



Blackfoot Church of Christ

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Misidentification – In Different Situations

By Bill Sexton

The story has been running in our area, in the news here the last few days, about a state trooper shooting a man – thinking he was an escaped prisoner. However, the person shot was really a handicapped person. As I think about this, it caused me to recognize that many people are misidentified.

There have been stories about people appearing at people's doors. Much of the time it has been to older people, presenting themselves as some kind of an "official," interested in checking out the safety of the people, or the proper function of some equipment. When in fact they are there to do the home owner or the occupied personal harm, taking from them properties, etc.

Yet, I seem to see more cases of misidentification in the spiritual realm, than persons in any other field, and yet the damage done is much more serious than the other, in that of the physical realm, etc.

Who is a Christian? There are many people claiming to be and are recognized as such, who do not meet the criteria set forth in the Christian's Hand Book, the Bible, the New Testament in particular. The New Testament points to who are Christians, and shows the significance of being truly converted to Christ, being under His rule, having acted by His authority (Cf, Matt. 28:18-29).

It was and is a sad story that the person shot, being misidentified as a person he was not. Yet, there is going to be an even sadder story at the judgment to

have “many” think they are saved, having been spending their time, talent, resourced in the “name of the lord,” only to hear the words, “I never new you.” (Matt 7:21-23).

Beloved that need not be the case with anyone, yet the Lord says it is going to be reality to many. He also, gives the key as to why that is going to be the case, their “iniquity,” or LAWLESNESS – truly acting without His authority. Friends, are you misidentified as being a Christian, “ when you have failed to follow the Revealed word of the gospel, telling plainly what you must do to become a Christian. Have you and I listened to the message that is told time and again in the Book of Acts, as the people were told on the day of Pentecost, the first gospel sermon? (Cf. Acts 2:22-41).

If one would give the attention to looking at what the New Testament says about how to obtain salvation in Christ as they do other worldly matters, they could know for SURE! Yet, to some people they go along and if asked about their spiritual condition, they seem to think of you as a bigot, “know it all,’ being “self-righteous,” and perhaps a number of other terms that are not commentary!

1. When one’s bank book doesn’t balance with the Bank’s statement, most will see a need to check to see what is wrong and get it straightened out. Yet, the soul is extremely more important than the bank account. We’ll leave behind any worldly riches we possess when we leave the earth, but the soul’s condition will be eternal. We have not more time to change that. (Heb. 9:27). The beloved John says the time will be when that with is unjust, ect will remain thus:

“Re 22:11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.” (KJV)

The key in being ready to leave this world is to have obeyed the gospel and be serving the Lord faithfully. Then one can “die in the Lord,” and all will be well, otherwise one being OUT OF CHRIST, he/she is lost forever.

“Rev 14:13, And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the

Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”

One can play the ignorant card here, and act as one can't be sure, but the time will come when that state will remain unchangeable

CRITICISM

By Bill Sexton

“Don't mind criticism. If it is not true, disregard it. If it is unfair, keep from irritations. If it is ignorant, smile. If it is justified, learn from it.”

All of us will receive some criticism in our lifetime. Some of it will be justified. Some of it will be from people who misunderstand, and some will probably be from people who are trying to harm us.

Yet, I contend that criticism should not harm any of us. If it is unjust, then we can go on and should not get angry at the person offering it, but perhaps pray for him/her and try to be helpful rather than be hurtful. If he or she is trying to damage us, God will take care of that (Rom. 12:19; Heb. 10:30), as He has promised.

Yet, I am aware of the fact that to be criticized is not so easy to take. However, if we will keep tuned in to the Lord's directions, and have faith that He will take care of the unjust treatment, in His time and own way. We should all be convinced that the Lord will do His part perfectly, where as we may very away so that we'll do more harm than good.

I must also say that some of the greatest lessons I have ever learned have come from criticism. Yet, at the time they did not make me feel good; but in time I was and am so grateful that some cared enough for me, and did know the truth, so that they were willing to point to me the way in which I was wrong. So, let us see criticism, as we should.

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Brenda continues to recover from ankle surgery
- Laura Matlock had cancer surgery this week and is recovering. Will likely be undergoing oncology treatments through the winter
- Tammy Woodward, a cancer survivor, has been diagnosed with brain tumors.
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Bible class to night 6:00pm at Chad and Kass' on evangelism
- Next Sunday is our scheduled monthly business meeting

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Assignments

<u>Today</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Lord's Table – David Porter Sermon – Ross Ward	<u>Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward
<u>Next Sunday</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Lord's Table – Ben Palmer Sermon – Ross Ward	<u>Next Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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