

1My Beloved Son _ Hear Ye Him

And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; **hear ye him.** (Mat 17:1-5 KJV)

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy: **I have come that they may have Life,** and may have it in abundance. "I am the Good Shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his very life for the sheep. The hired servant--one who is not a shepherd and does not own the sheep--no sooner sees the wolf coming than he leaves the sheep and runs away; and the wolf worries and scatters them. For he is only a hired servant and cares nothing for the sheep. "I am the Good Shepherd. And I know my sheep and my sheep know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I am laying down my life for the sheep. **I have also other sheep--which do not belong to this fold. Those also I must bring, and they will listen to my voice;** and they shall become one flock under one Shepherd. (Joh 10:10-16 WNT)

"And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form. **"You do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent.** "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. "I do not receive glory from men; but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. **"How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another** and you do not seek the glory that is from the *one and* only God? "Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?" (John 5:37-47 NASB)

In the above passage, from John Five, the writings of Moses, which Jesus refers to as part of the Scriptures, were the very words that were written about him, and yet ___ Moses' writings were not believed by the Jews attending the festive gathering. These Jews were assembled at one of the feasts and doing, by tradition, ceremony, ritual, interpretation, etc., whatever the Law required. They began persecuting Jesus because he had healed a man at the pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath. It isn't revealed as to which of the feasts this was, ___ whether Passover, Pentecost, or the Feast of Tabernacles ___ which is irrelevant because it was not lawful to "work" on any Sabbath. What is relevant is the fact that the man had been crippled for thirty-eight years and it was the Father's will and pleasure to do His work of restoration ___ through His Son ___ on that day and at that time.

These religious folk had set their hope in Moses, who led their fathers out of the bondage of Egypt many years before, even though he was not able to lead them into their inheritance in

the land of promise. They still gloried in the man of God, whom God had sent, but had lost all reality in what and Whom Moses had written about.. They were still receiving glory from one another instead of seeking the glory from the one and only True God. The people of God had lived, in their generations, from captivity and/or bondages to Egypt, the Chaldeans, the Philistines, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, and were now in subjection to the Roman Empire. Each of these “kingdoms” had become a usurper of the power of the Kingdom of God and had put the fear of death into the people of God who were being held, through fear, in chains ___ all the days of their lives. They had failed to choose life ___ way back in Moses’ generation ___ and were still in bondage to the law of sin and death. They had continued in the covenant their fathers had made with death and the agreement they made with the grave and were still finding refuge in the lies that had been perpetuated from the times of the Kings, Priests and Prophets, (who they killed), until their current condition of continuing in bondage.

Unfortunately, this same scenario is being played out in the “Church Systems” of our current generation. Take any of the foregoing realities and apply them to the existing religious community and explain, if possible, any difference. Apply the names of any of the reformers of what we call “Christianity,” instead of Moses’ name, and it isn’t difficult to affirm that many of God’s chosen have placed their hope in a person ___ as the God-sent founder of their particular denomination. However, the Lutherans no longer believe Luther’s words, the Calvinists no longer believe what Calvin said, Methodists no longer believe the words of Wesley, etc., because they wrote and testified of our Lord Jesus Christ as being the one Whom we must come to in order to find life. What they had done was to break free, by the Grace and Mercy of God, from the bondage of “Orthodoxy” and find their glory in the Son who **could** release them from the law of sin and death.

Unfortunately, all of the “God-sent ” reformers failed to continue to give glory to the One True God, they reverted to establishing “Churches” on the foundation of the “traditions of men,” and quickly returned to the bondage of the “System.” They began to persecute and kill those who opposed what they had become and labeled those who were hearing God’s words as heretics. “Christians” today have exchanged Truth for lies, and one form of bondage for another, and are emulating the errors of those “fathers” in whom they have placed their hope.

A recurrent, underlying principle that is applicable in this present age is the same principle that Jesus spoke about ___ to the religious leaders during the time of his earthly ministry, i.e., “Then question him do the Pharisees and the scribes, “Wherefore do thy disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but with unwashed hands do eat the bread?” and he answering said to them– “Well did Isaiah prophesy concerning you, hypocrites, as it hath been written, This people with the lips doth honour Me, and their heart is far from Me; and **in vain do they worship Me, teaching teachings, commands of men; for, having put away the command of God, ye hold the tradition of men**, baptisms of pots and cups; and many other such like things ye do.” And he said to them, “**Well do ye put away the command of God that your tradition ye may keep**; for Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, He who is speaking evil of father or mother--let him die the death; and ye say, If a man may say to father or to mother, Korban (that is, a gift), *is* whatever thou mayest be profited out of mine, and no more do ye suffer him to do anything for his father or for his mother, **setting aside the word of God for your tradition that ye delivered; and many such like things ye do.**” (Mar 7:5-13 YLT)

When the word of God is not received in faith, is set aside for tradition's sake, and not recognized/discerned, because it is presumed to be from "men," it becomes null and void __ period. Take for example the deep "divide" between the Jews who refused to believe the words of Jesus and the believers Paul, (and others), were sent to, in the following verse from I Thessalonians chapter two, where Paul is commending the Church at Thessalonica because the believers there were living according to, (heeding), the Gospel that was preached by those who were **sent from** God: "For this reason **we** also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from **us**, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who **believe**. (1Th 2:13 NASB)

How sharply contrasted is their response to the word preached __ and the witness of the lives of those preachers __ compared to the way John the Baptist, Jesus, and those who are sent by/from God as His ministers in every generation. Holding fast to traditions of men will not result in the Word of God abiding in us.

