

## Enjoy Christ and His Salvation

### The Gospel Mystery of Sanctification – Direction 7

Direction 7: We are not to imagine that our hearts and lives must be changed from sin to holiness in any measure, before we may safely venture to trust on Christ for the sure enjoyment of Himself and His salvation.

Thesis: You cannot know Christ's holiness until you enjoy Christ and his Salvation

Introduction: We are so prone to ground our salvation in our works that if we cannot make our works the cause of our salvation, we tend at least to make our works preparatory to our salvation. We then convince ourselves that this does not encroach on Christ's work or God's free grace because it is merely preparatory. Many in this state are terrified of the coming judgment but delay coming to Christ because they think they are not yet prepared for it.

#### **I. Three reasons we cannot look to ourselves:**

- A. When we strive to earn salvation we strive without the very means we need to be holy. Such means are given only through the grace of salvation.
- B. Even if you could, it is unnecessary to cleanse yourself before coming to Christ since he invites the most vile sinners come to him for cleansing.
- C. Faith is beautiful in the sight of God and the excellency of faith lies in this: it does not depend upon anything of ourselves to make us beautiful in the sight of God but depends wholly upon his grace and Christ's work.

#### **II. The things we look for in ourselves are either found in faith or are the fruit of faith.**

- A. Whether we view the keeping of the law as qualifying us to receive Christ or merely preparation for receiving Christ, the law still demands perfect obedience which we are unable to give in our natural state.
- B. Regeneration is necessary for salvation (John 3:3) and regeneration is itself a new birth in Christ (1 Cor. 4:15; Eph. 2:10) which happens only through faith. Those so born are born "not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12-13).
- C. Many desire to receive Christ as Lord and Lawgiver, not realizing that they are enemies of God (Rom. 8:7) and his wrath is directed toward them (Luke 19:27). They must learn that they will never obey him as Lawgiver until they receive him as Savior.
- D. Some think it is evident that we must have some good works because of statements like that of Jesus about forgiveness in Matt. 6:12, 15. But in order to perform these acts in holiness these acts must be accompanied by faith. To attempt them before faith is to obey slavishly and hypocritically like Pharaoh letting the Israelites go only to demand their return or Judas returning the thirty pieces of silver. In order to forgive others heartily you must first understand and apprehend the forgiveness of God toward you in Christ (Eph. 4:32).

Conclusion: God's purpose in giving the law to Moses was never to attain to salvation or holiness. God's covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob promised blessing; the Mosaic covenant was added so Israel would see their sinfulness and death and understand the impossibility of achieving life through works rather than grace.

We must praise God not only for his deliverance from bondage through Christ. Do not seek to be entangled again in the yoke of bondage (Gal. 5:1).