

Spiritual Tragedy

Melvin Gordon is dead. He loved his family, and was especially concerned for his sister who suffered from a serious kidney ailment. "I would do almost anything to restore my sister's health," he told his wife. So he drove to a local hospital, put a rifle muzzle to his head, and fired one shot. Pinned to his shirt was a note, "Get my kidney within one hour." A kidney, however, to be used for a transplant, must be taken at the moment of death and kept filled with flowing blood to avoid tissue deterioration. They found him too late. His kidneys could not be used. Melvin Gordon died in vain.

What a tragic story! And the story becomes doubly tragic in the realization that had Melvin Gordon taken the time to learn the facts, he could have helped his sister while continuing to live a normal life himself! But, he acted according to his feelings, on impulse, and as a result he is dead and his sister continues to suffer from her kidney ailment. He died in vain because he didn't take the time to learn the truth.

The tragic story of Melvin Gordon is being spiritually re-enacted in the lives of millions of people throughout the world--people who are religious; who are zealous in their religion; who are giving liberally of their time, money, and talents; who would gladly die for the cause they have espoused; who both expect and desire to go to heaven; but people who have really given little consideration to what God has said concerning that which pleases Him. In fact, while many of them read the Bible every day, they frankly admit that they have little knowledge as to what the Bible teaches. They have plunged headlong into some cause without demanding book, chapter, and verse to show God's authority behind that cause.

These people vary widely in what they are doing. One person may have done one thing "to be saved," while another may have done something entirely different. One person may be caring for the day nursery for the church while another is playing on the church softball team. But the one thing they have in common is that they are all "doing" without having taken the time to investigate what they ought to be doing.

Such action leads to spiritual tragedy. "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:21-23).

In the judgment, the question will not be, "Were you religious?" but, "Did you do the will of the Father in heaven?" Only those who are diligently studying God's will and are doing it can face that judgment with confidence. Don't give your life in vain.

- by Bill Hall

The Godhead?

Question: Are Jesus and God the same person?

Reply: No, they are two distinct beings. Both are members of the Godhead. It consists of three members - God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Godhead is mentioned three times in the New Testament - Acts 17:29, Romans 1:20 and Colossians 2:9.

It will help you to understand that the word GOD is a family name. It means divinity, deity, or divine nature. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). In that verse, "God" is plural (Elohim). This explains verse 26 where the Bible reads "let US make man in OUR image." Both Jesus (Col. 1:15-16) and the Holy Spirit (Psa. 104:30) helped in the creation.

Jesus is the only member of the Godhead who has taken on human form (Col. 2:9).

There are many passages where all three are mentioned as separate, distinct personalities. Read Matthew 28:19, John 14:26, John 15:26, Ephesians 4:4-6.

Additionally, note the prayer of Jesus In John 17:1-26. Jesus the Son was praying to God the Father. Read verse 21: "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I In You; that they also may be one In Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me." Was Jesus talking to Himself?

Why does Jesus say that "I and My Father are one?" Because in many way they are - in unity, power, purpose, love, grace, divine nature and characteristics. But they are separate beings. A husband and wife are said to be "one" (Matt. 19:6). But they' are still two distinct people. So It Is with God the Father and Jesus the Son.

- by Roger Hillis

2nd in a series

Jesus' Law on Marriage

An important thing to understand in studying the divorce and remarriage question is the difference between the Biblical concepts of being "married" and being "bound". Some argue that the two are always synonymous. They maintain that if a marriage is dissolved, then both the husband and wife become "unbound", and both are at liberty to remarry (regardless of the reason for which the divorce took place). We believe this view to be false, and offer the following passages as proof.

- Romans 7:2,3 "For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth ... so then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress" - Note that this woman is "married to another man" and yet she is "bound by the law to her husband". These verses clearly show the difference between being bound and being married. They are not always synonymous!
- 1 Cor. 7:10,11 " Let not the wife depart from her husband; but and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband ... " Here we see that one may become "unmarried", yet God still recognizes a certain man as her "husband". She is still yet bound!
- Mark 6:17,18 - Herod had "his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her ... John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife". In this case we have Herod "married" to a woman who was still recognized by God as Philip's wife. She was married to one man while still bound to another.

Our study continues. . .

- by Greg Gwin