Without the abiding Word of God we can never enter into the rest that God has prepared for us. "And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? *So* we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief. Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard. For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, "AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST," although His works were finished from the foundation of the world." (Heb 3:18-4:3 NASB)

Some assume the disobedience that prevented Israel from entering into God's rest was just a failure to keep the Law/commands/ordinances of Moses, failing to keep the letter of the Law, or to offer acceptable sacrifices, etc., but the truth is that this is not the obedience God desired. "For I did not speak to your fathers, or command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. "But this is what I commanded them, saying, '**Obey My voice**, and I will be your God, and you will be My people; and you will walk in all the way which I command you, that it may be well with you.' "Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in *their own* counsels *and* in the stubbornness of their evil heart, and went backward and not forward. "Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, **I have sent you all My servants** the prophets, daily rising early and sending *them*. "**Yet they did not listen to Me** or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck; they did more evil than their fathers. "**You shall speak all these words to them, but they will not listen to you; and you shall call to them, but they will not answer you. "You shall say to them, 'This is the nation that did not obey the voice of the LORD their God or accept correction; truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth.** (Jer 7:22-28 NASB)

Many "believers" have been trying for years to hear God's Voice and wonder why they aren't able to. One reason is because they are expecting to hear with their natural ears. The abiding Word __ in us __ is the Voice of God, spoken by the Spirit, that those who have an ear to hear, will hear. It's failure to believe whom God has sent, i.e., the Holy Spirit, that prevents the Word from abiding in us and it is essential for the Holy Spirit to be in us, not only with us, as the one who takes the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and speaks/reveals them to us. It doesn't happen in the earthly realm of our physical existence __ it happens in the heavenly realm of "SPIRIT."

When John was on Patmos, in the physical/earthly realm, he was only able to ascend into the heavenly realm and hear the voice behind him when he was, "In the Spirit on the Lord's Day." (That doesn't mean it was Saturday or Sunday either.) It was after entering the heavens that he was given the revelation of Jesus Christ and as he testifies, in what we call, "Chapter one, Verse three, is the reality that those who are the blessed, are those who not only "read" the words ___ it is those who also **hear** the words and **heed** them.

For generations there are those who read the words and have never heard His Voice nor do they "heed" anything ___ other than the traditions of men. They'd rather take refuge in lies, and the imaginations of mere men ___ who do not have the Spirit and the Word abiding or speaking in/through them. These clouds without rain seek the glory of mere men and have no concept of being hidden together with Christ in God or of the Father being in them, even as He is in the Son, Jesus.

There is an overwhelming ignorance/deafness/blindness that prevents multitudes who call themselves "Christians" from "HEARING, SEEING or OBEYING the words John has written to God's Bondservants ___ the "Spiritual" words that originate in Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth, (Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood), the One Whom we give all glory and honor to and who only reveals Himself to those He has, "called, chosen, consecrated and ordained" and whom He has made a kingdom ___ priests to His God and Father. Many have presumptuously assumed that "Anyone/Everyone" can read and understand ___ even though they are unlearned in the language of the Spirit and are natural men who cannot discern or know His Voice.

How very often we find those blind leaders of the blind, preaching words they don't understand to "new-born" believers who then run home and start reading the "Last Book" in their bibles and hope to find out what's going to happen in the days/ages to come. (I, myself being one with them.) How confused they become and how quickly they turn to men seeking the glory of other men to find words of life. They begin to act just like the unbelieving Jews during Jesus' earthly ministry and seek for "signs," thus becoming a wicked and adulterous generation that has always distorted and perverted ___ even mis-interpreting the sign that Jesus gave them concerning Jonah. Little do they know that those in whom they have put their hope have brought a multitude of lies into their house and have swept it clean ___ making it available to spirits that are seven times worse than what they had in them before being freed from their bondage to their Adamic heritage. These surely are not the Seven Spirits that are before God's throne.

In closing, the following verses are some portions of scripture that we may benefit from reading, (and hearing), which have been included to inspire and give hope to those who have eyes to see and ears to hear:

"Alas for you Pharisees! for you love the best seats in the synagogues, and you like to be bowed to in places of public resort. Alas for you! for you are like the tombs which lie hidden, and the people who walk over them are not aware of their existence. Hereupon one of the expounders of the Law exclaimed, "Rabbi, in saying such things you reproach us also." "Alas too for you expounders of the Law!" replied Jesus, "for you load men with cumbrous burdens which

you yourselves will not touch with one of your fingers. Alas for you! for you repair the tombs of the Prophets, whom your forefathers killed. It follows that you bear testimony to the actions of your forefathers and that you fully approve thereof. They slew, you build. "For this reason also the Wisdom of God has said, 'I will send Prophets and Apostles to them, of whom they will kill some and persecute others,' so that the blood of all the Prophets, that is being shed from the creation of the world onwards, may be required from the present generation. Yes, I tell you that, from the blood of Abel down to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the House, it shall all be required from the present generation. "Alas for you expounders of the Law! for you have taken away the key of knowledge: you yourselves have not entered, and those who wanted to enter you have hindered." After He had left the house, the Scribes and Pharisees commenced a vehement attempt to entangle Him and make Him give off-hand answers on numerous points, lying in wait to catch some unguarded expression from His lips." (Luk 11:43-54 WNT)

Note: An "Expounder" is by definition: "One who systematically presents and explains a theory, idea, or opinion regarding a specific subject."

"He who has no love for me does not obey my teaching; and yet the teaching to which you are listening is not mine, but is the teaching of the Father who sent me. All this I have spoken to you while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send at my request, will teach you everything, and will bring to your memories all that I have said to you." (Joh 14:24-26WNT)