

Being Born Again and the Consequences of Sin
By Cordell Vail
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I am so amazed each time I meet a minister who teaches his congregation that all you have to do to be saved is confess Jesus. And then teaches them that once saved, no matter what you do will be save in the Kingdom of God. I have on many occasions enquired of Born Again Ministers if I were to be saved then if I committed adultery and never repented, would I still be saved. They all assure me that I would be. I have asked them what would happen if I robbed a bank and got caught and sent to prison. They assured me that I would still be saved. I have even asked them if I committed murder if I would still be saved and they assure me that I will be.

The problem I have with that philosophy is that the ministers are doing their congregations a great disservice by not also teaching them the consequences of those sins in this life. They don't seem to include in their sermons on being saved what would happen to your relationship with your spouse if you committed adultery. They don't seem to be emphasizing what the consequences of the sin would be if you did rob a bank. Never mind being saved in the end. What about what would happen to you in this life. What quality of life would you have in this life is you lost your family because of your addiction to drugs or pornography. Would being saved compensate for the life of misery you would suffer in this life?

I only wonder why the ministers are not teaching the consequences of sin rather than holding out what seems to be a free pass to heaven if you just confess Jesus and are saved. I personally feel that a huge part of the moral decline in our world today has come in a great part from the very ministers who should have been helping us to build it up and preserve it. How can we wonder that the divorce rates have greatly increased when our ministers are teaching us that there is no wrong if you are saved? How can we be surprised in the moral decline in the United States now when the ministers have told them that if they are saved then there are no consequences for the sin?

I want to be a witness to the world that that there are consequences for sin. Christ said, *"if you love me, keep my commandments"* (John 14:15). The Ten Commandments are not "The 10 Suggestions". If we break the commandments we will lose the spirit of God in our life, SAVED OR NOT! If we lose the Spirit of God in our lives then we lose our hope and peace and happiness. That is the very purpose of this life. It is to find happiness and peace. When Christ invited us to *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* (Matthew 11:28-30). I have always believed that was an invitation to become like Him not an invitation to make a journey to be where He is.

When we go to the next life why would Christ want to be around someone who was a liar or adulterer or murder and has made no effort whatever to overcome those weaknesses in this life? If people are trying to change we forgive them. If they have changed we forgive and forget. But if they have no desire to change or be different then who wants to be around those people now? Why would we want to live in eternity with them then if we don't want to be around them now?

I have pictured heaven in my mind as a place where there is peace and safety and honesty and morality and uplifting of one another. I cannot imagine that just because we die then all of the sudden we don't have a desire to commit adultery or lie or steal or deceive any more. I believe that the same spirit that we have in this life will continue with us in the next life.

That is our challenge in this life, to do all that we can do to become like Him. Sure it is true that we cannot be perfect, but we can surely learn to not commit adultery or rob banks or lie. Surely we can become truly charitable Christen people. Surely we can do all that we can do to repent and live a righteous life, and then THEN.... By the Grace of Christ he will do the rest. But will he do the rest if we have not made any effort to do our part first. Why would he just give Hitler the same blessings in the next life as Mother Theresa? That seems so unjust to me. In Romans 6:23 it says the "*the wages of sin is death*". How can we justify teaching people that to confess Jesus will excuse them from sin in light of that scripture?

That seems so unjust to me. I think that is the very meaning in the Bible where it says in heave there are many mansions (John 14:2). And we each will be allowed to go to a mansion or heaven where the people there are just like us. If we are liars we will go be with liars. If we are adulterers we will go be with adulterer. I believe that if we are murderers we will go be with murders. If we have made every effort to live a Christ like life, then I believe He will look upon our efforts and fill in the gaps of what we were not able to do and forgive us of our sins and save us in His kingdom with Him. But that kingdom for me will not be filled with those who made no effort to try to live His commandments. I do not believe that we will just get a free pass to heaven because we confessed Jesus in some church service then made no effort whatever to live Christ's commandments. I think that is the lie of our century being propertied by our Christian ministers. To me it is a sin to be teaching people that there are no consequences for sin and we have a free pass to heaven if we just Confess Jesus and get saved. How could there not be a moral decline on our world when people are not being taught the consequences of their actions?

Here is one of my most favorite quotes by Ruth Graham, wife of Billy Graham

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

If we are a liars or thief or adulterer or murder, do you think you can fool your spouse, family or friends? Do we also think we can fool God?

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