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God Is Just A Prayer Away



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Issue 4

WHAT STATE IS THE BEST?

If you could choose where to live, what state would it be? Some would choose a state with warm weather, perhaps Hawaii; some might like the state of their birth, or a state that provided the best opportunity for work in their particular field. But whatever state you would choose, the best state to live in according to the Apostle Paul would be the State of Contentment. In Philippians 4:11 He said, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am there with to be content."

The two people who should have lived in the state of contentment more easily than anyone else would have been Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. They had every thing perfect and were not satisfied.

How about the Devil? He lived in heaven as one of Almighty God's leading officers? He had every reason to be content. He had power, position, influence, and every thing any created being could desire and he was not satisfied. He wanted to have God's job.

If Adam and Eve couldn't do it, if the Devil couldn't do it, how come Paul could do it? In the next verse tells us he had learned the secret of contentment. He said, "I have learned how to be content whether I am abased and when I abound." He said, "I have learned how to be content when I am hungry and when I am filled."

Then too, remember these words were written during his first imprisonment at Rome. The book of Acts closes with Paul living at Rome in his own hired

house with the soldier that guarded him receiving all that came unto him preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness none forbidding him.

Then consider how God supplied all his needs in the prison. It was while here that he wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. One also wonders how many of the guards in that two-year period became Christians. He was content because even as a prisoner he was used of God in a marvelous way.

How can anyone live in the state of contentment that is not a Christian? Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God? On the basis of that faith, I repeat without comment the words of Peter the day the church began, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." I say those words without comment lest some say, I said it. If you are being deceived by those words, don't blame me. Blame Peter, he is the one that said it. Are you living in the state of contentment?

I had a brother-in-law who went through the Northern African campaign during World War II. He went through Sicily, then Italy. Most of the men he originally served with were killed. His life was spared. When he came home he got off the train in Cincinnati at Union Terminal and got into a taxi. He told the driver to drive him to the East End of the city to a house about eleven miles away

and to drive no faster than thirty-five miles an hour all the way. Don't go any faster than that. If you drive any faster, I will stop you. He told the driver that he had come through four years of battle and he wasn't coming home to be killed just eleven miles from home by a taxi driver. When he arrived home he got out of the cab, knelt down and kissed the ground that he thought he would never see again. Ladies and Gentlemen, we are all just a few miles from home. Are you content as to your destination in eternity?

INVITATION TO A WEDDING

Jesus told about a big wedding in Matthew 22. "The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a certain king, who made a marriage feast for his Son and sent forth His servants to call them that were bidden and they would not come." Again, he sent forth other servants. That is the way the Lord does it. He sends forth servants to do His work and if they can't get the job done, He sends others to tell them that are bidden, "Behold I have made ready my dinner; my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready; come to the feast."

At the first invitation it says that they would not come. It was a defiant answer, I won't do it! That is the answer that many give today both in and out of the Church. As to repentance of sin, and obe-

dience to Christ in a scriptural baptism for the remission of sins the answer to many is—I won't do it. For the Christian, Jesus has left us the ordinance of the Lord's Supper on the Lord's Day. There are a great many things that claim the attention on the Lord's Day and as far as the assembling at the Lord's Table is concerned the answer comes through loud and clear—I won't do it.

The second invitation received a different refusal. They made light of it, and went their way. One went to his own farm, another to his merchandise, and the rest laid hold on his servants and treated them shamefully and killed them."

They made light of it. These words of Jesus, distilled through the centuries, reveal that people make light of God and they make light of the Lord Jesus. They make light of the Church; they make light of the Gospel. They make light of everything spiritual. They heard the gracious invite and concluded that it was not worth considering, we have so many other interests that are far more important then wasting time in matters of faith.

Men cannot afford to make light of spiritual matters according to the warning of James. "Go to ye that say today and tomorrow we will go to this city or that and continue there for a year and buy and sell and get gain. Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow for your life is even as a vapor, it appeareth for a short while and then vanisheth away."

