

# Hearts and Souls

*There are only two kinds of people in this world.*

## **Do you know who said hearts and souls have no color?**

Muhammad Ali made that very profound statement sometime in the mid 1960s. But, did you know that God said it first?

God says that we are ALL His children and that we should NOT be prejudiced because HE is not prejudiced!

HEARTS and SOULS truly have no color in the eyes of God.

*"Have we not all one Father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother?" (Malachi 2:10)*

*"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus..." (Galatians 3:28,)*

*"...because we are all the work of His hands." (Job 34:19b)*

Have you ever been nicer and paid more attention to someone you knew had lots of money than you did to someone else who you knew did NOT have as much money or as many nice clothes as you do?

*Are ye not then partial in yourselves ...But if ye have respect to persons (prejudice), ye commit sin." (James 2:1-9)*

God says we should live our lives and conduct our business without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality (prejudice). (Timothy 5:21)

*"...and if ye call on the Father, who without RESPECT OF PERSONS judge according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning (living) here in fear: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were NOT redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold...But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" (1 Peter 1:17-19)*

God does NOT see anyone's color, race, weight, beauty or whatever, because God is NO RESPECTER of persons. (Acts 10:34)

God only sees two kinds of people:

**"SAVED"** people, those who are saved from the horrors of Hell by having accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior (*The Church Of Jesus Christ*), and

**"LOST"** people, those who have rejected Jesus and will go to Hell at the very instant of their death.

God loves the beautiful as well as the not-so-beautiful, the rich and the poor, the young and the old, EVERYONE, in fact, even YOU...No matter who you are or what you've ever done.

*"For God so loved the world (that's YOU), that he gave his only begotten Son (Jesus), that whosoever (YOU, again) believeth in him should not perish (go to Hell), but have everlasting life" (in Heaven). (John 3:16)*

All you need to do to have that eternal life in Heaven some day is to pray a simple prayer like this one, but be sure you really mean it with all your heart because just reading or saying the words means nothing.

Dear God, I know that I'm a sinner and I'm sorry for all my sins.

Please forgive me. With Your help, I now turn away from those sins, I repent, and ask You to be my Savior and Lord of my life. I now gladly receive Your free gift of salvation (to me). Help me to live for You now; then please take my soul instantly to Heaven when I die.

Thank You for loving me, dying for me, and saving my soul from Hell. In Jesus' Name, amen.

IF you prayed that prayer sincerely, then God assures you that " ... *whosoever* (that's ALL of us. That's YOU, again) *shall call upon the name the Lord SHALL* (without a doubt) *BE SAVED*" (from Hell). – Romans 10:13

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*Especially for YOU...Ephesians 3:20, 21...*

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# First Things First

*"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness;  
and all these things shall be added to you." (Matthew 6:33)*

In Matthew 6:26, Jesus stated three questions to the answering of which men devote the major portion of their energy. These questions are: What shall I eat? What shall I drink? What shall I wear? From the temporal point of view, these three questions are mighty important ones. You have a body which has to be sustained and maintained; you must have food and drink and clothing or your body will suffer – perhaps perish. You cannot get away from these questions; they lie at the basis of life and are the source of most of life's conflicts.

The natural man's concern is mainly for the things of time and sense – food, drink, and raiment. To him the body is all-important; upon it he bestows much thought; to its welfare he gives chief attention. If man were satisfied with merely supplying the needs of the body, he would have much less difficulty than he has. Many of the conflicts of life are due to an inordinate desire for things. The world's way is to lay up treasures against the time when they may be needed to insure temporal welfare. Have a bank account, invest in stocks and bonds, and buy houses and lands. Get one farm, and soon as it is paid for, buy another. As the Iowa farmer said, "Buy more land to raise more corn to feed more hogs to buy more land to raise more corn to feed more hogs." The world's motto is "Take every thought for your life and get all the earthly wealth you can." But there are more important things to think about, higher things upon which to expend energy.

The life of the soul is of far greater importance than the life of the body; the things of eternity are worth infinitely more than the things of time and sense. The body lives a little while; **the soul never perishes**. The welfare of the soul is the one thing needful. If you put first things first, you will seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness above all else. Instead of fretting and worrying about food and raiment and being weighed down with care for the things of this world, you will have as your primary concern eternal happiness in Heaven.

