



July 16, 2006

Grim Reapers

Paul states in **Galatians 6.7**, “***Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.***” The idea of reaping of course is a term that brings to mind the image of a farmer who plants a field and then waits for the harvest. In life the things we do are the seeds that once planted will one day follow us into judgment. The idea some have is that as long as no great damage is done, or atrocities committed, we are saved by the goodness of God. This passive approach to life denies that facts of the gospel. If there was nothing that we had to do to be saved then there would not be a book that tells us so much that we need to do. If God was willing to overlook the sin of mankind then why send his son into the world to die. There are many ideas that have been developed in the mind of man to escape the obligation to obey and serve God. The state of man is a spiritual separation from God. In discussing the law and the nature of sin, Paul states, “***But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.***” (**Gal 3.22**). Christ also stated that unless those of his day, and thus of ours, repented they would perish (**Luke 13.3**). If those of the first century were commanded by Christ to repent, and divine inspiration preserved that record for us today, why would anyone think there is no need to do anything to inherit salvation. The scriptures reveal that those who are God’s children will inherit eternal life. “***The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.***” (**Rom 8.16-17**). The scriptures are clear that we have to obey the gospel in order to become a child of God. The idea of becoming a Christian, and letting go of the world, is one which most folks will not understand. We have an old saying, “You can’t have your cake and eat it too.” We understand that this means we cannot have everything our way and yet in reference to spiritual things we believe that we can live how we want and still get a warm welcome in Heaven when life is over. God does not work this way and never has. God has always extended his blessings to mankind coupling them with instructions (**commands**), and limitations which carry a consequence for violation (**sin**). God has not left us without definition and guidance in these things. However, the counsel of God is rejected and humans begin to prescribe for God the conditions under which we will be saved. Jeremiah states, “***O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.***” (**Jer 10.23**). Christ suffered and died by the will of God and became the author of eternal salvation (**Heb 5.9**). We are commanded by Christ to “***observe all things***” that he has commanded (**Matt 28.20**). A failure to do this will lead to condemnation in the sight of God. The Lord has given us his word that we can read, understand, and obey. We can change our lives to be in conformance with that word. In the end if we are found faithful we can have a “***crown of life***” that has been promised (**Rev 2.10**). While many think that death and the resurrection will be a time of great joy, and the afterlife is a happy reunion with departed spirits of loved ones, the reality, according to God, provides a different view. Instead of happy harvesters we may become grim reapers as we are lost for not doing that which God commanded us to do.

TLC