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April 2023 “GOD DOES NOT COMPROMISE”

Dear Friends,

When I was growing up, I thought it very weird that older people would read the obituaries in the newspaper. Well here I am, older, and I now understand why they read the listings of those who have passed away. Several years ago, someone I had known when I was younger died and I read that person's obituary. Since then, I have checked the obituaries almost every day and have read the death notifications of numerous people I had known from church or school. It emphasizes the reality of how short life is and how important it is for us to live for Jesus.

One interesting aspect about many of the obituaries is how those who have died have gone to Heaven, as expressed in various ways. Of note is how so many of those obituaries say nothing about the deceased having accepted Jesus as Savior. This makes me wonder: Were those people actually born again; or do their families simply believe the person deserves Heaven because they loved them?

Taking this a little further, society today demands we accept and approve of people no matter how they live or what they do. Even many churches and denominations declare everyone is welcome, that God loves everyone, and that He understands our life choices and accepts us no matter what. But is such a theology biblically sound?

Is it true that everyone is welcome? Does God truly love everyone? Does He understand our life choices and accept us as we are? Yes to all those questions. After all, the Bible declares that God so loved the world (John 3:16), Jesus came to call sinners to repentance (Matthew 9:10), that He had come to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10), and that all who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved (Romans 10:13).

But herein lies the problem. When society and churches tell us that God loves us and accept us as we are, what they are actually saying is that change is not required in order to be accepted and used by God, and then received by Him into Heaven after we die. That, my friends, is absolute, pure heresy that will send its adherents to an eternity in the lake of fire. Consider John 3:16,

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.

To believe in Jesus is not just to believe that He was born of a virgin, performed many miraculous works, was crucified and rose from the dead. It also means to believe *why* He came to Earth, was crucified and rose from the dead. He did all that because all humanity is on the way to Hell because they have a sin nature which separates them from God. No matter what they do, people cannot change their spiritual condition by themselves, which is why we need Jesus. He even said we must be born again or we cannot see the Kingdom of Heaven.

When a person makes a heart-felt decision to accept Jesus as Savior, that person is born again. This means our sin nature is washed away by the blood of Jesus (Colossians 1:14) and we have a new spiritual life (2 Corinthians 5:17). Our new, spiritual life is righteous and holy before God (Ephesians 4:24). After having received a spiritual life that is righteous and holy, God expects us to live a holy lifestyle (1 Peter 1:15-16). This is what it means to be a Christian.

But what if a Christian chooses to keep living a lifestyle of sin? Is that person still approved of God? Will that person still go to Heaven upon death? I have no doubt that you will hear a wide variety of answers from people as they share their opinions. But what does God say in the Bible?

One of the most egregious errors in the Body of Christ today is that some of the New Testament was written exclusively to those who have never accepted Jesus as Savior. This is most definitely a lie! Books in the New Testament were written to Christians. They establish the truth about what happens to a person at the moment of salvation, as well as God's lifestyle standards for all Christians. Some also teach that once people are born again, they no longer have the free will to commit sin if they choose. Again, this is a lie originating from a severe lack of understanding the Bible. No one has ever lost their free will once they were born again.

It's one thing for a Christian to make a sinful choice during a moment of emotional upheaval and duress, but it's quite another when free will is exercised to keep living in sin. God has given severe warnings to Christians who make such choices, and here is but a sampling:

(Romans 1:18-32) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; ¹⁹Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

²⁰For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: ²¹Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

²⁴Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: ²⁵Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

²⁶For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: ²⁷And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

²⁸And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; ²⁹Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, ³⁰

Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: ³²Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Romans 2:1-11 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. ²But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

³And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? ⁴Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

⁵But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; ⁶Who will render to every man according to his deeds: ⁷To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: ⁸But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, ⁹Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; ¹⁰But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: ¹¹For there is no respect of persons with God.

(1 Corinthians 6:5-11) I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? ⁶But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. ⁷Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?

⁸Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren. ⁹Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

(Galatians 5:17-21) For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. ¹⁸But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

(Ephesians 5:1-11) Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; ²And walk

in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. ³But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; ⁴Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. ⁵For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

⁶Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. ⁷Be not ye therefore partakers with them. ⁸For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: ⁹(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) ¹⁰Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. ¹¹And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

(Hebrews 10:26-31) For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, ²⁷But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. ²⁸He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: ²⁹ 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? ³⁰For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. ³¹It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

(Revelation 3:1-6) And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. ²Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. ³Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. ⁴Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. ⁵He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. ⁶He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. [Note: You cannot have your name blotted out of the book of life if it has not previously been written in it.]

Only a Christian whose heart is hardened and whose conscience is seared would believe a doctrine that teaches anything less than holiness. Even worse are the preachers who teach such a doctrine, essentially telling people there is no accountability before God for sinful choices. Even so, this is going on – and increasing – in churches throughout the world. It is all part of the falling away in 1 Thessalonians 2:3, the itching ears described in 2 Timothy 4:3-4, and what David prophesied in Psalm 14:1-3,

¹The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. ²The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. ³They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one. [Note: You cannot go aside and become filthy if you were not previously headed in the right direction and cleansed from filth.]

Is it possible to live the holy life God demands? Absolutely! Galatians 5:16 tells us if we live according to the spirit – the born-again life given us from God – we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Also, 2 Peter 1:3-10 tells us if we live by the divine nature He has given to us, we will **NEVER** fall. We all want to hear, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant,” when we stand before God. To do so, we must stop listening to teaching that denies accountability for sin, and seek first the Kingdom of God and Kingdom living. Our eternity with Christ depends on it.

In His Grace,

Jim

PS – Many Christians teach that God has predetermined who will and will not be saved and go to Heaven. This is called “predestination.” Though it may sound correct, it is error that will lead many people away from truth. To receive in-depth teaching on this subject, use the form below to request a CD of my sermon, *Predestination and God’s Will*.

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