

GRACE GAZETTE

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Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Hebrews 12:12-13

OUR JUDGE

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. Revelation 19:11-13

Men pride themselves on their use of "logic" to deduce the answers to questions which often perplex their mind. There are even college courses which purport to teach "logic" and agnostic professors actually think that they can impart an understanding of how to think "logically". We are not much interested in such philosophical exercises which stimulate the natural understanding and feed the intellect and ego of the natural man. Yet we are indeed interested in that which is founded upon pure "LOGIC", even though it is diametrically opposed to that which men might naturally consider logical.

John begins his Gospel with these words, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*" (John 1:1) The Greek word which is translated as "WORD" in this verse is "LOGOS", from which is derived our English word, "logic". If ever true LOGIC is to be seen, it must be found in JESUS CHRIST who is the FULLNESS of the GODHEAD bodily. "*For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell." (Col 1:16-19)*

Modern gospel (so called) preaching, in great measure, is structured in such a way as to appeal to man's logic, with the notion that it is possible to change a man's mind from unbelief to faith by convincing arguments. The concept of man having a sovereign free will is the basis of such declarations and reasonings. The appeal to the natural man's intellect seems quite reasonable when such is the basis of this preaching. Nicodemus approached the LORD under cover of night with just such an idea. He was poised to enter into a discussion of heavenly things only to be startled by what he considered an illogical declaration from the LORD JESUS. "*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*" (John 3:3)

He immediately reverted to his natural logic as he tried to comprehend the LORD's meaning. "*Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?*" (John 3:4) As the LORD described what it is to be "born again", he continued to be befuddled and looked for an answer fitting his own understanding. "*Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?*" (John 3:9) The LORD pointed out how little use the natural man's "logic" is in grasping heavenly TRUTH. "*Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master (i.e.; teacher) of Israel, and knowest not these things? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?*" (John 3:10-12)

Multitudes are convinced that their religion of choice is quite satisfying and sufficient to cause them to gain favor in the court of Heaven. They "reason" that GOD is much like themselves (see Psa.50:21) and will be satisfied with whatever satisfies them. They are certain that partial obedience to the Law of GOD is

quite different from total disobedience. Yet the scripture indicates (contrary to their logic) that GOD has no regard to any obedience which is not perfect in jot and tittle. *“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.” (Jas 2:10) “Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.” (Gal 3:10)* Since they are quite willing to excuse sin they “logically” deduce that HE will do the same, especially in those that mean well.

By that same “logic”, some have dismissed the idea that this same JESUS who walked upon the shores of Galilee and laid down HIS life for HIS people is also the same ONE who shall judge the world. They view HIM as ONE whose mercy has overcome HIS justice, that HE no longer demands obedience to HIS law, and is simply waiting for men to embrace HIS SALVATION which HE can only hope that they will receive. Yet the scriptures plainly tell us *“The Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.” (John 5:22) “And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.” (John 5:27)*

CHRIST is the JUDGE of the living and the dead. *“And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.” (Acts 10:42)* This is not simply a reference to HIM being the JUDGE of those who are physically alive and those who have already died. Rather the “quick” are those who have been made alive by the SPIRIT of GOD in the New Birth. *“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.” (Eph 2:1)* The “dead” are those who reside in the realm of death (whether physically alive or in the tomb), into which they were born as the sons of Adam who died in the day that he ate of that fruit which he was forbidden to eat. A man cannot escape this death or its consequences apart from being born again by this SPIRIT.

CHRIST is the JUDGE who shall meet out the just recompense of reward to all men. Those who abide in the death into which they were born shall receive justice at HIS HAND. None shall be treated more harshly than they deserve. Those who are passed from death unto life according to the gift of HIS grace shall receive the same justice from HIS HAND. They shall receive HIS blessing, not in spite of their having broken the Law, but rather because HE has undertaken their debt of sin and substituting HIMSELF for them has borne the curse of the Law for them. They are judged not as sinners but as those who have never sinned. *“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.” (Rom 3:24-26)*

CHRIST is the JUDGE who is FAITHFUL and TRUE. It is impossible for HIM to lie. (i.e.; to go back on HIS promise) HE will perform that which HE has determined to do without alteration, contingency plans, or onslaughts of unbelieving men or devils seeking at every hand to overturn HIS work. *“He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.” (Isa 53:11)* For HE is not only the JUST JUDGE of all the Earth and the Heavens, but HE is a MAN of War who triumphs mightily over all of HIS foes.

CHRIST is the JUDGE who cannot be judged. HE demonstrates HIS untouchable status. *“Behold, they belch out with their mouth: swords are in their lips: for who, say they, doth hear? But thou, O LORD, shalt laugh at them; thou shalt have all the heathen in derision.” (Psa 59:7-8) “He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.” (Psa 2:4-5) “Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?” (Rom 9:19-21)*

When thou, my righteous Judge, shalt come To take thy ransomed people home,
Shall I among them stand? Shall such a worthless worm as I,
Who sometimes am afraid to die, Be found at thy right hand?
I love to meet among them now, Before thy gracious feet to bow,
Though vilest of them all; But can I bear the piercing thought:
What if my name should be left out, When thou for them shalt call?
Let me among thy saints be found Whene'er the archangel's trump shall sound,
To see thy smiling face; Then loudest of the crowd I'll sing,
While heaven's resounding mansions ring With shouts of sovereign grace. (by Lady Huntingdon 1774)

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