

The Wednesday Word, March 14, 2018: No, No, No, No! (Part 1)

No Priest but Christ

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever lives to make intercession for them". Hebrews 7:25

A man in Southern India once asked a missionary to make him a promise. He explained how that, every day, he prayed for his own soul and asked the missionary if, when he, the Indian, died, the missionary would continue this practice for him. When the missionary asked why he would need to do that, the man replied that he was full of doubt and anxiety. He thought that if this missionary would just pray for him every day, then surely God would let him into heaven and forgive his sins. How sad! This poor man felt he needed someone to intercede for him. He needed a priest, go-between. And yes, the truth is the dear man did need a priest, an intercessor. But the only mediator who is effective in this business of salvation is the Lord Jesus Christ.

He is the God/Man ... God in human flesh. He alone can bring us to the Father and bring the Father to us. Relying for eternal life on anyone or anything other than Christ is to fail to grasp the Gospel. The belief the dear Indian man held was in actual fact unbelief. It is sad to say that there are still so many looking to multiple mediators other than Christ

I once attended the funeral of a dear Roman Catholic lady and during the funeral service, all kinds of mediators were presented to the Father for His consideration. God was asked to consider the good works of the deceased. That is one mediator. Then deceased "holy saints" were called upon to add their intercession. That is a host more mediators. Finally, the Virgin Mary was asked for her prayers and intercession. These dear people did not seem to realize there is no mediator other than the Lord Jesus Christ. Only Christ is qualified and powerful enough to bring us to Glory.

There is no pledge of Salvation without a proper priest and the priest we need died for us. But a dead priest is of no use to anyone. That's why the one true priest did not remain dead - He is alive. He rose from the dead and now ever lives to apply all the benefits of His finished work to us. That is why so many religious people have no assurance of salvation. They are looking to sinful, sacrificing priests to get them into heaven. These dear ones cannot say with any confidence that, "Yes, I am a Christian. Christ died for me, He cleansed my sins. He took them away. He was buried. He rose from the dead for me. He is my priest, He is my righteousness and I will be with Him forever.

"Hands off, ye priests! Ye are too feeble for such weights as ours. Our sins are too stupendous for your puny strength. But the Lord comes with his own right hand of majesty, puts away our sins and lifts them on to Christ, and Christ comes and flings them into his sepulcher, and they are gone and buried forever:"

Charles Spurgeon

Some say that present-day priests are substitutes for Christ. But this is an awful attack on the Lord Jesus. Why? It's simple, He needs no substitute. We need no other priest to represent us

before God than the Lord Jesus. There are no special religious orders of men or women in any land who can present us to the Father. We have but one priest and He lives forever. If any man calls himself a priest (other than in the sense that all the redeemed are non-mediatorial priests), he takes too much honour upon himself. He is no mediator of salvation. He is an intruder who claims a priesthood which does not belong to him.

Jesus said, "Come unto me all you who labor, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls; for my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30.) Christ has never said and will never say to any sinner, "Go to the priest and he will give you rest." But he has said, "Come to me." There is no Priest but Christ.

And that's the Gospel Truth!