



Let us be ready...



Identity politics (Please identify: “What’s in it for me?”— from the big boys, at the top) had fueled a simmering rage in high society as well as among us simple folk; feeding a quiet desperation on the streets of conservative religious worship. So that people could no longer “see straight” when it came to the upstart who was actually healing and teaching a new Way that bolstered the rights and the value of the individual, while laying bare the basis of our belief system steeped in ancient tradition: seeing no further than the fault finding of basic humanity.

“Why then allow for divorce?” religious experts objected, when the young teacher affirmed the permanence of marriage between a man and woman, saying, “What God has joined together, let not man separate” (Matt. 19:6). He seemed to have just the right knack for sending the wrong signals to the masses that were starting to flock across our borders to hear him: quite literally turning the tables on large scale economics, he was affirming the importance of serious prayer within the beautiful worship center of the land. —But why, after all, was it so important to even keep on praying, if the local or national establishment was in danger of going bankrupt??

Why mess with the establishment (ever)? That could be very bad for your health, you know. Besides, we liked religion just the way it was—that is, if God didn’t mind rubber stamping a few updates to the outdated laws of founding fathers . . . . (?)

Yet the crowds seemed impressed with this young teacher’s miracles—and mob rule, with its back door appeal to hope for a new political system that would include a successful rebellion against an outdated continuation of “business as usual,” was feeding a hunger for a brave new world with a more utopian

(CONTINUED)

aspect of society: a desire for a Paradise, if you will, made possible by a Messiah who would solve all of our problems, miraculously. After all, hadn't Moses fed over a million people in the desert by faith with food literally falling from the skies, on a daily basis (Exodus 16)? What's the matter with trying to get something for nothing . . . if God were supplying our need?

Who knew? Who knew that just a week later a new political twist would bring Him to execution—and for what?

Indeed, that was the real question—for what, and to what purpose, would this young Teacher appear to be sacrificed to the masses: being nearly butchered (by flogging) and then hung with arms outstretched on an instrument of excruciating torture?

Again, to what purpose was all of this vomit of human brutality being placed upon a Man of grace and compassion, whose most radical teaching included loving one's enemies?!? Wait, what was it that He just said?

*“Father forgive them . . .”*

What did He mean?

What was there to forgive?

Have we missed some things along the way? (More than a few . . .)



DOORWAY  
To  
LIFE

*O death, where is thy sting? O  
grave, where is thy victory?*

1 Corinthians 15:55 (kjv)

Christ's empty tomb was “smacked down” by the Doorway past Death & the Grave; opening up an exit ramp to Glory, and informing us that there really is hope for tomorrow. For as Adam lost immortality and returned to the dust, the Christ who came from Heaven has burst

forth from the tomb; and now holds the keys leading back to Life itself, for all who are willing to accept Him—even though at the moment it may seem we live in a world where social justice mavens are continually “offended” in some new way, constantly being on edge; always generating some new fear, while equipping our enemies with new demands. On the other hand, for those who simply “want to get along” and crave a simple peace, it may also appear that the current forces in power are actually driving many to the edge of

insanity (or simply over the edge) as suicide rates reach new historic proportions. So that as we enter the most hopeful time of the entire Christian calendar, many are tempted to look back at that empty tomb and ask, “Is there any hope for us in these trying times within the 21<sup>st</sup> century? REALLY??”

So let’s take a closer look at this matter of personal offenses, shall we? For, who was more offended than the Christ??

**A**n obvious miscarriage of justice had taken place, leading up to Christ’s crucifixion. Jesus had just responded, as the local SWAT Team came to arrest Him with clubs and swords, “Have you come out against me as you would a thief?” (~Luke 22:52) Yet another observer notes that as these arresting agents approached with torches and lanterns in the night, Jesus had actually stepped forward to ask, “Who are you seeking?” To which the agents answered, “Jesus of Nazareth,” and then Jesus responded, “I am . . .”

