



February 7, 2010

The Power Of The Written Word

This past week you may have followed the story of the religious group that was taking children out of Haiti following the earthquake. The removal of the children caused quite a stir and received media attention as members of the group were arrested and have now been charged with kidnapping. Earlier in the week other adoption groups had stopped all discussions of the adoption of children due to the fact that it would take months to find which of them were truly orphans. The leader of the group was interviewed and stated that he had a verbal agreement to remove the children and added that this was for their safety until they could be reunited with their families. As soon as he made this statement I shook my head and commented that he had not gotten this agreement in writing. In our day and time we understand the power of the written word especially when it comes to contracts and other agreements between individuals, corporations and nations. It is no wonder then that we find that the New Testament is a covenant that God has made with mankind and inspired writers to record it. The covenant is not just words on paper. It was written in blood. The blood of Jesus Christ who died to seal the promise of salvation for all of mankind. The writer of Hebrews brings this out as he refers to the covenant and its binding power. ***“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.”*** (Heb 9.14-17). The death of Christ was the sacrifice, the only sacrifice, that would finalize and bring into the reality the promise that God made before the world began (Eph 1.4, Titus 1.2). God put his will into a written form so that we might have access to it. It is a contract which will determine the eternal destiny of all who live. Christ stated, ***“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”*** (John 12.48). A written statement or contract is that which is respected in the world today. How much less meaningful is the word that God has revealed and left for us? Some believe that we are liberty to do as we will with the written word, practicing and believing what they will, introducing elements not inspired by God, or seeking to change the terms of the agreement. The facts are simple. God outlines a plan and conditions by which we are to live. He states things that must be done. Some reason that some things are permissible because they are not expressly condemned in so many words but the reality is that we would not have that freedom with a human contract. Once we have entered into that agreement we are bound by its conditions specified in writing. To alter these is not allowed. Is God any different? The scriptures indicate that He is not. John writes, ***“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”*** (Rev 22.14). John also records a warning that we would do good to pay attention to as well. ***“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”*** (Rev 22.18-19). Do we really want to take a chance and not follow what we find in the scriptures. The decision is ours.

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