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Christ Wants ‘Doers’!

by Ian Hufton

Christ wants each of us to be highly successful in our Christian walk. He inspired Paul to write the following:

Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. (1 Cor 3:12-14)

Read the whole section for yourself and you will see that even those who built of wood, hay and stubble, (which would be burned up in the fire) still receive salvation.

It appears that the important thing for salvation is that we be building. In Christ's parable of the talents, He points out that the servant that did nothing with the talent given him, was called a "wicked and slothful servant" and consigned to "outer darkness with weeping and gnashing of teeth."

TO DO OR NOT TO DO

Many are certain that Christ and God, the Father, don't want Christians to do anything, except let Jesus do everything for them. Let's see what Christ, himself, has to say:

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall DO and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Matt 5:19)

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, DO good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; (Matt 5:44)

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, DO ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. (Matt 7:12)

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that DOETH the will of my Father which is in heaven. (Matt 7:21)

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and DOETH them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: (Matt 7:24)

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and DOETH them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: (Matt 7:26)

For whosoever shall DO the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother. (Matt 12:50)

Jesus is clear and powerful about the need for His followers to be doing certain things. Why is it important to our Father and Jesus Christ that Christians be active in doing? Could it be that they are extremely eager to see their babes in Christ mature, grow and develop into the fullness of Christ?

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. (Eph 3:19)

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: (Eph 4:13)

THE END RESULT IS BECOMING LOVE

GOD IS LOVE. He expects us to grow in lovingness until we are born into the Family of God and are married to our future husband, Jesus Christ. Jesus tells us that the we are to learn how to love God, and our neighbors, and our enemies.

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

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This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

(Matt 22:37-39)

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

(Matt 5:44)

Learning how to love is one of god’s highest priorities for each of us. Paul, also, points out how critical it is to learn to love.

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity (love), I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity (love), I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity (love), it profiteth me nothing. Charity (love) suffereth long, and is kind; charity (love) envieth not; charity (love) vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

(1 Cor 13:1-4)

And now abideth faith, hope, charity (love), these three; but the greatest of these is charity (love).

(1 Cor 13:13)

HOW CAN HUMANS LEARN GOD-LIKE LOVE?

But be ye DOERS of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a DOER, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect LAW of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a DOER of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

(James 1:22-25)

Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of THE LAW, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a DOER of THE LAW, but a judge.

(James 4:11)

Is this not saying that we are expected to be **DOING** the law? In man’s societies, it goes with out saying, that everyone is expected to keep the law. The law of the land, in most cases, has been crafted by the leaders of society to provide good living conditions and to keep the citizens as safe as possible. By keeping the law (of man) children learn how to grow into fine, upstanding, law-abiding citizens. Why should it be so strange to so many people, to think that God is using the same system (that of law) to develop Christ-like beings for life in the eternal society. Could it be they will tolerate a police force they can see,

but rebel at the law of a God they can not see?

If ye fulfil THE ROYAL LAW according to the Scripture, Thou shalt LOVE thy neighbour as thy self, ye do well:

(James 2:8)

Owe no man any thing, but to LOVE one another: for he that loveth another hath FULFILLED THE LAW.

(Romans 13:8)

Is it not clear that God expects us to do His law, and thereby develop a God-like love to mankind and to God himself? The two Scriptures above clearly show that fulfilling the law is loving others -not just our best friends, but all other human beings. This is not easy to achieve. That is why God gives us the law of God as a guide. If we follow and obey and DO the law of God, we continue in the growing (in love) process. The end result of this growing process is becoming totally Christ-like.

A GREAT RESULT OF LAW KEEPING

For Christ is THE END of THE LAW for righteousness to every one that believeth.

(Romans 10:4)

Many want this to mean that when Christ came to earth, he ended the law. If that were the case, then all the writings of the New Testament should ignore the law, since it would no longer have application to daily life.

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

(Matt 5:17-18)

Christ wants the law fulfilled or filled fully. Why? Because loving God’s law and having it written in our hearts and minds, and living it daily, leads us to more Christ-likeness.

But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

(Jer 31:33)

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

(Heb 8:10)

This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

(Heb 10:16)

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Having God’s law written in our hearts and minds is a major part of God’s new covenant plan. How can anyone suggest that God doesn’t want us obeying His law?

You have seen that there are many references to God’s law in the New Testament Scriptures so what does “*end of the law*” mean? Notice in the Scriptures below, that this term, “*end*”, has application to “*the end result of*”.

What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? For THE END of those things is death.

(Romans 6:21)

(NOTE; The end result of “*those things*” is death, at a future time.)

But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and THE END everlasting life.

(Romans 6:22)

Who shall also confirm you UNTO THE END, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(1 Cor 1:8)

Here, it is very clear that there will be a continuing action until the end arrives. This verse gives us greater understanding of the “*end of the law*” (Romans 10:4) verse. If we read Romans 10:4 from this perspective, it is clear that Christ, or coming to Christ (at the wedding supper of the lamb), or Christ-likeness in us, is the “*end result*” or purpose of the law. By practicing the law of God, we become more and more Christ—like. This does not, however, mean that we of ourselves and by ourselves can use God’s law to make ourselves perfect. Obviously, we can not. Only the interaction of God’s Holy Spirit in our minds (as we strive to obey the law of God), can accomplish this growth toward Christ-likeness. Do we see how important the Law of God is? It is the lamp unto our feet (Psalm 119:105) to guide us in our Christian walk. The end (or end result) of that walk, will be that we truly and totally will have come to Christ.

Can we, too, join with King David and say, “*Oh, how love I thy law.*”?

(All Scripture references are KJV unless otherwise noted)

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