You must seek; you do not get things – not even eternal things – by merely wishing for them. The natural man seeks natural things. The object of your seeking, the thing of first importance, is the kingdom of God. You must press toward it; you must put forth diligent effort to make sure of it. You must bend your energy toward attaining it instead of earthly things. Heaven and the righteousness of God are to have the preeminence in your thinking; they are to be first in days of youth, first every day of your life.

*God has promised you shall not lack for the things necessary to the life of the body.*

Whenever the things of God and the things of this world come into competition with each other, you are to give the things of God the preference. God has promised that you shall not lack for the things necessary to the life of the body. You get what you seek for, then besides that, you shall have food and raiment.

He who holds all in His keeping provides for the needs of those who give Him first place in their seeking. If you seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, God will see to it that you have as much of the things of this life as He knows are good for you. More than this, you should not wish for.

# Peace In The Midst Of The Storm

Faith Notes

The world around us feels like a madhouse. Mankind can be likened to a gigantic snowball rolling down a steep and perilous mountain: momentum gaining, becoming larger and faster, plummeting to its inevitable destruction. News headlines lead one to believe that they [re a character living in the book *Future Shock* by Alvin Toffler or *1984* by George Orwell. Information that once took weeks to reach someone [cross the world now travels within seconds via the Internet and various other forms of mass-communication. We hear of Iran's nuclear program; the oil shortage; the declining value of the dollar; China's growing economic and military might; global weather changes; food shortages—the list goes on and on.

In Matthew 24:24, Jesus states that this was the 'beginning of sorrows'. Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries describe the word '*sorrows*' as one in travail in childbirth. Labor pains start off very mild and far apart. The intensity, frequency, and duration of the pain increase until the mother finally gives birth. This implies that the '*sorrows*' mentioned in Matthew 24:24 will also intensify and become more frequent as time progresses.

A World Health Organization and Harvard University study found that the total economic burden of mental illness was \$83.1 billion in the year 2000. In October 2007, *U.S. News and World Report* estimated that one in four Americans have a diagnosable mental disorder. Also, the value of the global illicit drug market for the year 2003 was estimated at \$400 billion. No one can deny that we are living in a troubling time under stressful situations. Jesus said in Luke 21:26 that men's hearts would be failing for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth.

What solution does the world offer to obtain peace? From the previously stated information in this article, it can be deemed that a large percentage of the world has turned to illegal and prescription drugs. However, filling your life with illicit sex, money and drugs is a poor and temporary fix. Jesus said, "*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, either let it be afraid.*" Many Christians may still be troubled to the point that they develop insomnia, eating disorders, depression, and a multitude of other maladies. So what's up? What would cause a Christian to not have His peace?

Luke 21:26 states that fear is why men's hearts are failing. The disciples were controlled by fear when the soldiers took Jesus to Pilate. Peter even denied he knew Jesus! However, on the day of Pentecost a different Peter preached with boldness and courage. Who or what gave Peter this boldness? It was the Spirit of God within Peter that gave him the courage to face thousands of people and proclaim Jesus was Lord. (Acts 2:4) Jesus sent the disciples another Comforter just as He had promised in John, Chapter 14.

Years ago, I suffered frequent panic attacks because of a tremendous amount of stress in my life. Panic attacks are immobilizing—you may experience increased heart rate, chest pain, numbness or difficulty breathing. I memorized 2 Timothy 1:7 "*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*" This word became so real to me. I would think of it in my heart or say it out loud every time I felt the beginnings of a panic attack. God delivered me from this horrible fear when I began to trust Him with everything in my life. I had turned over my whole life to Jesus when I received Him as my Saviour. Yet, after a time, there were parts of my life that I thought I could handle better than God. Children of God, that's a lack of trust. Isaiah 26:3 tells us, "*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*" To trust God completely is to have faith in all that He speaks to you. You must believe that He loves you (John 3:16). You must believe that all things work together for the good to those that love God who are called according to

His purpose (Romans 8:28). You must believe that He has thoughts of peace towards you (Jeremiah 29:11). You must believe that His mercy endures forever (I Chronicles 16:34). You must believe that God is able to perform what He has promised (Romans 4:21). Only then can you confess that there is *"no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear:"* (I John 4:18).

Precious saints, *"ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father"* (I John 4:17). This is awesome! The God of creation; the Lord of hosts; the Most High God; God Almighty; Alpha; Omega; I AM; the God of Peace has given us the privilege to call Him 'Father.' Matthew 7:11 says, *"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"* Jesus said our heavenly Father has numbered the hairs on our head. He cares for His children more than our minds can comprehend. Our heavenly Father will give you peace through the midst of the storm.

