

Leaving the Amish

If you at all viewed the BBC documentary "Trouble in Amish Paradise" then you know that the "simple, pastoral lifestyle" of the Amish masks an egregious doctrine and the active suppression of the truth of the Scripture to maintain the doctrine the Amish hold. The BBC also produced a follow-up documentary that traces the journey of the families who were cast out of the Amish community and church for daring to read the Bible in English and witness to those around them of the grace that is in Christ.

The follow-up documentary also highlights the dangers of learning that you are involved in a system that teaches and promotes a lie, and upon leaving that system, having no one to actually teach you the whole counsel of God and explain the Scripture to you. It is frequently the case that individuals who leave such systems, end up being snared by other belief systems that are also wrong, just in a different way. Though there is a church in that community which ministers to those leaving the Amish doctrine, it also has errors which lead astray those involved in it.

If the Devil can't get you one way, he will surely have another way to prevent you from having the truth.

There is something of note here: Believing in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior is not, as the commentator states that born-again Christian's teach, a way to avoid going to Hell nor should any true child of God teach that. ((It is unfortunate that most all "evangelical" Christians believe and teach this as it is egregious error.)) Rather, if that is the reason why you have believed in Christ for your "salvation," then I will submit to you that you have believed out of an improper motivation. Salvation IS NOT "fire insurance." Neither should it be viewed as such.

If you have not come to know the Lord Jesus Christ personally to the point that you have learned of Him enough to TOTALLY trust Him with your life, then you have not reached salvation. Contrary to popular belief, salvation is not "letting Christ into your heart." Rather, it is placing your life, your destiny into Christ's hands without reservation. One does not do this out of a base desire to avoid suffering in Hell, but does so because they have come to know the LORD and have found that He is "altogether lovely" as the Scripture states. Hence, belief and trust in Christ for salvation comes from a overwhelming desire to spend the rest of your existence with Him. To reach this point, repentance (and it must be the repentance the LORD God grants) is utterly necessary.

There is simply no way to address every error presented here. However, things like tearing a house down because the Old Testament law states that is what must be done for a "fretting leprosy" indicates a lack of understanding about the reason for the Old Testament law given to ancient Israel. This problem is not limited to Charity Church or any particular denomination, but is found throughout every group that claims to be "Bible-believing." I have had Independent Baptist brethren try to tell me the Ten Commandments are still in effect as commandments we, as Christians, must abide by today, when the reality is that the Ten Commandments were the covenant the LORD God made with ancient Israel. ((The following are the passages from the Old Testament that state plainly that the Ten Commandments are the Covenant the Lord had with Israel. This does not change the fact that the Ten Commandments are a reflection of the nature and character of God, and thus are always in effect. Nonetheless, they are not part of anyone's covenant today, but are fully encompassed by the first two commandments of the law.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with

thee and with Israel. And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments. (Exodus 34:27-28)

And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice. And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone. (Deuteronomy 4:13)

Also in Horeb ye provoked the LORD to wrath, so that the LORD was angry with you to have destroyed you. When I was gone up into the mount to receive the tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant which the LORD made with you, then I abode in the mount forty days and forty nights, I neither did eat bread nor drink water: And the LORD delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God; and on them was written according to all the words, which the LORD spake with you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly. And it came to pass at the end of forty days and forty nights, that the LORD gave me the two tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant. And the LORD said unto me, Arise, get thee down quickly from hence; for thy people which thou hast brought forth out of Egypt have corrupted themselves; they are quickly turned aside out of the way which I commanded them; they have made them a molten image. Furthermore the LORD spake unto me, saying, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: Let me alone, that I may destroy them, and blot out their name from under heaven: and I will make of thee a nation mightier and greater than they. So I turned and came down from the mount, and the mount burned with fire: and the two tables of the covenant were in my two hands. (Deuteronomy 9:8-15)))

Understanding

This lesson is the precursor to the lessons on speaking in tongues. It (hopefully) lays the groundwork for understanding that the practice of speaking in tongues does not, and cannot impart a better understanding of the Person, will and work of the LORD God. Plainly, by the Scripture, the LORD God would much rather have His people to possess knowledge and understanding than silver, gold, or any other physical thing.

I pray it is profitable for you.

For those who cannot use the embedded player, wish to use a different player, or want to save the file, the following link is provided:

[Understanding](#)

In Christ,

Paul W. Davis

Tis the Season . . .

. . .to understand the frailties of this flesh.

I know, the title sounds like something else that happened a couple of months ago. However, that particular time of year is pretty unremarkable to me. Rather, it is this time of year, and the next two to three months that will so personally remind me of the truth of the following passage of Scripture:

The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. (*Isaiah 40:6-8*)

Why?

Allergies. Yes indeed, allergies. And, bad enough where I cannot even concentrate to write. My allergies are utterly effective in reminding me of just how fragile we are as creatures. We really do have some very narrow limits in which we can live, and even narrower limits in which we can function effectively and accomplish things.

You know, we really do think we are something. We think we are strong, able to adapt, and highly intelligent creatures. However, we are really no more able to withstand the ravages of this world than the grass of the field and flowers of the meadow.

You don't think so? Allow me to prove it to you.

What happens when, like the grass and flowers, we don't get enough water? How long can you survive without water?

What about air? How long will you survive without air?

What about clothing and shelter? How long will you survive in 40 degree F. weather with just a light clothing? How long will you withstand 160 degree F. weather? (By the way, the grass survives 40 degree weather just fine)

What about food? How long will you survive without food?

What about companionship? How long before you cannot stand it, and have to have someone there to fellowship with?

In survival training they give a rule, it's called the "**Rule of Threes**"

A person can live for:

Three minutes without air.

Three hours without shelter.

Three days without water.

Three weeks without food.

Three months without love.

With only minor variations, it is a pretty hard and fast rule. In short, we are fragile creatures. And here I have not even broached the subject of those little things called bacteria, viruses, and prions (which are rogue proteins that give us the spongiform diseases) which can all kill us, even though we cannot see them, or even detect an infection by them until well after we are infected.

The reality is that we forget just how fragile we really are, as we stay relatively secure and safe most of the time. When this occurs, we forget that we are subject to death at any given moment, and begin to believe we are stronger and smarter than we actually are. We forget from whence we breath air, eat food and drink water. We become just like Belshazzar:

But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk

wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified: . . . (Daniel 5:23)

And we are further reminded in Job:

Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment. Who hath given him a charge over the earth? or who hath disposed the whole world? If he set his heart upon man, if he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath; All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust. (Job 34:12-15)

All of which is to remind us of that oh-so important truth we seem to never remember:

And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live. (Deuteronomy 8:2-3)

Which, though spoken to the children of Israel, is applicable to us all by the word of the LORD:

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. (Matthew 4:4)

So, what is it that I should take from all this? A clear reminder of the truth spoken by the LORD. It is indeed true that all flesh is grass, and as the flower of the field – here today and gone tomorrow. But look at the last part of the

passage from Isaiah:

but the word of our God shall stand for ever

And:

man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

If then, my nourishment is the word of the LORD, shall not I also live forever?

Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. (John 6:32-35)

Isn't being beset by physical frailty an excellent reminder that our physical life and health is not what is important; and is to keep us humble so that we may ever remember from whence true life comes?

I should think so . . .