repentance.* Unless we repent, we will perish. When YHWH's Spirit comes to us and convicts us of sin, only then can we repent (Acts 2:38). For it is in virtue of His will that one is saved, in virtue of His own purpose (2 Tim 1:9). If we fail here, how will we be able to stand on that day before Him in confidence (Rom 8:7). *For the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God. It does not submit to YHWH's law,*

indeed for it cannot. It remains *lawless*. *When many lawless ones gather, there is a brood of vipers. WOW!*

So our Father has great compassion on the frustration of the sincere ones who are trapped in a society of the unredeemed and in a Christianity where the standard is set by the lost, Spirit-unfilled majority, who obviously do not know the Master, sent of our Father. It is *not* totally their fault that they are not fulfilling the commands of Yahshua, for where there is no living standard to look at (as Yahshua and his apostles were the light of the world) then there is no accountability for not forsaking all to follow that living example. As good and holy as the New Testament Scriptures are, they are still only the *letter*. The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. It *kills* you to read the letter when you have no way to put it into practice; but the Spirit gives you a *life* to live wherein you can be obedient — where knowing the right thing to do doesn't just increase your sin (knowing what is right to do and not doing it).

But, *GOOD NEWS* — the day is coming, and now is, when there will be communities like the one in Acts so that everyone can have a way to obey the words of our Master and see his promises fulfilled. In that day, those who stubbornly refuse to obey what is recorded in the gospels will be judged because they love the kingdom of darkness rather than the light of the world, the city on a hill, which is the New Covenant Israel. It is there that our wills can be exercised daily to obey the good news. Whether or not we *receive* the good news is up to the will — because even though we apprehend the gospel through the intellect, it's the will that determines our response. And the responsibility of our will is not to save ourselves, but rather to choose to obey the will of the One who will save us.