But not only did some make light of it there were others who were aggressively arrayed against it. They laid hold on His servants and treated them shamefully and killed them. How about the militant atheists today? How about the evolutionists? How about the laws that favor abortion, the laws against prayer in school systems, and the efforts to remove all mention of God from the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. These efforts are made by enemies of the Bible, who hate God, the Bible, and the Lord Jesus Christ; they are servants of the Devil who are determined at all costs to fight their way into hell fire.

Then saith He unto His servants, "The wedding is ready but they that were bidden are not worthy. Go ye therefore into the partings of the highways and as many as ye shall find bid to the marriage feast. And those servants when out into the highways and gathered together all as many as they found both **BAD AND GOOD** and the wedding was filled with guests."

They brought in two kinds of people, **BAD AND GOOD**. Sinners come in those two classifications, **BAD AND GOOD**. Some sinners are bad sinners and

some sinners are good sinners. The bad sinner is described in 1st Corinthians 5, verses 9-11. The unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God. "Be not deceived, neither fornicators nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with men, nor thieves nor covetous nor drunkards nor revilers nor extortioners shall inherit the kingdom of God and such were some of you." **THERE ARE THE BAD SINNERS.**

Good sinners are spoken of in the story of Cornelius this way: "He was a devout man, feared God with all his house, prayed to God always and gave much alms to the people." Yet he was told to send for Peter that he might hear words whereby he might be saved. **HE WAS A GOOD SINNER.** The one thing that bad sinners and good sinners have in common is the fact that they are all sinners and apparently going to hell, if they are without Christ.

When the King came in to behold the guests, he saw there a man who had not on a wedding garment. He said, "Friend, how camest thou in hither without a wedding garment?" He was speechless.

Evidently a special wedding garment is provided for us and this man refused to put one on. The importance of the wedding garment can be seen by comparing it to the garments we wear for our physical bodies. We need clothing for our protection. We need shoes on our feet, we need heavier clothing in winter to protect against the cold. We need hats for the head to protect against the sun or the rain; gloves for the hands, our clothing protects the body.

There is also a wardrobe provided for the soul. In this wardrobe of the well dressed Christian you will find a pair of shoes. Paul says, "Put on the gospel shoes." You will find the girdle of truth, the breast plate of righteousness, the helmet of the hope of salvation to protect your head, and the sword of the Spirit for your personal protection. This wedding garment of Jesus will always be in style like the clothing of Israel during their forty years of their wandering in the wilderness their clothes never wore out. Moses in his farewell address reminded the people that, "Your raiment waxed not old upon you; neither did your foot swell, or did your shoes wear out." With the wedding garment that Jesus provides you will be in style when Jesus returns.

The wedding garment is explained in Galatians 3:27, "As many of us as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ." It does not say as many as prayed into Christ did put on Christ, "As many as were baptized into Christ did put on

Christ."

Remember Jesus said of the man who refused to wear the wedding garment; "Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness there shall be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth." The hands and feet are the body parts used for sin. The hands are bound so there can be no resistance and the feet are bound indicating there is no way of escape. The other guests did not seem to know that this man lacked the proper attire for the Day of Judgment. He had deceived others with his nominal church membership; he was not what he had appeared to be. We need to remember what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount: "Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of heaven. Evidently not all members of the church are Christians. Many are called but few chosen.

This parable of Jesus fore shadows the great wedding feast in Revelation nineteen. "And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders, saying, Hallelujah: For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigneth. Let us rejoice and be exceeding glad, and let us give the glory unto Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife that made herself ready. And it was given unto her that she should array herself in fine linen, bright and pure: for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints." And he said unto me, "Blessed are they that are bidden to the marriage supper of the Lamb."

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS

In Matthew chapter sixteen Jesus said, "The Son of man shall come in His glory and of His Father with His Angels and then shall He render unto every man according to his works." Jesus is coming again. In the context of what He is talking about here the judgment is mentioned.

