

The Relationship that Jesus Christ desires to have with you. Sept 21, 2014

There are many people who do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ and they don't desire to know him. They are so busy in their own world that the things of God have little relevance to them. I once asked a high school sex education instructor what influence the Bible had on her life. She looked at me like that I had to be kidding and said, "Absolutely none! I have never read the Bible and it means nothing to me." I said, "That is just what I thought. You will not be teaching my son concerning things that pertain to life if you don't have any respect for God in your own life." The Bible speaks about the god of this world, the prince of the devil and the deception in which people follow wolves that come in sheep's clothing. See Matthew 7:15. Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing; but inwardly they are ravening wolves. You will know them by their fruits.

I want to speak about the character of the Holy God who is our redeemer, our provider, our protector and our Father. In Matthew 7:7 it says, "Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you; for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." It goes on to ask these questions, "What person would give his son a stone when he asked for bread? Who would give his son a serpent when he asked for fish? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" It continues by saying whatever things that you would like others to do for you, that is what you should do for them. This is the law and the prophets. What kind of a world would we have if everyone treated others as they would like to be treated?

In Matthew 10:29, Jesus spoke about his Father's care. He said, "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Not one of them will fall to the ground outside my Father's care and even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

While we know from Scripture that we will be tested and tried in this life, the Scripture says that God will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear.

See 1 Corinthians 10:13. It reads like this: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape that you may be able to bear it. Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry." In Luke 22:31, Jesus spoke to Peter about Satan's schemes. Jesus had just revealed his plans that his Father had set up for his disciples. They are going to be appointed to eat and drink at his table in his kingdom and will sit on the thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Immediately following this revelation, Jesus said to Peter, “Simon, Simon, Satan hath desired to have you that he may sift you as wheat; But I have prayed for you that your faith fail not and when you are converted, strengthen your brothers.”

See 1 Peter 5:8. In this verse, Peter likens the devil to a lion. He said the devil walks around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Why was Satan not successful with Peter? God limited Satan’s access to Peter. Peter denied the Lord three times, but he repented and Jesus restored him. When he was converted, he did strengthen the brethren and also brought many to the saving power of Jesus Christ. Satan cannot do anything to a child of God except the Lord allow it. If you read the Book of Job, you will learn that Satan had to ask permission to test Job. God limited his access to Job and Satan had checked out the hedges that God had put around Job and his family; Satan had looked on as God’s blessings were poured out on his servant who walked humbly before him and he was respected both by God and everyone around him. God allowed Job to be tested and tried by Satan and everyone who reads the book of Job can see how God exposed this evil being for what he is. He is cruel, vicious, filled with hate and destruction and there is absolutely no good in him. Everything that he offers mankind is camouflaged; you don’t see the real thing until he has his hooks in you and you are helpless to get away from his stronghold. He makes sin look so attractive with bright lights, excitement, money, power and flashy things and once you are in his grip, sorrow, pain, disappointment and the reality of worthless trinkets are what you hold in your hand and in your heart.

Matthew 28:18 says that all power and authority is given to Jesus Christ and everything is under his control. Satan has to ask permission to touch a child of God. Romans 6:23 says, “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Galatians 4:16 says this: “Walk in the spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh”. It goes on to list the lust of the flesh which are sins against God, against us and against our neighbors. Verse 22 reads like this: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance against such there is no law. And they that belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with the affections and the lust. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”