Now when He said to them, “I am *He*,” they drew back and fell to the ground. Then He asked them again, “Whom are you seeking?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

John 18:6-7

The (New) King James does us a great service by italicizing the word “He” since this pronoun was actually added by translators to lend continuity to the text. In other words, within the original Greek this pronoun does not appear. Thus, Christ was actually using the holy name of God (I Am) when answering their inquiry—after which those hooligan agents had fallen backwards in the night. Jesus understood that it was His hour to go to the Cross (Jn. 18:4, Isaiah 53) —but also knew that those arrest-

ing him were crossing a line into the judgment of God.

Later, as they were leading Jesus down the Via Dolorosa to where He would be crucified on a cross, women stood on the roadside weeping in sorrow over the injustice. Yet, instead of engaging in self pity (as some might have imagined) Christ saw past the events of the injustice being performed, and cautioned

Let us take a closer  
look at this matter  
of personal  
offenses...

those offering their sympathies:

<sup>28</sup> *But Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup> For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!'"*

Luke 23:28-29

We might be inclined to believe that Christ is here referring to a simple retribution, or to a payback for the injustice then being performed, but a much wider application must be understood when considering the following verse, which reads:

*"Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!'"*

Luke 23:30

More, while enlarging upon His warning, Jesus adds:

*"For if they do these things in the green wood,*

*what will be done in the dry?"*

Luke 23:31

**W**hat on earth does this mean, and . . . is this one reason why Jesus’ first words, spoken from the Cross were, “Father forgive them, for they know not what they are doing” (~Luke 23:34)?? For when we look more closely at Christ’s warning to the women wailing along the side of the road, that last phrase begins to haunt us, “**For if they do these things to the green wood, what will be done in the dry?**” Of course, the “green wood” must refer to Christ, Himself; for green Wood has (eternal) Life. But what of this statement about “dry” wood . . . wood that has dried out, over the centuries perhaps? Perhaps Christ was referring to our day, millennia removed from the original issuance of the gospel, as people (even believers) start to take the grace of God for granted and the Church, itself, starts to “dry out” and starts to decay as it departs from the fundamentals that Christ Himself gave to us?

Think of it, where else do we see this statement of persons calling out to the mountains “Fall on us!”?? Certainly not in the first century, second, or . . . even to the present day. Again, Jesus appears to be peering into the (then) distant future, looking towards the time of ultimate judgment—and of His triumphant return in glory. This, because of a statement made while being interrogated within their kangaroo court, after they found no legal means by which to condemn Him. Yet they were certain they had found a question that Christ could not resist answering:

<sup>62</sup> *And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" <sup>63</sup> But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the*

(Continued on page 6)



# The Sacrifice MATTERS

*"For everyone will be seasoned with fire,  
and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt.*

*"Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor,  
how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves,  
and have peace with one another."*

Mark 9:49-50.

When living in a time that the world seems to be going "off its rocker," and all we believe in seems to be pushed to the fringes of society, it is good to remind ourselves of what it was that Christ went to the Cross and died for, and the extremes to which He is willing to go to save us. Everyone desiring to live a life that will matter in eternity will experience some level of personal sacrifice, and must take up their cross to follow behind Him; and every life worth living will have to "go through the fire" in some way, to prove their metal (whether of gold, or hay and stubble (1 Cor. 3:12)). Yet God's (true) church, Jesus said, will ultimately prevail so that the very gates of hell will not withstand its influence. Sad to say, however, that many are so ho-hum about their faith today, that they really are in danger of "losing their flavor" (Matt. 5:13, Mk. 9:50, Lk 14:34). So, let us ask ourselves, how does one actually go about establishing a kingdom, and bulwark, against evil? How does one establish the Kingdom of God, within the world around us, on a practical level?

May I suggest something?

At its most fundamental level, it all begins by rejecting the temptation to be lazy. Consider something Solomon said, about personal safety within a godly environment.

