

UNTO THE END

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"BUT HE THAT SHALL ENDURE UNTO THE END, THE SAME SHALL BE
SAVED" (MTH. 24:13)

Worthy

By Bro. Jim

Just the other day a brother was commenting that as he was out driving a certain sign on a church marquee caught his eye. It read: "God is Not Mad at You". To this incredibly ridiculous statement I reply, "How in the world do you know!?!?" Would you have said that to Esau after he sold his birthright? Would you have told Moses that when God's anger waxed hot against him at the burning bush (Ex. 4:14)? Would you have told the scribes and Pharisees this just after Jesus Christ called them hypocrites and was whipping them out of the temple with a cord (Jn. 2:13-17)? God doesn't change (Heb. 13:8)!!! Lord have mercy! The so called churches today have turned God into a big kindly grandfather that could never get angry or wrathful and that winks at sin all the while giving out "blessings" to all. This "god" people are worshipping today in the "churches" is not the God of the bible! It is not Almighty Jah. In fact if Jesus Christ walked among the churches today, most would not recognize Him; just like when he walked among the religious over two thousand years ago. His own people came against Him and ultimately were responsible for his death. Those whose hearts were not pure could not see God standing in front of them. Only the pure in heart shall see God (Mth. 5:8)! The same would be the case today if He walked among the church in a similar fashion. Satan has done a masterful job at cutting lies into the churches along with the small amount of truth that is still being preached. Ichabod!

One such lie I would like to look at today is that of being "worthy". Most church folk are taught that once a person comes to the cross and is born again than from that point on, no matter what one does and no matter how one lives, he/she is

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970.214.0375

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and always will be seen as "worthy" in the eyes of God. Brothers and sisters in Christ this is simply NOT TRUE! This is a lie. Just because you have been born again in times past does not automatically in itself assure you that you are standing before the Lord today as "worthy". Some say, "None of us are worthy". That's not true, that is another lie!!! Yes, you are lying when you say that. The tired old line of "Christians are not perfect just forgiven" is not true. **If you are a Christian today and are living in sin, hence making you a sinner, you are not currently "worthy" of eternal life and are not currently on the path that will land you into the Promised Land!!** God didn't save you from your sin and wash you in the blood so you could go on in sin!

"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister. (Col. 1:21-23 Emphasis mine).

Notice it says that God saved you, not so you could continue in sin, but He saved you to present you holy and without blame and reproof IF you continue in the faith. Simple logic says IF you DON'T continue in the faith, then you won't be presented holy and without blame! Stated another way, if you

are living in sin, you are a sinner, just like all those that have NEVER BEEN BORN AGAIN! God saved you and ordained you to walk in good works and to work out your salvation with fear and trembling (Eph. 2:10, Phil. 2:12). He saved you and washed you in the blood of Jesus Christ and tells you “Go and sin no more”! Please stop believing that old Baptist nonsense that the only difference between a Christian and an unbeliever is that the Christian has been forgiven! Christians are to look, act, walk, eat, dress, talk, etc. differently than unbelievers! God demands that you walk in the light, perfect before Him. There are Christians that are doing this, just as Jesus Christ showed us it could be done! Yes! This is true. If you are born again and living in sin YOU ARE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT INTO HEAVEN YOU LIAR! You are not worthy of the Lord in such a case. “He that says He knows Him and keeps not His commandments is a liar (1Jn. 2:3-6). All liars shall have their part in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 21:8). Now, here is the good news, it doesn’t have to be this way! You can be worthy of heaven! Yes you can. Don’t argue with me and scoff at what I say you stiff necked people! In this issue of Unto the End we are going to look at being worthy of the Lord. I pray your eyes are opened and you see the truth that one must be perfect to make it into heaven. Amen.

Before we look at specific scriptures I want to set the table with something. When you read the Word of God (that’s the King James Bible in case you didn’t know) you always ask yourself who is talking and to whom is he talking to. I will say this again for clarity sake: Who is talking (or writing to be specific) and to whom is he writing to. Let’s look at the following passages (and all scripture for that matter) with this simple concept in mind. Amen.

“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 has a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember 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.” Rev. 3:1-3.

Who is talking and to whom is he talking to? God (via the Apostle John...a Christian) is talking to other Christians; the church or brethren or Christians in Sardis. To put it again, God is talking to born again believers here. Notice that his message in these three verses is basically they- BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS, need to repent for God had not found their works PERFECT. So, what is God’s expectation here: nothing short of perfection. Let’s turn to the very next verse:

“Thou has a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.” Rev. 3:4.

Notice that of the believers in Sardis, most of them were told by God to repent because they were not perfect. However, there were a FEW believers that would, as it stood at the time of the writing, walk with Jesus in White because they were WORTHY. So just because someone has been born again does not mean they are, at the present hour, worthy. Most of the saints in the church in Sardis were not worthy, though they were saints, i.e., had been born again once in time past. Amen. Also note, what made the FEW in the church in Sardis worthy? It was that they had not defiled their garments (please see Mark 9 for a list of some of the things that defile our garments for an example). These saints, the WORTHY ones were not dwelling in sin and making excuses. Some of the many excuses for sin today are things like: Jesus does the rest, or God accepts you as you are, or nobody is perfect. These saints were perfect, Jesus just said so! Let’s continue to the next verse:

“He 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.” Rev. 3:5.

