ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

The home front of the Getwell church of Christ continues to look good and promising! We appreciate all who continue to have an interest in our work, whether former members or present members. The visits of those who are relatives, or who are friends of those who are now making up the body of Christ at this place, are appreciated! Please do not take too long to come back to visit with us in our services! We always are happy to see you as well as all of our visitors, especially those who are interested in learning more about the church of Christ.

From Hebrews 13:4, and Matthew 19:8-9 we learn “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.” And, from Matthew 19:9, Jesus says clearly, “And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery. Let us be reminded that there are only three individuals who have the right to marry correctly in the sight of God: (1) Those who never been married; (2) Those whose spouse has committed fornication thereby breaking the marriage vows; (3) Those whose spouse has passed away from this life. All of these thoughts are from God, “from the beginning!” Adultery is condemned “from the beginning,” in the seventh of the Ten Commandments, and by Jesus in the verses above! Perhaps many today would like to think like the child who wrongly repeated the verse, “Thou shalt not ADMIT ADULTERY”!
Our country has witnessed many Presidential campaigns. The major political parties have always adopted party platforms on which they stand, and which express what they believe. The candidates run on these platforms to obtain and maintain party unity.

Platform for the Church of Christ
Jesus Christ made and gave, for all time, the Christian's platform (Matt. 26:28; Jude 3). He commanded that this platform be preached by all faithful servants to all nations (II Tim. 2:2; Matt. 28:18-20).

All who stand with Christ must stand upon this platform, or covenant (agreement), or Gospel (Matt. 7:21. God laid, and Christ is, the foundation upon which all right religion must be based (Matt. 16:18-19; I Cor. 3:11). No man can rightfully separate Christ from the Christian platform (II Thess. 1:7-9).

The Planks of the Platform
Paul gives the planks in the platform of the church of Christ in Ephesians 4:3-6 and urges that we strongly endeavor "to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3).

Sadly, the present religious world is in confusion, division, and conflict on every one of the seven planks of this platform. We plead with all to reconsider these planks upon which the unity of God's people and the hope of heaven is placed:

1. One God  Unity of Worship
2. One Lord  Unity of Authority
3. One Body  Unity of Organization
4. One Spirit.  Unity of Life in Christ
5. One Faith  Unity of Teaching
6. One Baptism  Unity of Practice
7. One Hope  Unity of Purpose

Please read again the Lord's prayer for unity (John 17:20-21) and Paul's inspired command (I Cor. 1:10).
Fear Him Who Is Able To Destroy Both Soul and Body in Hell

Victor M. Eskew

Jill is a three year old who constantly talks back to her mother. Drake is a twelve year old who is sent to the principal’s office at least once a week because he disregards the class rules. Charles is a sixteen year old who already has a record with the police because he refused to comply with a police officer’s orders when pulled over for speeding. Sue is twenty-seven and about to lose her third job because she refuses to get to work on time.

These situations could be multiplied many times over in our society. Each case represents a lack of respect for authority. From an early age, children must be taught to fear, that is, respect and reverence, those who are in charge. If this is not done, the child will grow up constantly disregarding boundaries and ignoring rules. When authority figures confront them, they will have to deal with a disrespectful, belligerent individual. In adulthood, the rebel will continue to experience problems. His lack of fear for authority will cause many difficulties in his daily affairs of life.

When a person fails to fear human authority it usually carries over into the person’s spiritual life as well. The person does not fear God. He has no regard for God’s laws that are found in the pages of the Bible. He will laugh and scoff at anyone who tries to point him in the direction of obedience to the will of God.

Those who have no fear of God are in for a big surprise on the Last Day. They will find out that God is not an abstract concept. They will learn He is not a mythical being. They will find out that He is a real being. They will learn that He is the Governor of the Universe. At that time, it will be too late. Their ungodly actions will cause God to pronounce the sentence of eternal condemnation upon them. They will hear the words: “Depart from me ye cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”

Dear reader, all men must learn to fear God. This fear involves a healthy respect for who God is and what He can do. This fear manifests itself in submission to God. When a man fears God, the commandments of God found in Holy Scripture become a vital part of the person’s life.

A healthy respect for God can be developed when one looks at the ultimate consequence of rebelling against God, the destruction of body and soul in hell. The Bible reveals the horrible realities of this place.

- Separation from God (2 Thessalonians 2:7-9)
- Fellowship with evil, especially the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41)
- Outer darkness (Matthew 25:30)
- Weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 25:30)
- Indignation, wrath, tribulation, and anguish (Romans 2:8-9)
- Torment (Luke 16:24)
- The sting of memory (Luke 16:25)
- Everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46)

These are some curses of the place called hell. If contemplated by honest and rational thought, it is not a place to which one longs to go. Dear reader, don’t go to this place. Heed the words of our Lord Jesus Christ that are recorded in Matthew 10:28. He says: “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

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