Just before this promise to return and judge the world is this warning, "He that saveth his life shall lose it." How can you lose your life by saving it? Here are three ways. **Number One:** A person seeks to gain his life by exercising, taking vitamins, proper diet, getting a check up from the doctor every year, in an effort to increase his life span and while doing this ignores Christ and reject Him as the Savior then loses his life eternally. **Number Two:** Fulfill the dream of many to own a home, always have a new car,

get every gadget that has been invented to make life comfortable, and spend nothing or very little in time or money in the service of Christ; he saves his life and loses his soul. **Number three:** Have a goal to seek every pleasure in life, attend every sporting event, be able to quote all number of yards gained, batting averages, slam dunks, and whatever, and not be able to quote five verses of scripture on salvation if their life depended on it and this is a pretty good indication that someone has gained his life and lost it eternally. I saw a man who had a message on his T-shirt that expressed the philosophy of many. The message read; Life is short play hard.

Then this further warning of Jesus: What shall a man be profited if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? And then remember these sobering words in Hebrews chapter nine, It is appointed unto men once to die and then cometh the Judgment. Jesus is coming again to render unto every man according to his works.

In view of the coming judgment every one should ponder the Second Coming of Jesus. Someone has expressed it well in these lines:

If you make your goal in riches, what then?

If you dress in pinstripe britches, what then?

If your checkbook has six figgers, And your boss a dozen riggers, When the reaper calls by jiggers, what then?

When your glory is diminished, what then?

When the doctor says you're finished, what then?

When the passing moments tell Like the echo of a bell,

That you are headed straight for hell, what then?

Remember Jesus is coming.

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS



Dear Beloved Minister of God,

I give thanks to God for an opportunity given to me to give this testimony to the glory of God and to the shame of Stan. Merciful greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It's been four years of trading with the devil, after I left my former religion (Muslim). I was a typical Muslim leading people to Muslim religion. Meanwhile a friend told me about this ministry GOD IS JUST A

PRAYER AWAY. But not quite long I decided to join your ministry where I am taught so many things like what salvation through Christ is, total repentance of sins, man in the first world, patience, forgiveness and faith in God. Beloved, me and my family want to know more about Christ and to work for Christ. I kindly appeal to you to send us any available family large print Bibles that will enable us to grow in Christ Jesus. Please, do not relent in praying for us, as we too be praying for you here in Nigeria every day.

Solomon listening to

RADIO AFRICA Broadcast

Dear minister of the gospel,

Most beloved greetings you in the wonderful name of Jesus. I really praise God that he has privileged me to write this letter to you for your kind involvement in my country through your radio ministry. So many of our HIV AIDS PATIENTS just last week gave their life to Christ because they have come to know Jesus is the way and light. Please our request for Bibles in this country because these people are not allowed to go out from the hospital so that them not give others aids. Please these are in pain they need to know Christ. We are 60 in number. Please beloved these HIV PATIENTS need Holy Bibles for them to know Christ. Here are there names.

Sule from Nigeria, West Africa

Dear Evang. Bousman,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Christ. We pray for all you everyday sometimes in the night service since your programme on RADIO AFRICA has been a huge blessing to us. May God bless you richly as you continue to advance the works of His kingdom in people's hearts. May His name be praised. Kindly please come to my aid with some Bible, books, and studies to help us successfully study the scriptures.

Vivian from Ghana, W. Africa

Dearest Brother Bousman,

Greetings to you in the most precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you so much for your loving concern for my spiritual growth by sending me the greatest gift of all times—the word of God, the little tiny book by P.H. Welshimer and the Bible lessons. I am truly grateful and I thank you a million times for the same. Right now I'm a little too busy as we have reached our final quarters and I'm also appearing for an examination in the month of March. I'll have to delay a bit on sending the Bible lessons. Your message last Wednesday (SRI LANKA BROADCAST) CONCERNING THE FIRST

MIRACLES OF Jesus at Cana of Galilee was exhilarating. I love the way in which you highlight tiny aspects which is normally overlooked. Keep it up! May God be your strong tower all the way. Thanks once again for your love and concern for us. May the good Lord meet you at the point of your need and may He bless you in all your endeavors.

