ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

Each week brings new blessings from our Father in Heaven! We rejoice in the baptisms we have witnessed recently! It is always great to hear of those who are convicted of sin and desire to have rest from the burdens of sin by obedience to the Gospel (Matt. 11:28-30; Mk. 16:15-16).

We know that death will come to all mankind (Heb. 9:27). This verse reminds us that after death will come the Judgment (II Cor. 5:10-11). Many fear death . . . mostly because they are unprepared to meet the deeds which they have done in the body! All fear can be removed from these if they will hear the Gospel (Rom. 10:17), believe in Jesus as the Messiah (Jn. 8:21, 24), repent of their sins (Lk. 13:3, 5), confess from the heart their faith in Jesus (Acts 8:37), and submit to being baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

Don’t be afraid of death . . . but rather be afraid of an unlived life; you don’t have to live forever, you just have to live!

The happiest people don’t have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything they have! Take your Bible in hand and read Matthew 16:24-26).
Where in the Bible Will I Find . . .

Gary Colley

The Premillennial Theory in Revelation 20?

Evidently the one asking this question has studied both the premillennial theory and Revelation 20, and has found no indication of compatibility between the two! It is good to see a close and astute student of the Bible weigh and eliminate the "hay from the stubble" or Truth from error. Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (Jn. 8:32). We are commanded to "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thess. 5:21). We are to "beware of false prophets [teachers], which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Matt. 7:15). Even if all men believe a false theory, that does not make it true. And if all denominations accept the theory of premillennialism as true, that would not make it true. Though the false teacher claims to receive support for his theory from Revelation 20, there are seven necessary parts of premillennialism that are not stated in Revelation 20:

1. The second coming of Christ is not mentioned.
2. A bodily resurrection of the righteous is not mentioned.
3. All righteous persons gathered in Jerusalem.
5. Christ's return to the earth.
6. The length of Christ's reign on earth.
7. Jerusalem as the capitol and Christ as King.

When these necessary thoughts of premillennialism cannot be found in Revelation 20, the theory certainly cannot be proven by Revelation 20. Not only can one not prove the theory by Revelation 20, neither can it be found taught in the Bible at all. Those who reigned with Christ "a thousand years" are the ones who had been slain by those who opposed the Word of God during the first century. These faithful souls had obeyed the Gospel by faith, repentance, confession, and baptism, and thereby had a part in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Jn. 11:25; Co1. 2:12; Rom. 6:1-4). We pray that all men today will do the same.
Imagine for a moment this scene. There are two mountain goats who meet each other on a narrow ledge just wide enough for one of the animals to pass. On the left is a sheer cliff, and on the right a steep wall. The two are facing each other, and it is impossible to turn or back up. How do they solve their dilemma? One of them lies down on the trail and lets the other walk over him—both then are safe.

This mental picture of the goat lying down is an accurate demonstration of humility. It also gives us a vivid mind picture of our Lord and His great sacrifice. Jesus met sin and sinful man on a mountain path with a sheer cliff on the left and a steep wall on the right. How could he save man? He did what a Savior would do. He lowered himself. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of a cross (Philippians 2:8). Jesus went to the ground and allowed sin and sinful man to walk over him. The result? The result was breathtaking! Man was saved because Jesus took that lowly position ... having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him (Romans 5:9). What happened to Jesus? God highly exalted Him, and gave Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven and those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father (2:9-11).

Imagine for a moment another scene. There are two people with differing opinions who meet each other on a narrow ledge just wide enough for one of them to pass. On the left is a sheer cliff, and on the right a steep wall. The two are facing each other, and it is impossible to turn or back up. How do they solve their dilemma? They could do what most humans do. They could butt heads until both plunge into the chasm. On the other hand, they could imitate the beautiful, humble spirit of our Lord.

God highly regards humble people. He sets on high those who are lowly, and those who mourn are lifted to safety (Job 5:11). David wrote, “Though the Lord is on high, Yet He regards the lowly; But the proud He knows from afar” (Psalm 138:6). Solomon said, “By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life” (Proverbs 22:4). Samuel addressed God saying, “You will save the humble people; But Your eyes are on the haughty, that You may bring them down” (2 Samuel 22:28).

New Testament writers warned Christians about the danger of pride, which is the opposite of humility. Peter and James wrote, “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble” (1 Peter 1:5, James 4:6). Paul encouraged Christians, “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering” (Colossians 3:12), and, “speak evil of no one, be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men” (Titus 3:2). Humility plays a vital role in forgiveness. “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

If we find ourselves butting heads over opinions, desires, or our way of doing things, let us have the common sense of a billy goat, and imitate Jesus’ humble heart.

—Teresa Hampton
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