*The lazy man says, "There is a lion outside!  
I shall be slain in the streets!"*

Proverbs 22:13

Why did Solomon *not* say that the man in this quote is a *coward*? Why only say that he is "lazy"? It is because little courage is needed, when fighting a lion *in the streets of a city!* Within the city, the lion is at a severe disadvantage: he is walled in, while the city dwellers have the advantage; having weapons (even bows and arrows) that may easily finish him off!

It is in the jungle, out in the wild bush, that the lion reigns—not in a walled city, where civilization is established!

Such is the value of godly structure, within society. The boundaries of a godly society naturally "hem in" or restrict ungodly movement within its borders. It becomes "easy" for the wicked to be caught, or apprehended, when godly boundaries ("city walls") are in place. When people within a given culture value virtue, for example, it becomes easier to refrain from extra-marital sex.

This is ever more the case, when dealing with underlying spiritual matters, where more than mere physical vision is required. As an example of this principle, consider a boundary that is frequently violated even within our churches today:

**Buckle you seatbelt, because this example of "lost walls," may actually disturb you!**

*But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adul-*

tery.

Matthew 5:32

Please notice the specific terms used: The Lord says that by divorcing one's wife, a husband *causes* his wife to commit adultery and (within the context of the last part of this verse (see also Mark 10:11,12))—this may lead to either committing *outright* adultery (without remarrying), or spiritual adultery (by violating the original vow, when entering an invalid relationship, in God's eyes. See also Matt. 19:8,9).

The main point, here, is that by breaking the marriage vow, the husband places the wife in an unprotected state (without walls) and exposes her to unnatural pressure. Divorce exposes the wife to severe spiritual dangers as she loses her spiritual covering. It may take the reader some time to come to terms with these matters (I warned you to buckle your seatbelt!) in the meanwhile, however, let us continue to consider this issue of godly boundaries as may be applied to even wider areas within the realm of government. For although there may be disagreement, by some, regarding establishing literal walls and boundaries around our nation, it is already evident that there are some more important walls already under assault, within.\*

#### SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND POLITICAL FREEDOM:

<sup>1</sup> Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,  
<sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.  
<sup>3</sup> For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Extending our metaphor of establishing moral "walls" within society, we may now better appreciate the wisdom of the apostle Paul's admonition to pray for the particular government that rules over our own society. Notice carefully his focus and objective in the verses above: it is to have a "peaceable life in all godliness and reverence." Here the focus is not on "freedom" in the western sense, but on what is most commonly called "the fear of God"—by establishing godly boundaries, so that men and women respect godliness and appreci-



**WHY DID SOLOMON NOT  
 SAY THAT THIS MAN . . . IS  
 A COWARD? WHY ONLY  
 SAY THAT HE IS LAZY?? . . .  
 . THE LION IS AT A  
 SEVERE DISADVANTAGE!**

ate God's blessing and goodness.

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments.*

*His praise endures forever.*  
 Psalm 111:10

Please notice, also, how the above text includes praise and thankfulness within its trailer, while exalting the benefits of godly wisdom. This is similar to the admonition given by the Lord for believers to live in a manner that truly glorifies God.

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works*

*and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Matthew 5:16

In the given analogy of a city where the lion becomes the hunted, instead of the one exercising a terrorizing influence over those he "may devour" (1 Peter 5:8), these last verses may now start to assist us in "establishing the walls" of a godly society. For godly living, for every true believer, is not simply "something that is nice to do" —for when we live in a godly manner we are actually assisting in the establishment and maintenance of godly boundaries for a good & godly community, while bringing a touch of Heaven's blessing and bounty down into the atmosphere of earth.

*Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.*

3 John 1:2

*By humility and the fear of the LORD Are riches and honor and life.*

Proverbs 22:4

These are boundaries and goals that any true revival, or any true move of God, should be actively seeking to engage: so that individuals in particular, as well as society in general, may glorify God when sensing the atmosphere of Heaven being brought down to earth. This is not something worked up, or promoted by mere human sweat. It is, rather, something that the Spirit of God brings forth within the atmosphere about us, as godly fellowship, and Christian harmony, are actively engaged in.

