

Become a Vessel of Honor

The most important thing you can tell yourself and others is that you are to be improving yourself from the inside out. You are to be making yourself into a vessel of honor. You are to clean-out your old carnal selfish personality, and work hard to prepare yourself for being resurrected as a vessel of honor in the Master's House in the Kingdom.

“Let everyone naming the name of Christ depart from unrighteousness. But in a great house not only are there vessels of gold and silver, but also of wooden and earthen, and some to honor and some to dishonor. Then if anyone [literally: **'cleanse-out'**] **himself** from these, he will be a vessel to honor, having been sanctified and made useful [to] the master [literally: **'into every work good having been made ready'**].” (2-Timothy 2:19-21, “The Interlinear Bible Hebrew - Greek – English by Jay P. Green, Sr.” used throughout).

The Problem

The problem is that millions of churchgoers are told that they do not have to do very much to be saved. Churchgoers are told: “All you have to do is accept Christ as your savior, and you will have eternal life.” “Once you are saved, then there is nothing you can do to become unsaved”. Churchgoers are taught: “God loves you as you are” and “Just ask God to forgive you, and he will”.

The problem is that these churchgoers are taught to have a faith that lets them stay “carnal”. They attend church, they sing the songs, they give their offerings, and they hear that they are to be good people, but yet their inner-most-characters stay untrained, and remain no more inwardly converted than the polished church door-knobs.

Most churches believe that they teach “The Truth”, and believe that they lead people to salvation. But from the point of view of knowledge, a robot can be programmed to have “The Truth”. The Creator could have made computerized trees to know “The Truth”. But where is “The Heart” within a tree or a robot? Would you want to live under the rulership of a robot that could dispense the laws of God, but not know how to apply mercy and patience and graciousness with a converted heart at the same time?

There is Much More To It

It may be that we read and interpret the scriptures very differently, but there is one point which is foundational to all of us. There is much more to "**Getting Salvation**" than just living forever. Once you are given the gracious gift of salvation, what then? Are you bored silly for eons of time, doing nothing but playing a harp? God could have created cabbages to live forever. Instead, God created intelligent free thinking men and women, with instructions to manage His Garden. There is a core reason to live a life, and to learn how to obey the Teachings (Torah) of God after baptism. Day by day you are learning how to

make right decisions, and righteous judgments, so that you can be a prized manager in the Garden Kingdom of God.

Salvation Is About Us Learning How To Be Good

We are told to worship The Father “In Spirit” and “In Truth” (John 4:23). Notice that there are two aspects to our worship. We need to be doing both. Not just “In The Spirit”, and not just “In The Truth”.

Please look in your Interlinear Bibles, and read this verse with the Greek Text. Notice that these Greek nouns are in the ‘anarthrous’ form. The Greek Text is not talking about the noun “Spirit” as a thing, but is talking about the qualities of the noun, “spiritual-ness”. This verse is not talking about the noun “Truth” as a thing, but the qualities of the noun, “truthful-ness”. We are to worship The Father in both “Spirit-fulness” and “Truth-fulness”. **Our worship is to have both the Truth and the Spirit, both the mind and the heart.** We are to learn how to internalize both aspects into our very beings, day by day. **It is a “Training Process”.**

We are also told to grow “In Grace” and “In Knowledge” (2-Peter 3:18). But again these Greek nouns are in the ‘anarthrous’ form. It is not talking about the noun “Grace” as a thing, but the qualities of the noun, “Gracious-ness”. It is not talking about the noun “Knowledge” as a thing, but the qualities of the noun, “Knowledge-ness” – which grows into “Wisdom”. We are to grow in our “Graciousness” and our “Wisdom”. To do this we must be studying the Text, and internalizing its applications, daily.

We Are To Practice Righteousness

“Little children let no one lead you astray; the one practicing righteousness is righteous...” (1-John 3:7).

We are to be practicing doing the righteous things of God’s Teachings. But, why?

Salvation Is About “Improving Ourselves Inwardly”

Consider: When was the last time you grew in graciousness? The last time someone stepped on your toes, did you show them graciousness, or did you insist on full satisfaction as you demanded that they kiss your every toe, and rub them extra good? When was the last time you grew in wisdom? The last time someone disagreed with your interpretation of “The Truth”, did you show wisdom, or did you get mad and demand that they no longer attend until they repent of their self-willed ignorance?

Being a vessel worthy of honor is far deeper than just knowing “The Truth”. Being a vessel worthy of honor is far deeper than just “being a good person”. Being a vessel worthy of honor is your personal deep internalization of what God has given you to understand, so far.

This Text is telling you that your goal is the cleaning-out of your carnal selfish fleshly personality traits, and living out everything you know, at the deepest underlying principles behind “The Truth”, until you inherently and automatically know how to apply Graciousness and Wisdom, to every daily situation.

The “First Resurrection” Are Those Who Are The Elect

Remember, that in the “First Resurrection” you are to be resurrected as a King and/or as a Priest (Revelation 5:10). So ask; which type of person do you think will be resurrected? **Who is the person so precious, so valuable, that The Father would want to keep them around for all eternity?**

Is it the person who still has their selfish carnal personality traits, and cannot be trusted? **Who’s going to rule over the people and cities in the Kingdom of God?** Is it going to be the dictators, the self-centered churchgoers, the arrogant teachers, and those still having a selfish carnal personality?

Or is the “First Resurrection” going to be those who have made themselves ready for selfless service? Will it be those that have demonstrated that they are not dictators, they are not self-centered actors, nor do they still have selfish carnal personalities? It will be those that have demonstrated that they can be trusted to show both “The Truth” and “The Mercy” of the scriptures. **It will be those that have demonstrated that they will govern righteously, over the Kingdom’s peoples and cities.**

“Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' **will enter into the kingdom of heaven** - only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. **On that day** [when they are resurrected Revelation 20:12], many will **say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, and in your name cast out demons and do many powerful deeds?'** Then I will declare to them, **I never knew you. Go away from me, you [the] lawbreakers!**' [literally ‘without-law’]”, (Matthew 7:21-23).

Just confessing the words of repentance, just saying that “Jesus is Lord”, is not the sole criteria for deciding who is granted access into the Kingdom of Heaven. Repentance must be followed with a lifestyle of law keeping, rather than law breaking.

The “First Resurrection” will be those who will reign with Christ for 1000 years. They will be those elect people who have learned how to apply the Teachings (Torah) of God, and have learned how to make righteous judgments using “Graciousness” and “Wisdom”. Such Saints have demonstrated in deeds, that they have learned how to internalize “Spirit-fulness” and “Truth-fulness”. **They can be trusted, because they lived that way.**

Salvation Is About “The Goal”

The goal is to engage in intense self-improvement of our deepest innermost personal character traits. It is our minds which must be transformed (Romans 12:2), so set about

doing just that, every day. The goal is to focus on how you will learn to be Gracious towards everyone else, even those you do not like. Instead, focus on how you will learn to apply your Graciousness and Knowledge with both understanding and wisdom. **The goal is to become dedicated to cleaning yourself, day by day, working at getting rid of your old carnal selfish personality, and become a truly righteous-personality.**

“Hearing and Doing”:

Is the daily pursuit of the "Internalization of the Teachings of God"

Day by day become more and more selfless. Make yourself into a trustworthy servant. Become fit to be an honored vessel, a trusted King / Priest, managing righteously in the Kingdom of God.

In Service To The Brethren,
Wayne L. Atchison, an Elder in the Body of the Messiah

Two Tassels Ministry



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