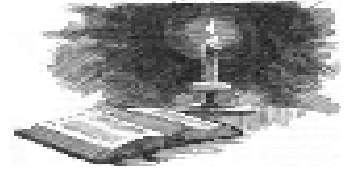


The BEACON



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“God will never disown his own”

by Gary Hurley

These were the words found in an editorial in Billy Graham’s newspaper article titled “In my opinion” (Charlotte Observer, Tues. May 29th 2012). Someone ask the question “Once a person decides to follow Jesus can they lose salvation later on if they commit a major sin?”

As Graham proceeds to answer in true Calvinistic fashion his first words are quote “Only God knows if someone has truly and sincerely repented and given their life to Christ.” If so why did John say that we may know we have eternal life? (1 John 5:13) These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. (KJV) Paul also knew and affirmed that his Roman brethren were made free from sin through obedience to the gospel.(Romans 6) Jesus himself said we can know the truth and be made free by it. (John 8:31-32) Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (KJV)

Next Billy Graham says “Christ will never depart; God will never disown or disinherit us”. Notice it is we who depart from God (Hebrews 3:12). Furthermore God says he will do what Billy Graham says God will not (Numbers 14:12) I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they. (KJV)

Then he says “Our salvation depends solely on Christ’s death”. The Death, Burial, Resurrection of Christ is the grounds or basis of our salvation (ICor. 15:1-4) This being said there are conditions that man must meet to be saved. First you must hear the gospel (Rom. 10:17), Believe the gospel (Mark 16:16), Confess Christ (Acts 8:35-38, Matt. 10:32), Repent of sins (Acts 2:38, Luke 13:3, 5), Be Baptized (I Peter 3:21). There also are conditions to stay saved (I John 1:7).

Mr. Graham concludes with “If we live a sinful life it may mean we have never been saved to begin with”. This is the Calvinists ultimate dodge when shown from the scriptures that one clearly can fall away. This is not a sufficient argument. I would ask were those in Hebrews 3 saved. (Hebrews 3:1) Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; (KJV) Remember they were told that they may depart from God v.12. Take a look at (II Peter 2:20-22), these have escaped the pollutions of the world but are again entangled and overcome! By the way one cannot be again entangled had he never been disentangled. Peter says it is happened!

We have shown that the Christians and not only God can know they’ve been freed from sin. That we can depart from God and may be disinherited. (Hebrews 10:26-29) For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 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? (KJV) This shows that one may discount the blood wherewith he was sanctified and face a much sorer punishment than death. That to access the Grace of God and Blood of Christ there are conditions that man must meet. (Rev. 22:14) It will not do to say that if we fall away we never were saved. (Gal. 1:6, 3:1, 4:9-11 and 5:7) “Ye did run well!”

So even though once saved always saved may sound pleasant it is not the truth!

➤ **Your soul is important to us** ◀

If you would like to set up a study, or if we can help you in any way, please contact us.

Jesus said,.....

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.” (John 14:15).....

“He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.” (John 14:24)

"Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people."

(Prov.14:34) So go the words of the wise man through the inspiration of God. We know that God works and rules in the affairs of men. Daniel is clear on that point. I am certain that I am not the only one who has agonized over the degree of decadence in our nation. We are still a people who "say" we are "under God", but are we really? Is it pleasing to God to:

1. Murder over a million babies each year?
2. Condone and defend homosexuality in society?
3. Prohibit the reading of the Bible or the offering of prayer in public assemblies?
4. Provide open opportunities for people to be immoral, and call it "open-minded and progressive?"
5. Undermine and destroy the foundation of a godly society (the home)?
6. Put pressure on families financially, so that the mother will be all but forced to work outside the home, in order to provide adequate income for the necessities? **OBVIOUSLY, THIS IS NOT PLEASING TO GOD!!!**

Russia allows the Bible to be read in their public schools and encourages prayer, also! WHO REALLY RESPECTS, REVERES AND HONORS GOD? For the past year or more, sermons have been preached and classes taught on improving our spirituality. While we are still in the beginning stages of a new year, why not take this opportunity to rate your spirituality: with 1 being very low, 10 being very high, and 5 being moderate. Are you more spiritually minded than you were last year? Can you still improve your spiritual stature? Are you growing? (Heb.5). Often a store will give as a prize, a shopping spree. This is an opportunity for someone to spend as much as they can in a certain amount of time. We all need to have the attitude of being extravagant in our love for God. We need to recognize that we must spend and be spent in service to our King!

1. I SHOULD SPEND MORE TIME IN PRAYER. God answers prayer according to His will. Sometimes the answer is YES, other times the answer is NO, and even further sometimes He answers, WAIT! Prayer is vital to the Christian's spirituality. Will you improve your prayer life? (James 1).
2. I SHOULD SPEND MORE TIME READING, STUDYING AND MEDITATING ON GOD'S WORD. The Lord calls a person "blessed" when that person "meditates on His law, day and night (Psalm 1:2). The word "meditate" comes from a word that means, "regurgitate". A cow regurgitates food so that she may receive vitamins and nutrition from the grass. A child of God also read and studies the spiritual food,(the Word).

He then recalls and brings it back to memory on a daily basis. It is not enough to cruise through the Word occasionally; we must dig deep and meditate on it.

3. I SHOULD SPEND MORE TIME WITH MY SPOUSE AND CHILDREN. Often couples neglect one another. They get caught up in the daily affairs of this life and begin to take one another for granted. This is not done because of a lack of love, but because we just get too busy with other things! Often parents neglect children. Maybe not in a monetary sense, but emotionally and spiritually. Mom or Dad when was the last time you really talked with your child? Have you ever had a conversation with them about God, where there were no distractions such as TV, radio, friends, or work? Make it a goal to spend more time with your family this year. **YOU WON'T REGRET IT AND NEITHER WILL THEY!**

4. I SHOULD SPEND MORE TIME WITH GOD AND HIS PEOPLE. The true essence of greater spirituality is found in how much we truly "love belonging to GOD"! How much time do you spend thinking about and developing your character to be more like His? Do you consider it a compliment to be thought of as "holy, righteous, pure and loving?" If the government declared tomorrow that no more public worship or Bible classes would be allowed, **WOULD IT ALTER YOUR LIFESTYLE?** From the attendance and attention of some to the local congregation, it seems as if some would be affected little, if any? **WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES?**

5. I SHOULD SPEND MORE TIME WORKING WITH GOD. God is disturbed that many are lost! We are the messengers, the farmers who sow the seed. We are the ones the world looks to as examples. Are you willing to spend more time letting your "light shine" this year? Will you spend more time "seeking and saving the lost?" **I HOPE SO. --SWA**

**We meet at 656 St. James Ch. Rd. in Newton,
NC
Join Us**

**Sunday
Bible Study - 9:30 AM
Worship – 11:00 AM**

**Wednesday
Bible Study – 7:00 PM**

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