

The Gospel Gazette

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Japan: Land of the Rising Sun
of Righteousness
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KEYS TO GOD'S COVENANT

by Jonathan

A POSITION THAT LEADS TO DESPERATION

“...if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them” (DEUTERONOMY 4:29-31).

The call to believe is a call to loving and willing obedience to God with total dependency on Him. It is based on God's terms, not ours. Anything short of this becomes religion, not relationship. God wants to shake everything that could be shaken. If we are not careful, we will succumb to idolatry and be judged, “For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?” (1 Peter 4:17-18).

No, I do not believe that a Christian (unless he or she renounces the power of the blood of Jesus Christ, according to Hebrews 10:29) could lose his or her salvation but there is nevertheless a serious responsibility that is demanded of us after we believe, “...strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Matthew 7:14). Which is why Calvinism or the doctrine of election or predestination in the extreme position is diabolical and will lead a lot of people to hell. Of course, we know God is sovereign but He has allowed us a choice of whom we would serve. It is the consequences that we need to be aware of though, “For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting” (Galatians 6:8).

On the other hand, Arminianism or the doctrine of free will can be imbalance in instances where legalism and human works are overemphasized (and hence, not enough stress on faith in God's grace and mercy), “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Let us hold God's covenant in balance. The key is, as long as we remain in Christ, we are secured. But we can, by our own wills, turn our backs on God, apostasize and be lost, “Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?” (Hebrews 10:29) and “...if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them” (2 Peter 2:20-21).

The critical issue is, do we know our God as the Covenant-Lord? While it is true that “God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8), our response after we believe is to develop a pursuit of following after God's own heart, desperately and earnestly. Though He has absolute legal ownership of us, being “bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's” (1 Corinthians 6:20), He has nevertheless given us His delegated authority and keys of the Kingdom, “And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:19).

In this covenant relationship, He is our Senior Partner. We could have been transformed into robots, but He wants us to play our roles in the Kingdom. YOU and I hold the key to take possession of what has been lost to the enemy's territory. WE can put a stop to Satan's harassment in our lives and that of others in the Name of Jesus Christ!

GOD'S WILL IS SALVATION

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

Allow me to say this. Supposing it is true (which it is NOT, according to 2 Peter 3:9) that God has already "elected" or "predestined" the eternal destiny of humankind, then there is no reason why the Lord's coming should be "delayed" any further. It is because of God's great mercy that He presently withholds His righteous judgment. And for such a time as this, we have a serious responsibility to unbelievers and God in bringing them to Jesus! We can make the difference!

Do not engage in religious debates. Do not play with some dead traditionalism. There is conflict between the Kingdom of God and that of Satan. Make war in the heavenlies. Pull down strongholds in the Name that is above every other name, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Start believing God for your family and loved ones like you have never before. Stand in the gap (according to Ezekiel 22:30) and intercede for them before the throne of God. Do not pray ordinary prayers. Pray diligently and intensely. Rise up for Jesus, " ...until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force" (Matthew 11:12). Assert Jesus' authority and see His Kingdom advance aggressively as you are armed in His armour! (according to Ephesians 6:10-18). Glory be to God!

THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE SAY, "COME!"

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17).

Friend, if you are not a Christian and you read this, here's an appeal for you to find the God who is merciful. To be included in this invitation, you must have a relationship with Jesus Christ. The choice is yours. If you say "yes" to Jesus, here's what you must do,

Admit the fact that you are a sinner, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23);

Be willing to repent from disobedience and rebellion against God, " ...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3);

Believe that Jesus is your only Saviour, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16);

Confess, trust and receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:9-10).

Please pray this prayer and do mean it with all of your heart:

"Dear Lord Jesus, I now recognize that I am a sinner and I am in need of salvation. I accept the sacrifice You paid for me on the cross of Calvary and I allow Your precious shed blood to cleanse me. I now surrender myself to You and invite You to be my Lord and Saviour. Please come into my heart. Take full control of my life and help me to live and serve You from this moment forward. I ask in the name of Jesus. Amen."

If you prayed this prayer in all sincerity, you are now a child of God. We encourage you to find fellowship in a Bible-believing, Spirit-filled church and obtain a copy of the Bible and that you read it diligently so that you will be the kind of Christian God wants you to be.

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(This article was written in the mid 1990s. The message is still as relevant now as it was back then.)

A bit about Jonathan's

Living
In
Fulfilling
Experiences



Seafood Soup: One of Jonathan's favourite dishes