<sup>31</sup> *Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and*

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 3) ...*DoorWay to Life*

*living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"*

To which Jesus responded:

*Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."*

Matthew 26:62-64

In other words, even though it is true that Jesus went to the Cross to become the sacrifice that would pay for the sins of the world (Isaiah 53)—and this Sacrifice would become the “escape hatch” by which all who acknowledge their sin, and receive the atonement voluntarily offered by His sacrifice (that’s why the soldiers falling backwards was noted: Jesus was still in control. For even a lesser prophet, Elijah, had enough power to easily overcome at least fifty armed men (2 Kings 1:11-15)!!).

—There were still justice issues for those refusing Christ’s offering: a judgment that they will ultimately face, in the end.

Consider, for example, Scripture which refers to the injustice generally performed by masters abusing their employees. The text includes the warning:

*You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.*

However, the preceding words, in the SAME SCRIPTURE, read:

*<sup>4</sup> Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which*

*you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.*

And the verse that precedes even these, reads:

*<sup>3</sup> Your gold and silver are*

*corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days.*

James 5:6,4,3

These texts are not calling for revolution or an uprising!! Far from it, they are obvious calls (to those familiar with the Scriptures) referring to the fact that “Judgment is mine, says the Lord, I will repay” (Deut. 32:25). And repay He will! This is no mere human pay-back being referred to, here, but to the ultimate judgment of God! *No*

However, this is  
not why Jesus  
went to the Cross.

*wonder people will one day call out for the hills and mountains to fall on them!*

. . . However, this was *not* why Jesus went to the Cross. In fact, there was also joy within Christ’s heart (if you can believe it) because of He was actually making available to humankind: that “escape hatch” if you will, now available to all who have somehow sensed that something awesome and very terrible now hangs over their heads: the very wrath of God (Jn. 3:36).

**Y**es, there was joy to be seen upon the horizon (Heb. 12:2): a joy beyond all of the human injustice, and sinful arrogance that humankind was throwing against a loving God; knowing that one day mob rule will be judged—not by a socialist takeover that plunges humankind ever deeper into new chaos

(similar to that of failed totalitarian and communist regimes)—but into the ultimate rebellion of the human heart that will, in the end, have to be judged (along with the Antichrist). That is why James also reminds us to be careful about how we treat our neighbor, while remaining faithful and patiently waiting upon Christ’s second coming.

*<sup>8</sup> You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup> Do not grumble against one another, brethren, . . . Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!*

James 5:8-9

Yes, when Christ does return in glory, and when those tears of mere pity along the wayside have dried and turned into ultimate terror for those who have not been made ready: What of the “escape hatch” then? How, on earth, may we gain access to it? Certainly, when that Day has arrived, it will be too late.

**Yet, the door of deliverance remains open today.**

You see, that’s what the Cross was all about, all along! As the prophet Isaiah wrote centuries before, when foretelling of Christ’s crucifixion:

*He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.*

Isaiah 53:11

And the apostle John further records for us:

*<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

John 3:16-17

But of course, the Cross was (in a real sense) only the beginning. For, not only did Jesus die (as all men must) but He arose again, on the third day!

<sup>2</sup> *And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.* <sup>3</sup> *His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.*

<sup>4</sup> *And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.*

Matthew 28:2-4

Now, that is power!! And someday, at the end of this age, while others are calling out for the rocks and hills to fall upon them . . . the saints will be rising into the sky to meet Jesus in the clouds and return with Him in great glory. As Enoch, one of the earliest patriarchs foretold:

*"Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, <sup>15</sup> to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."*

Jude 1:14-15

Christians never need to go "over the edge" into despair, for when we truly identify with Him, we can always look up, and know our future is secure in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Maranatha! He is coming!



