

What Think Ye of Christ?

Pharisees, with what have ye to reproach Jesus? "This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them" (Luke 15:2).

Caiaphas, what have you to say of Him? "He hath spoken blasphemy" (Matt. 26:65). (Jesus had said in Matt. 26: 64, "Hereafter shall ye see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.")

Pilate, what is your opinion? "I find no fault in this Man" (Luke 23:4)

Judas, who sold your Master for silver, have you some fearful charge to hurl against Him? "I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood" (Matt. 27:54).

Centurion and soldiers, who led Him to the cross, what have you to say against Him? "Truly this was the Son of God" (Matt. 27:54).

And you, John the Apostle? He is "the bright and morning star" (Rev. 22:16).

Peter, what say you of your Master? "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16).

And you, doubting Thomas? "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28).

And Thou, Father in heaven, Who knowest ALL things? "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17).

Dear friend, what think you of Christ? This is the vital question, for Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (John 14:6). (Adapted from a tract published by Osterhaus Publishing House, Minneapolis, MN)

Ignatius' Concern for the Church of Christ

By Terry W. Benton

Ignatius of Antioch wrote: "Do not err, my brethren. 114 Those that corrupt families shall not inherit the kingdom of God. 115 And if those that corrupt mere human families are condemned to death, how much more shall those suffer everlasting punishment who endeavour to corrupt the Church of Christ, for which the Lord Jesus, the only-begotten Son of God, endured the cross, and submitted to death! Whosoever, waxing rich 116 and becoming proud, sets at naught His doctrine, shall go into hell. In like manner, every one that has received from God the power of distinguishing, and yet follows an unskilful shepherd, and receives a false opinion for the truth, shall be punished. "What communion hath light with darkness? or Christ with Belial? Or what portion hath he that believeth with an infidel? or the temple of God with idols?" 117 And in like manner say I, what communion hath truth with falsehood? or righteousness with unrighteousness? or true doctrine with that which is false? (from Ante-Nicene Fathers, Volume 1-The Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians, Ch.16). Eusebius (Hist. Eccl. 3.36) places Ignatius' martyrdom in the reign of Trajan (A.D. 98-117).

Ignatius of Antioch (born? -- died (apparently martyred) --110 AD in Rome) bishop of Antioch in Syria, is known mainly as the author of seven letters that had exceptional influence in the early church. Ignatius recognized the validity of "the Church of Christ" and of men's endeavors to "corrupt" the Lord's Church. He recognized that by "setting at naught His doctrine" and receiving "a false opinion for truth", that men will tend to corrupt the Church of Christ., and as a result they would go to hell. Ignatius

knew the scriptures well on this point (Gal. 1:6-10; 2 John 9-10). The Church of Christ then and now must not be corrupted. We must be members of the Church of Christ and we must be zealous to keep men from corrupting her. Ignatius was not inspired, but he knew the inspired writings, and he knew that Jesus shed His precious blood for the Church of Christ. Like, Ignatius, we must not be ashamed of the Lord's Church.

Stealing

"Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, 'Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?' This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it" (John 12:4-6).

Radio personality Dr. Laura told this story that had been faxed to her. Seems as though a father's little boy had been shoplifting from the various stores he would visit with his mom and dad. Determined to put an end to his son's pilfering, the father decided to have a heart to heart talk with his son. In a last ditch effort to get through to his son the father appealed to Matthew 5:30; "And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell." After having his son read the scripture he sent him to get the large pair of shears that his mother kept for sewing. The son just knew his dad was going to cut his hand off. As he entered the bedroom where his dad had instructed him to go, he saw his father sitting on his bed with all of his pants stacked next to him. Methodically the father proceeded to cut the pants pockets out of each and every pair of pants the son owned. The little boy had been so frightened by what he thought his father was going to do that he never again stole another thing.

Praying For Patience

A young man visited an aged saint and asked him to pray that as a young man he might become more patient. The older man agreed to pray. The two knelt together. The older man of God began to pray: "Lord, send this young man tribulation in the morning, and send him tribulation in the afternoon, and tribulation in the evening..." The young man nudged the elder, saying, "No, not tribulation, patience!" "But," said the old saint, "It is tribulation that works patience." That's what the Bible tells us. "If you would know patience, you must have tribulation" (Rom 5:3).

A Moments Wisdom

He who is poor in faith will bankrupt hereafter.

What a person does is the result of what a person is.

A truth worth uttering is a truth worth remembering.

The gem can not be polished without friction, nor a man without adversity.

The best way to escape evil is to pursue good.

You can never find a lost opportunity.

Friends are made by many acts, but they may be lost by one.