**Father, thank You that we are sealed by Your precious Spirit. Thank You Lord that You will uphold us and keep us by Your mighty hand. Give Your children peace through the storms ahead. Give us the mind of Christ that we may stand in these last days. I ask in Jesus name, Amen.**

# Tired Of The Bad? Here's Good News!

- **I AM THIRD.**

There was a boy who was very popular among others his age. He was an excellent leader in his school groups. One of his friends visited him and saw a homemade plaque in his room with the words, "I Am Third" on it. His friend asked him what it meant and he replied, "It is the motto I try to use in my life. It means "God is first, Others are second, and I am Third."

The driving force in our lives should be trying to please God. Secondly, we should take into consideration the needs and pleasures of others. With our own pleasures subordinated, we will truly be humble servants of God.

- **I KNOW THAT I KNOW.**

An elderly man said to H.A. Ironside, "I will not go on unless I know I'm saved, or else know it's hopeless to seek to be sure of it. I want a definite witness, something I can't be mistaken about!"

Ironside replied, "Suppose you had a vision of an angel who told you your sins were forgiven. Would that be enough to rest on?"

"Yes, I think it would. An angel should be right."

Ironside continued, "But suppose on your deathbed Satan came and said, 'I was that angel, transformed to deceive you.' What would you say?" The man was speechless. Ironside then told him that God has given us something more dependable than the voice of an angel. He has given His Son, who died for our sins, and He has testified in His own Word that if we trust Him, all our sins are gone. Ironside read I John 5:13, "*You may know that you have eternal life.*" Then he said, "Is that not enough to rest on? It is a letter from Heaven expressly to you." God's Spirit used that to bring assurance to the man's heart.

- **WOULD YOU DO IT?**

When John G. Mitchell, of Multnomah School of the Bible, was pastor of the 1st Presbyterian Church in Tacoma, Washington, he heard Dr. G. Campbell Morgan preach. The man knew his text, and young Mitchell was impressed. In fact, he asked the visiting Bible teacher how he understood scripture so well. "If I told you, you wouldn't do it," the older man said.

"Just try me," Mitchell insisted.

"Before I study a book, I read it fifty times," the veteran explained.

- **SIMPLE PREACHING**

David Brainerd, the famous missionary to the American Indians, proclaimed this truth throughout his ministry. He said, "I never got away from Jesus and Him crucified in my preaching. I found that once these people were gripped by the great evangelical meaning of Christ's sacrifice on our behalf, I did not have to give them many instructions about changing their behavior."

When Charles Spurgeon lay on his deathbed, he testified to a friend, "My theology now is found in four little words: "JESUS died for ME." I don't say this is all I would preach if I were to be raised up again, but it is more than enough for me to die upon."

- **"HIM, HIM, HIM"**

Dr. S. D. Gordon tells of an old Christian woman whose age began to tell on her memory. She had once known much of the Bible by heart. Eventually, only one precious bit stayed with her: *"I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I committed unto him against that day."* By and by, part of that slipped its hold, and she would quietly repeat, *"That which I have committed unto him."* At last, as she hovered on the borderline between this and the spirit world, her loved ones noticed her lips moving. They bent down to see if she needed anything. She was repeating over and over again to herself the one word of the text, *"Him, Him, Him."* She had lost the whole Bible, but one word. But she had the whole Bible in that one word.

- **ONLY THY WILL.**

Florence Nightingale at thirty wrote in her diary, "I am thirty years of age, the age at which Christ began His mission. Now no more childish things, no more vain things. Now, Lord, let me think only of Thy will."

Years later, near the end of her illustrious, heroic life, she was asked for her life's secret, and she replied, "Well, I can only give one explanation. That is, I have kept nothing back from God." —Paul Rees

- **IT'S TOO HEAVY FOR ME.**

A preacher was busy in his study, while his little boy looked at a book of pictures by the fireside. He suddenly wanted a large book he had left upstairs, and asked his boy to go for it. He was away a long time, and after a while the father heard the sound of sobbing on the stairs. He went out, and at the top of the staircase he saw his son crying bitterly, with the large book he had tried to lift and carry, lying at his feet. "Oh, Daddy," he cried, "I can't carry it. It's too heavy for me." In a moment, the father was up the stairs, and stooping down, took up both the book and the little fellow in his strong arms, and carried them both to the room below. "And that," he found himself thinking later, "is how God deals with His children." —Methodist Recorder