(Continued from page 5)

==**Worth the Sacrifice**==

*were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.*

Acts 9:31

The above quote resulted when the chief persecutor of the church became the chief enabler of the gospel of Jesus Christ (after the Apostle Paul's conversion). Beyond the peaceful enjoyment of godly community, where all saw the benefits of godly living, there was also an increased awareness of Heaven's atmosphere that truly began to threaten "the establishment" of Hell. —So much so, that the enemy of our souls felt pressured to move into overdrive in the exercise of two general options:

1. The infiltration and corruption of the church, so that the glory of the Kingdom would start departing (Isa. 59:1-2, James 4:1-4).
2. Outright persecution.

Along the same lines, the body of Christ now has three options, which only the Holy Spirit may gainfully execute and employ:

1. Congenial engagement and explanation, to deflect unbelief and contention (1 Peter 3:14-17. Please note that the context of this engagement is that of *pending persecution*).
2. Outright warnings of judgment and doom, if the society about us insists on rejecting the love and grace of God (Isaiah 26:9, 10).
3. —All of this, encountered within the context of God's judgment *beginning within the church* (1 Peter 4:17) and eventually extending out into the very kingdom of the Antichrist (1 Cor. 3:16-17, Rev. 11:4-6 & Zech. 4). So that the apostle Peter could not help but observe, concerning the end of the age:

<sup>17</sup> *For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?*

<sup>18</sup> *Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"*

1 Peter 4:17-18

Again, all of this takes place within the context of extended spiritual warfare, within the society at large about us. All of which is referenced within the Apostle Peter's classic admonition on how to engage a hostile environment that desperately needs the good news of the gospel:

<sup>15</sup> *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;*

<sup>16</sup> *having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. <sup>17</sup> For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.*

1 Peter 3:15-17

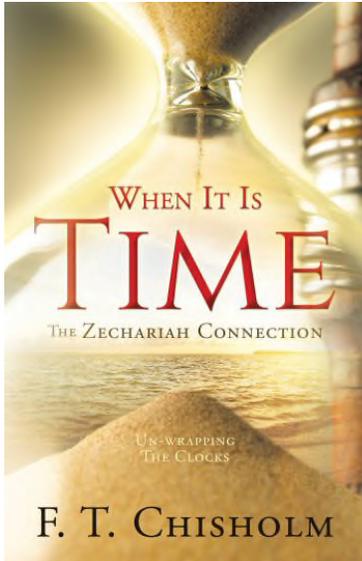
In other words: when conversing with someone "on the other side of the aisle," we are to be mindful of the real end game. How will all of this turn out, in the end? For it is not merely a human reward the Christian seeks when sharing the gospel with those in danger of being "eaten" by our enemy, but one eternal. And yes, when we must sacrifice of our time, resources, or perhaps our very lives; such a sacrifice really does matter!

Amen.



Maranatha Ministries  
p/o Frank Chisholm ministries  
© 2019 Frank Chisholm  
P.O. Box 447  
Middletown, N.Y. 10940

TheUplook.com



A Comprehensive Approach

—to end time events

Send your email address to [info@TheUplook.com](mailto:info@TheUplook.com)  
To be included on the UPLOOOK mailing list

& Read this UPLOOOK online!



# What Must I do?

*“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.”*  
Acts 16:31

## How?

*If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

*For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Romans 10:9,10

## In Other Words

Ac-

**knowledge:** your need

—as a sinner (Romans 3:23, II Cor. 5:14-15)

**Accept:** His work on the Cross —to be your Savior

**Confess:** your acceptance of His lordship over you.

**Live for Him:** with your new life.

*For the scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be ashamed.”*

Romans 10:11

This Month's Features:

1. DOORWAY TO LIFE p. 2
2. *Worth the Sacrifice* p. 4

### ENDNOTES;

All Bible quotes in NKJV © 1984 Thomas Nelson, Inc. - except where otherwise noted .

\*When speaking of divorce, we are reminded of the fact that at times it is unavoidable, and even God divorced Israel at one time (Jer. 3:8, Matt. 19:9), nevertheless, it is not God's best & He still hates it (Mal. 2:16).