ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

The brethren at Getwell take seriously the commands of the Great Commission to preach the Gospel to all (Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Lk. 24:46-47; Jn. 20:19-23). We follow these commands in our regular classes and worship services, Gospel meetings, radio work on WHBQ at 8:00 a.m. each Lord’s Day, in the Spiritual Sword Lectureship, the Spiritual Sword publication edited by brother Alan Highers, and in the personal teaching done by members of the congregation. We invite anyone interested in our work to join hands with us in these and other works.

There are many questions that arise about marriage, divorce, and remarriage. Some of these questions come from those who either were not fully aware of God’s law regulating marriage, or else who did not consider His law binding until they decided to live the Christian life. God’s law from the beginning, to be married correctly, is that one man is to marry one woman, and that union is to last “until death do us part” (Gen. 2). The law of Moses allowed, regulated, and overlooked some things, because of the ill treatment some wives were receiving (Dt. 24; Acts 17:30-31). However, Jesus gave His law as a return to God’s original law in the beginning (Mt. 5:32; 19:5-9; Mk. 10:2-12). We fear that too many today are entering into the vows of marriage lightly and without thinking of the consequences. A woman is under the law of the husband as long as he liveth (Rom. 7:1-3). Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: but and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away (divorce) his wife” (I Cor. 7:10-11). The law of Christ is that by which we shall be judged in the last day (Jn. 12:48).
Where in The Bible Will I Find ...

Gary Colley

A Second Chance to Be Saved?

Just as there must have been those who sudden, unexpected appearance of Christ in these cried out to Noah after the door of the Ark was words: “The Lord is not slack concerning his shut and the water began to rise, no doubt, also, promise, as some men count slackness; but is there will be those who will desire just one more longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any day, or hour, or minute, when the Judgement Day should perish, but that all should come to arrives! Things of importance should be taken repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as care of immediately when we know the right a thief in the night; in which the heavens shall course. Procrastination, or putting off, our pass away with a great noise, and the elements obeying the Gospel will be of eternal shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the consequences (Mk. 16:15-16; II Thess. 1:7-9)! All works that are therein shall be burned up” (II Pet. men have a choice to make between the Lord’s 3:9-10). Jesus said, “And these [the wicked, GC] church and the world, right and wrong, good and shall go away into everlasting punishment: but evil, the “narrow way” and the “broad the righteous into life eternal” (Matt. 25:46). All way” (Matt. 7:13-14). Yes, all men have a choice, of these verses emphasize the importance of but none will have a second chance! “Now is the preparation “in this life.” There is no indication day of salvation” is the message, while, also, Paul in the Bible that there will be a second chance, a exhorts all to not “receive the grace of God in place called purgatory, or that after death we can vain” (II Cor. 6:1-2). The Hebrew writer said, escape from Hell into Heaven. Paul wrote, “For “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath after this the judgment: so Christ was once appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live that look for him SHALL HE APPEAR THE soberly, righteously, and Godly IN THIS SECOND TIME without sin unto salvation” (Heb. PRESENT WORLD (Tit. 2:11-12). Obey today 9:27-28). Peter writes to give the events of the (Heb.5:8-9)!
After the Pharisees asked Jesus, "Who are You?" (John 8:25 NKJV), He answered, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things" (v. 28). Despite Jesus' antagonists being unwilling to accept His claim to deity, He said they would "know" about His identity when He was lifted up. But how does Jesus' being "lifted up" identify Him as the Son of God?

To answer, we must first determine what Jesus meant 'when He told the Jews they would "lift up the Son of Man."' If we had only the statement found in John 8:28, this would be a difficult task. Thankfully, Jesus used similar terminology on two other occasions. In the first, Jesus likened Himself to the bronze serpent used by Moses in the wilderness. He said, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up" (3:14). Because we know Moses placed the bronze serpent upon a pole in the midst of the Israelite camp (Numbers 21:8-9), we conclude Jesus would also be lifted up in the midst of His people. Elsewhere, Jesus said, "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself" (John 12:32). John added, "This He said, signifying by what death He would die" (v 33). When Jesus spoke of "lifting up the Son of Man," He was referring to His crucifixion.

Therefore, Jesus' crucifixion confirms His identity as the Son of God. This is true because His death was predicted. Unlike those who speculate about the future, Jesus spoke of His coming death with certainty. Jesus' death was not prophesied as an event that could happen; it was prophesied as an event that would happen. He told His disciples, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day" (Mark 9:31). If He were not the Son of God, Jesus could not have accurately predicted His death.

Jesus' crucifixion also confirmed His identity because of the unusual events that followed. From the veil of the temple being torn, to the earthquake, to the resurrection of the saints in Jerusalem, the events following Jesus' death helped identify Him as the Son of God. After recording these events, Matthew reported the reaction of a centurion who observed them: "So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, 'Truly this was the Son of God!'" (27:54).

Although we naturally think of the resurrection when considering Jesus' identity, the empty tomb is not the only proof of His deity. Jesus told His enemies, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He" (John 8:28). We may rightly conclude Jesus' crucifixion provides confirmation of His identity. The centurion at the cross was correct. Jesus Christ is the Son of God!

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