ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

Last Lord’s Day was a wonderful day for the good brethren at Getwell! We had several visitors in the worship service, but then we also had some of our faithful members missing due to physical difficulties.

The lesson on “The Worship of Mary was warmly accepted. The worship of Mary,” who was the mother of Jesus, NOT GOD, is boldly taught and blindly accepted by many in the world, but it is not taught in the Bible. The Catholic explanation for this doctrine reads as follows: “The Blessed Virgin Mary was preserved from original sin (which is not taught in the Bible, GC) in view of the merits of her Divine Son (not taught in the Bible, GC), and this privilege is called her “Immaculate Conception” (not taught in the Bible, GC) according to “The New Baltimore Catechism” Number 2, Page 32). This explanation dealt with Mary’s birth, not the Lord’s! There was much objection when this doctrine, along with the other five false doctrines that were pointed out Sunday about this subject, began in the 4th century, several hundred years too late to be taught by the apostles, who were guided into “all truth (Jn. 16:13). In fact it was decreed by Pope Pius IX in a “Papal Bull” in 1854. This falsehood has been told so many times that now some believe it is in the Bible! NOT SO.

The language used is deceiving and confusing to people who are accepting this false doctrine! It reminds us of the man who called his friend and asked what he was doing? He replied that he was “working on Aquathermal treatment of ceramics, aluminum, and steel under a constrained environment!” He then explained that he was washing dishes, with hot water, under his wife’s supervision!
The real “elite” of the world are not generally found listed in magazines, newspapers, or on TV. The real elite have their names written in the Book of Life (Lk. 10:17-20; Phil. 4:3). The Lord is the only one who can write in this book, either to add or to remove the names there. Under the Christian dispensation one is to obey the New Testament sealed by Christ’s blood. When one hears the Gospel, believes in Christ with all of his heart, repents of past sins, confesses the name of Christ, and is baptized for the remission of sins, the Lord writes his name in this book (Acts 2:38, 41, 47). The Bible records the names of the real elite of past dispensations as well.

Faithfulness in the Patriarchal Age

This appeal for good and honest men and women has also been the appeal of God through the centuries! God has always wanted men and women to hear all that He said, believe all that He said, obey all that He said, and trust Him for the promises! This is the true meaning of walking by faith (II Cor. 5:7). He found a few good men in the Patriarchal Period, who would not turn “to the right or to the left of His will” (Josh. 1). By these faithful men, God made Himself known to the millions of the earth. Hebrews 11 records the honor roll of men who served God by their faith, that faith that comes by hearing God’s Word. As it was then, so it is now (Rom. 10:17). Without faith in the evidence of God’s Word one cannot please God (Heb. 11:6). The names of men like Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and women like Sarah stand out as an elite group as they traveled to their eternal reward on the great pathway of faith! (Heb. 11:10). These were such brave, honorable, and outstanding men and women that the inspired writer adds to their credits, “Of whom the world was not worthy” (Heb. 11:38).

But today, we cannot be the elite in God’s eyes by living as those in the Patriarchal Age. Then, God commanded directly to the fathers of each family. Though God commanded Noah to build the ark, and Abraham to offer his son, we are under no obligation to keep either of these commands today. We do not live in that Dispensation, nor under that standard.
## June 2018

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Ron Wallace  
Jesse Matthews  
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