Remain blessed Candide from MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

Dear Evang. Ed,

Greetings to you from NIGERIA in the blessed all-powerful name of our Lord Jesus Christ. What a joy to hear you over radio every week with the best message of our Lord. I have been a regular listener on this programme, "GOD IS JUST A PRAYER AWAY." Your programme was a blessing for me and my family. Please keep it up with this wonderful programme.

Bitmus listens to RADIO AFRICA BROADCAST

Dear Brother Ed,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Much thanks to you for all that you're doing for the body of Christ all over the world. May the Lord richly bless you and your ministry. I really enjoy all the inspired Bible study course lessons you send me and I find it enjoyable when doing them. Sometimes I strongly desire to have a Bible Dictionary in order to have a clear understanding of the Word. (We send him one.) I do thank you for the weekly sermon you send me. This has been a blessing unto me and I am encountering a positive change in my Christian life. I'm looking forward to receiving my next lessons.

Justin from Ghana, W. Africa

Dear Brother Bousman,

Greetings to you all in the mighty name of Lord Jesus Christ. I have been listening to your programme over the Radio SRI LANKA on Wednesdays for quite some time. I must say that through your beautiful sermons and gospel songs I have been blessed abundantly. I experience sea change in my life. I mean all bad things going away and all godly things are coming in my life. My God will do mighty and wonderful things in my life. Please always remember me, my wife, and my daughter in your prayers. Please send me gospel lessons or books at your earliest. Now I am anxiously awaiting your reply and also looking forward to your next Wednesday radio programme. May God be with you always and keep you in His holiness.

Yours in Christ, Clement from Ghahjahanpur, INDIA

Dear Ed Bousman,

I heard your program over the RADIO AFRICA and I was greatly touched by your powerful messages. I am a new convert; your programme really improved my knowledge in the word of God. My wife and five children have joined me in fellowship with Christ and we all listen to your good programme over the RADIO AFRICA every Monday. We need Holy Bibles and correspondence Bible Studies. Yours in His love.

BALOGUM from
Ondo State, Nigeria

Dear Bro. Ed,

Greetings from Meghelaya in Jesus Christ name the Lord and Savior. Brother, I am sending my Bible study lessons from 21-30 for grading. Thank you for your Newsletter, I receive them regularly. What is interesting, what is blessing is listening to the word of God especially your 24/4/04 (SRI LANKA BROADCAST) on Mark 5 about Jesus at the country of the Gadarenes is really a challenge to any committed Christian. Like you said Jesus is very expensive if you can send one of this particular message, it will be a great blessing so I can share this message with others. Keep the message of the gospel; Jesus is very expensive in these times. I love every word of yours, that particular message, many will be offended, let them be, your message of the gospel should be like you proclaim. Keep it up! Make your voice even louder for Christ. Thank you.

David from INDIA

“...Wash Me, And I Shall Be Whiter Than Snow.”
(Psalm 51:7)

“WE CAN'T WASH OUR HANDS OF IT...”

Tho' Pilate washed his hands
before the crowd
And proclaimed he wasn't to blame,
He was still just as guilty as all the rest,
No matter how he tries to play the
game...

Despite his apparent reluctance
And his politicking to appease the Jews,
He was just as much a party to it,
As all of us who populate the pews...

For none of us can wash our hands of it—
'Cuz we're all just as guilty as sin...
And even if we weren't among them
That cried “*Crucify! Crucify!*”,
We might as well have been...

For 'twas our sins
That did the shoutin' that day,
And demanded that Christ's blood
be shed—
And no matter how hard
We try to avoid the subject,
JESUS went to the cross in our stead...

We could wash our hands a
thousand times,
And wiggle and squirm and
fervently deny—
But we cannot escape this one true fact—
'Twas for my sins and yours
That *JESUS* had to die.

We can't wash our hands of it,
And we could never pay off the debt
we owe—
But by His grace and redeeming love,
His blood can wash us whiter than
snow...

So, all we can do is repent for our sins,
And humbly confess that we are to
blame—

And, *Pray!* Believe in His power
To save your soul
And be baptized in Jesus' name

- Bob Wickline
Evangelist of Saltair Church of Christ
Bethel, Ohio

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by NAOMI BOUSMAN

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