

Today is Sunday August 11, 2021

BROKEN OR GROUND TO POWDER?

By Elder Curtis Pugh

Many saying of Jesus made Him unpopular with the religious people of His day. He is still unpopular today. Most people ignore or distort or try to explain away what Jesus said. For instance, consider these words spoken by the Lord Jesus: "And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder;" (Matthew 21:44).

Addressed to those religionists in Israel who had rejected the preaching and baptism of John the Baptist, in this verse the Lord speaks of Himself as a great stone – a cornerstone. He said there are only two alternatives. Either you will fall upon this stone or this stone will fall upon you. Either you will be broken or you will be ground to powder. There is no other alternative: being broken or being ground to powder.

Most everyone wants to go to Heaven: they do not want to go to the other place. So they try turning over a new leaf. They try religion. They go forward in a religious meeting or they try being baptized or praying the magical prayer that is supposed to save them. Some continue in that way for awhile. Some for many years. Preachers assure them that they are saved because they did something. Most religion today is based upon the idea that doing this or that will cause God to save the doer: works religion.

But our text indicates that there is much more to being saved. The thing to remember is this: works has nothing to do with salvation: salvation is "Not of works, lest any man should boast," (Ephesians 2:9). In our text the Lord Jesus said that whomever falls on Him will be broken. He speaks of a total broken-heartedness over personal sin. He did not speak of mere sorrow over the prospect of going to Hell, but something more and something different than that. Paul wrote about this same thing: he wrote, "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death," (2 Corinthians 7:10). This is a work of God in the sinner.

In order to escape being ground to powder, that is, being judged by Christ for sins, the sinner must experience being "broken" in "godly sorrow." This is not man made sorrow. This is brokenness or true sorrow worked by the Holy Spirit in the new birth. It is an experience of grace. It is something that God does to the sinner whom He wills to save. It is not the experience of mere religion or religious enthusiasm. It is not the experience of many, but it is the experience of God's elect: those whom He has chosen to save. Jesus also said, "For many are called, but few are chosen," (Matthew 22:14). What is your relation to the Stone? Have you experienced brokenness over sin? Have you turned to Christ, trusting Him alone?

WELCOME TO THE SOVEREIGN GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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Our Prayer List

"Pray without ceasing."

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Tyler Castle, Danny Mollette, 12 year old Lucas, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ricky Henderson and

Family, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Jerry Hughes, Shirley King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family, Baby Titus Massey, Shane and Brook Sims, Ricky Bennett, Nick, Madison, and Baby Emory Patty, and Russell York, Brother Medic, Sister Mhalyn Lavina and children, Brother Jerry Dodson, Brother Gary and Sister White, Brother David and Sister Jevonna O'Neal, Sister Rebecca Sidders.

Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Act 1:8

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania, and the Berea Baptist Banner Mantachie, Ms

“Pastor’s thought for the week.”

“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;” 1 Peter 5:2

When Christians Disagree What Do We Do?

Romans 14:1-3 “Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.”

Here in this church in Rome they were disagreements over the eating of meats, some weak in faith believed eating meats was wrong and the stronger in faith believed that the old laws and customs were eliminated by our salvation in Jesus Christ. Any time there is an assembly of people there will be disputes and disagreements. We must always remember that we are people and while we are all saved by Jesus Christ and all cleansed through His glorious blood, we are still people with diverse ways and thinking. I suppose that throughout history every church has had disagreements and disputes over church issues or doctrinal meaning of the scriptures. God said of the church “For the body is not one member, but many.” 1 Corinthians 12:14 We are not mind-numb robots that God has saved and made us all the same, we all come from different backgrounds, we were all raised with different beliefs, we all have different mindsets, and we do not all always agree. The stronger members in the church are to help the weaker members and even in life we should help the weaker Christians who are not as strong as other might be. But the question is, who are the stronger members of the church or of the Christian faith? Some will say those who know the most scriptures, or those who have the higher education level and these are generally smarter, some may say the Pastor because he is the leader in the church. But all these are not exactly true, God can make a bush in a yard smarter than we all, God makes the foolish things wiser than the wise. We must all be reminded that whenever problems arise in churches or among Christians the problem solvers are the most intelligent. Sometimes, most times, when disputes arise **it takes sacrifices to solve the issues**. I am afraid that in today’s churches we have forgotten how to solve the problems, and the reason we have is because we are letting our head override our hearts. If one Christian disagrees with another Christian, do we withdraw fellowship or solve the problem? Problems are not always solved, if one believes in one thing and another thing, why is that and whose fault is it, and who is right or wrong?

“Pastor’s thought for the week” – Continued

Doesn’t the Holy Spirit teach us, and does He teach us with the same doctrine and exactly the same understanding? We cannot force someone to believe something just because we do, nor can we reject them just because the Holy Spirit has not blessed them with the same knowledge. Since when do “we break fellowship” with other believers instead of loving them and praying that God will solve the issues. Who appointed us the judge of other Christians, who left us in charge of “right and wrong,” who among us is without sin or error, it certainly is not me! Again, I ask who are the stronger Christians, it is those who solve problems instead of worsening problems. It is those who sacrifice and stop eating meat to not offend those who believe it’s wrong. Paul wrote in Romans 14:10, 12 “*But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ...So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*” When we mishandle disagreements and disputing’s we become the sinners and show no maturity as God commanded. It doesn’t matter how smart you are in scripture that makes you strong, it’s the wisdom we have with that knowledge that makes us strong. We need to remember that Jesus will judge us all, and hurting other believers because we did not have enough wisdom will only cost us in judgment. “*Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother’s way.*” Rom. 14:13 Let us ask ourselves, how would Jesus manage it, with a breaking of fellowship or with grace?

Church information and Happenings

- Please pray about our Bible Conference coming up, September 13th & 14th
- Happy Birthday Brother Medic Lavina Friday August 16th