

WHAT IS THE GREATEST TRAGEDY WE FACE TODAY IN OUR CHURCHES IN WISCONSIN AND ACROSS OUR NATION?

Most have failed to take the Bible literally. To let it point us to His Cross to die “in Christ,” so we could know now within our hearts Jesus' Eternal Life as our new life here. Anything short of this is not Christianity, and Jesus will say He never knew us, because we never came to “know” Him and His Eternal Life within our hearts. Jesus spoke clearly to this issue when He said, “You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.” For only when we are His New Children, born of God to have Jesus' Eternal Life within our hearts will the Bible also come alive within our hearts in ways that were never before possible. Jesus will be there within as a living person (the Living Word and Eternal Life) making the Bible alive and real to us as we study it together. So this verse can now be a natural reality of the new life “in Christ”--“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is --- his good, pleasing and perfect will.” In all of this, we can now live a totally new way “in Christ” not of the Law or under the Law. But “in Christ” we find Jesus

(a living person in us) is our new and living way of the law of His Spirit of Life within our hearts moment by moment. For Paul's words have become so deeply real to our hearts and lives as well, “For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

The second tragedy was spoken of in an article during the Welsh Revival of 1904 - 1905 and so fits us today as well. What a contrast this quote (below) and the scriptures that follow are vs. what we see in our churches and lives today across our nation. For, we don't expect Christianity to cost us anything, or to change our lives or priorities. Yet, the call of a hundred years ago is just as real for us today. For those who want to walk and live in a real Christianity as His New Children, born of God within our hearts by His Holy Spirit (Jesus' Eternal Life in us), “We cannot justly expect sinners to be saved, and our places of worship to be filled by those from outside, until we ourselves get right with God; and this can only be done by

an absolute surrender of our whole lives to Jesus Christ as King, and a faith acceptance of the Holy Spirit.”---“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” “Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.” For if we are His, out of love we will surrender our hearts and wills to Jesus Christ as our Lord and King of all within. To so find in this, Jesus' Eternal Life and Love fills every part of our hearts. To enable us to live and act (moment by moment) as the new children (Born of God) that we are now “in Christ” on our way home to Heaven, as pilgrims and strangers here.

GROWING TO “KNOW” JESUS (AS A PERSON) WITHIN OUR HEARTS AND OUR NEW ETERNAL LIFE IN HIM, AS ONE OF HIS NEW CHILDREN

It is a moment by moment “now” reality in Heaven and here as we walk with the One we love more than life itself as a Person within our hearts in our daily lives. For we have come to “know” the “unseen” is far more eternally real than the “seen” and can greatly affect the “seen” of our natural eyes. I believe the heart of this is a fellowship, a

companionship, literally to be an inner love “relationship” with Jesus as a Person. Where Jesus is not just set apart as Lord in a part of our hearts, but is Lord (as a Living Person) of all within. As Jesus' Love draws our spirits to growingly want His will, not ours, consumed by His life and Love within, we will find in this “in Christ” as well to “know” God as our

new Abba Father within our hearts moment by moment. To know this dual reality “in Christ” of being in Heaven right now, and by Jesus' Eternal Life (as a Person) within our hearts (as God's “begotten” Children), Heaven is real right now as well within our hearts. To find in all of this, His motivation is simply about so Great a “Love.”

THE BATTLES ARE NOT FOUGHT IN OUR MINDS, BUT IN OUR HEARTS FIRST

That's it? Yes, that's it. For it's only by Jesus' love for us as a Person in our hearts, and our growing love relationship with Him there, can we win out against any temptation and sin. The reason for this is the real battles are not fought in our minds, but in our hearts first, in the very core of our being. This is where Jesus' Eternal Life within as a Person and His Love for us and our love for Him enables us to grow to know this inner “unseen” reality is far more real than the “seen.” Thus like a rudder within, Jesus'

presence affects our wills, our minds, in our choices and actions, internally and externally to align up to our heart's desires in love for Him. In a moment, in the very “Now” of our daily lives, Jesus living within us can enable us to make the right choices.---Thus to the degree then within, the inner eyes of our hearts are on Jesus (as a living Person within our hearts) and we nurture this “relationship.” So our lives will then relay in the “seen” this reality of Christ living in us as our Lord of all in the “unseen” and the

“seen.”---What man's rules can't do and the strongest desires of our flesh to do right can't do, Jesus does as a Person within our hearts. For us, to literally be able to live now “in Jesus Christ” with His life in us, a way that was utterly impossible to us before! ---I know from my own heart and from His Living Word this is true. ---Yet, how badly do you want to “know” this same Jesus as a Person, His eternal Life, and Love within your heart this way?

God has chosen not to control our “free will.” So we choose our eternal destinies by the choices we make here. I deeply understand the age of innocence for a baby in the womb (made in the image of God) as well as a child, that if they die, they are immediately with Christ - I know also how frank the Scriptures are in part one. Yet, how can we possibly understand the “goodness” of parts two and three without the “truth” of part one and where we stand before Holy God.

Who we are and our heart's need:

Genesis Ch. 1 vs 1 - Ch. 3 vs 23
1 John Ch. 3 vs 4-10
1 John Ch. 5 vs 18-19
John Ch. 8 vs 31-47
Ephesians Ch. 2 vs 1-3
Romans Ch. 1 vs 18-25
Romans Ch. 2 vs 1-16
Romans Ch. 3 vs 9-20
Matthew Ch. 15 vs 7-20
Matthew Ch. 13 vs 36-43
Revelations Ch. 20 vs 11-15
1 Corinthians Ch. 15 vs 1-28
John Ch. 3 vs 16-18

God's response to our heart's need in Jesus Christ His Son:

1 John Ch. 3 vs 8
Luke Ch. 1 vs 26-38
John Ch. 1 vs 29-34
2 Corinthians Ch. 5 vs 14-21
John Ch. 6 vs 32-40
John Ch. 3 vs 16-18
Hebrews Ch. 2 vs 14-18
Hebrews Ch. 9 vs 6-15
Romans Ch. 3 vs 21-28
Romans Ch. 5 vs 12-21
2 Corinthians Ch 2 vs 12 - Ch 3 vs 18
Luke Ch. 23 vs 26-49
John Ch. 19 vs 28-37
Luke Ch. 24 vs 36-53
John Ch. 3 vs 1-15
John Ch. 1 vs 1-13

So, at His Cross we could now die in Christ, to receive His Spirit (Eternal Life) within our hearts:

Galatians Ch. 2 vs 15-21
Galatians Ch. 3 vs 15 - Ch. 4 vs 7
Ephesians Ch. 2 vs 1 - Ch. 3 vs 21
Colossians Ch. 1 vs 9 - Ch. 3 vs 17
1 Corinthians Ch. 1 vs 18 - Ch. 2 vs 16
John Ch. 14 verse 1 - Ch. 15 vs 17
2 Corinthians Ch. 2 vs 12 - Ch. 5 vs 21
1 John Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Romans Ch. 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 12
1 Peter Ch. 1 and 4
Hebrews Ch. 11, 12, 13
2 Timothy Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4
1 Corinthians Ch. 15 vs 1-58
1 Thessalonians Ch. 4 vs 13 - Ch 5 vs 11