If your name gets blotted out of the Book of Life (a book only containing the names of those that have not defiled their garments- see Rev. 21:27) it means YOU ARE NOT WORTHY. When you are born again, your name appears in the Book of Life meaning at that point in time, you are worthy. But, we also see here that your name can also be blotted out thus meaning you are no longer WORTHY. Amen. It's the HOPE of eternal life. If you hope for it, you do not yet possess it (Ro. 8:24) but rather you receive the salvation of your soul at the END of your faith (1Pet.1:9). When is the END of your faith? The END of your faith occurs when you die. Amen. Moving along;

“And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would thou were cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold or hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” Rev. 3:14-17.

If God spews you out of his mouth would you say that he sees you as worthy of eternal life? If you have been spewed out of the mouth of Christ, how can you make it into heaven? Clearly this is a reference to born again believers because unbelievers are not IN Christ. Only Christians are IN Christ. So you can be IN Christ and SPIT OUT of Christ. Does He spit out those He views as worthy? Amen.

“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.” Eph. 4:1

Paul, a born again believer is writing here to the born again believers in the church in Ephesus. Notice he is beseeching them to walk worthy. This also means that a Christian can choose to walk in an unworthy fashion. We've seen in the aforementioned scriptures what happens to Christians who walk unworthy. Paul understood this and thus issued this warning.

“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;” Col. 1:9-10.

Born again believer Paul writing to the born again Christians in Colosse. Notice here he is praying that the brothers and sisters in this church are filled with the knowledge of God's will in wisdom and spiritual understanding SO THAT THEY can walk worthy of the Lord and be pleasing in His sight. If you are walking UNWORTHY you are not pleasing in God's sight. You will be spewed out of His mouth and your name will be blotted out of the Book of Life. So again, we see that just because somebody is a believer, it does not mean they are worthy of eternal life in this present hour. Rather, we see admonitions to such believers to make sure THEY WALK WORTHY OF GOD. This is something YOU choose to do through obedience to His word which produces the “fruitful work” described in the passage above.

“As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as father doeth his children, That ye walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.” 1Thess. 2:11-12.

I don't know about you but I'm seeing a pattern here. Once again, we see born again Christian Paul warning Christians (this time in the church in Thessalonica) that they need to walk worthy of God. Why give such warnings over and over again if Paul believed Christians were automatically worthy by virtue of being born again?

“And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.” Mth. 10:38.

Notice here that Jesus said “followeth”, as in present tense continual. Not “used to follow”. You MUST be a living sacrifice (Ro.12:1-3) and present tense continual follow Jesus to be worthy of Him. Paul understood this, hence the many warnings to many believers to walk worthy of the Lord. We also saw in Revelation the end result of those CHRISTIANS that stop following the Lord and walk in sin with defiled garments: names blotted out of the Book of Life and spewed out of Christ. This is in line when Christ says that any branch IN Him that bears not fruit will be taken away and burned (please read John 15:1-10). Notice that the branch that is going to be burned WAS IN HIM at one point. Unbelievers are NEVER IN Christ. Christians are IN Christ but can be taken OUT of Christ. By whom? Christ! He will spew you out! This is not contradictory to John 10:27-28. Let's look at that:

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.” Jn. 10:27-28.

No man can pluck you out of Jesus' hand if you are hearing and following Him. Again the wording here is present tense continual. It doesn't say here, “My sheep heard my voice once, and they are my sheep that used to follow me”. No! It says His sheep HEAR AND FOLLOW, the same wording used in the scripture we cited in Mathew just moments ago. And beside this, those that are IN Christ and not faithful and producing fruit, but rather, walk in sin making excuses will be SPUED out by Christ Himself. It won't have anything to do with “any man plucking them out”. He will cast you away Himself! Those that are IN him that produce not fruit will be cast away (by Him) and burned! Paul understood this and it prompted him to write what he did in 1 Corinthians 9:27! Praise the Lord for the simplicity of the Word of God! Amen.

In closing, we have seen today that just because somebody was born again once does not mean by default that in the present hour he/she is worthy of God or on his/her way to be with the Lord upon death. We have seen warnings to such people from Jesus Christ via the Apostle John. We have also seen Apostle Paul warning Christians in various churches to make sure they were walking worthy of the Lord. We also saw Jesus Himself declare who was and was not worthy of Him. If you are reading this and were born again once, where do you stand right now before your God? Do you know? Paul told Christians to examine our own selves to know whether we still be in the faith or not (2 Cor. 13:5). That type of warning would only be issued by somebody who understood that a Christian's name can be blotted out of the Book of Life due to being unworthy, i.e., living in sin with a defiled garment. God is not going to allow sin into heaven (Rev. 21:27). Those that die with soiled garments (BORN AGAIN OR NOT) will NOT MAKE IT INTO HEAVEN. Please examine yourself today. Are you worthy? How would you know? Read the Word of God and use it as a mirror to your own life. Are you obeying God? If you are not obeying the Lord, repent because Jesus Christ is coming back soon and He is going to give to every man according to His WORKS (Rev. 2:23, 20:13, 22:12). Prepare to meet your God, He is a consuming fire. Thus saith the Lord. Amen and Amen.

Gathering of the Saints
Fellowship
5914 Hamilton Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45224

Phone:

AR Bro. Brad 314.420.6358

NC Bro. Ben 513.474.7021

PR Bro. Oswald 787.420.6522

MO Bro. Jim 970.214.0375

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.gatheringofthesaints.com

Email:

gatheringofthesaints@gmail.com

Gathering of the Saints
5914 Hamilton Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45224



Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code