



BEACON

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“They Have Moses and the Prophets”

Marvin L. Weir

One who has only limited knowledge of the Bible is probably familiar with the story in Luke 16 of the rich man and Lazarus. Upon dying, the rich man found himself in torments. His heart's desire was that Lazarus be sent to his father's house to testify to his brethren so they might believe and obey and avoid the place of torment. The rich man no longer felt that his way of life was good enough for his brothers. Abraham's answer, “They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them” (16:29), continues to be echoed century after century. People today can and should learn from this incident recorded by inspiration.

The rich man was either willfully ignorant or simply chose to ignore the teaching of Moses and the prophets. Many people living today will die lost (Mat. 7:13-14), and, in the Hadean realm of torment, they will surely have the same desire the rich man had. The plea from every lip in torment will surely be to send one to testify to their friends and loved ones so they will be persuaded to turn from their sins and obey the commands of the Master.

If Abraham were answering one in torment today, his answer would change slightly because all are now living under the New Covenant. He might say, “They have the inspired Scriptures; let them hear them.” The lost one could argue, “No, but if one go to them from the dead, they will repent” (cf. Luke 16:30). Abraham would surely

reply, “If they hear not the Holy Scriptures, neither will they be persuaded, if one rise from the dead” (cf. 16:31).

The lessons from this story, applicable to people today, are easily discerned. The atheist who denies the existence of God has chosen to reject the Holy Scriptures. The Psalmist exclaimed, “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God” (Psa. 14:1). To the Gentiles, Paul said:

For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, *even* his everlasting power and divinity; that they may be without excuse: because that, knowing God, they glorified him not as God, neither gave thanks; but became vain in their reasonings, and their senseless heart was darkened (Rom. 1:20-21).

The Bible, God's inspired Word (2 Tim. 3:16), announces at its beginning, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). No, if one will not believe the above Scriptures, neither would he believe if one returned from the dead and testified regarding the existence of God.

The evolutionist who believes that the earth is millions of years old and that man descended from apes and chimpanzees rejects the testimony of the Scriptures. Again, there is the testimony of Genesis 1:1. A few verses later, the Bible declares:

And God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the ground after its kind: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our

Some Say *Charles Pogue*

Some say I'm a Christian, but you can't understand

The works that they do with idolatrous hands

They put evil things in front of their willful blind eyes

And won't leave the world and its corrupt earthly ties

What meaneth the Savior to the one who won't do

The works He has given for me and for you

What meaneth the Savior to the one who won't part

The things of this old world; he's impure in his heart

Some Say I'm a soldier but you won't see them fight

To put down the evil and hold up the right

They are cowards who will run from the war with the foe

They don't stand for Jesus in this world below

Some say I'll be going to that home in the sky

But they're not prepared for the robes of pure white

They'll hear from the Savior now you go away

They'll be on the left on that great judgment day

Deceased

likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. And God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them: and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth (1:25-28).

Exodus 20:9-11 clearly reveals that a day is understood to be 24 hours—not millions of years! If one will not believe the Scriptures, neither would he believe if one returned from the dead and affirmed that evolution is a farce, not fact!

The one who places his faith in man-made denominations denies the truth of God's Word. The **Lord** built His church—not some man (Mat. 16:18). The Lord's church wears His name (Rom. 16:16), not the name of some man. There is only "one body" and "one faith" (Eph. 4:4-5)—not many. The Lord never promises to save man-made bodies, only **His** body (5:23). It is not "worship as one pleases," but one must "worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24) if his worship is to be acceptable to God. All people are to be of the "same mind" in matters about the faith, and religious division is condemned (1 Cor. 1:10-13).

Those who precede us in death today would gladly come back to this earth if possible and testify to the folly of failing to recognize the authority of the Scriptures in religious matters. Man, in his wisdom, considers the teaching that man is saved by "faith only" to be a most wholesome doctrine, but the Bible begs to differ (cf. Jam. 2:24).

Just as the rich man had "Moses and the prophets," folks today have God's Word, the Bible. Will you believe the Word of God or reject it?

Blossom, TX

The Upward Way

W. M. Davis

There is a way of life that leads constantly upward, and it is God's way. The writer of the Hebrew letter says, "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection" (Heb. 6:1). If a picture of spiritual things were drawn, perfection would occupy the highest place. That is an elevation that no one reaches on earth, but it is a thing that the Bible constantly admonishes us to strive for. This thought is a source of joy to some people, but a displeasure to others. When a man's heart is right with God, he never grows weary of rising higher in the Christian life. The physical health of some people reacts unfavorably to a high altitude, which is a sure sign that they have weak hearts.

This is true in both a physical and spiritual sense. Climbing a mountain is easy enough if the scenery is interesting, but when we pass the timberline and come to nothing but cliffs and jagged rocks, we lose interest and want to turn back. But there are new thrills awaiting us at the top. We are enthusiastic at the start, and if our perseverance endures, it is interesting to the end. But too often our interest dies in the middle. Improvement in the Christian life should last as long as one is alive. Earnest people find great satisfaction in growing in grace and knowledge of the truth. It is unfortunate, however, that this procedure is tasteless and tedious to some that wear the name Christian. Sometimes it transpires that what is inspiring to one person is depressing to another. The man whose heart is filled with a desire for earthly things wants to stay on the earthly level. Trying to rise higher in spirituality makes him unhappy.

The way that leads upward is not the easiest to travel, but it is the best. It leads where we want to go. No man should fool himself by thinking he can go to the right place by following the wrong road. The upward way is traveled by faith. But some people regard faith as a crutch to be used

only by those who are weak-minded, and they throw it away. That kind of people go nowhere, only where they can walk by sight. The upward way is overshadowed by the glory of God and is visible to all that are pure in heart. Men always rise to a higher place when they walk in the way marked out by the Lord. Yet so many people are weak and vacillating. They have a lot of faith in man's opinions, but very little faith in God's Word.

Higher Ground

We often are made to wonder if people want God to do what they pray for, when they sing, "Lord plant my feet on higher ground." Jesus says, "The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment" (Luke 12:23). Sometimes it is difficult to determine the relative value of the things of life, and to keep them in their proper places. It ought not to be hard to tell whether a man is worth more than the clothes he wears. The Lord says the body is worth more than raiment. Then it should be easy enough to decide whether things are worth more than physical things.

Common sense, as well as the Bible, teaches us that eternal life is worth more than our present life. Men have no trouble deciding whether a ten-dollar bill is worth more than five dollars. The soul of man is an uncrowned king, but in many lives it is robbed of all its titles. The soul is the hereditary sovereign of man's estate. Yet in so many instances man takes away its rights and supplants it with something else. Man often lets his worldly ambition trample his soul under foot. Paul says, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection" (1 Cor. 9:27). This evidently means that he kept his soul on top. By the power of his soul man rises to his greatest height.

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Sick

Remember in your prayers:

Bill & Peggy Crowe

Nancy Travis

Linda Worley

Carla Bureson

Bill & Pam Busch

Linda Parks

Pete Maldonado

Please Remember

July 19

Birthdays and Anniversaries Get-together will be held in the zone room after the afternoon service.

July 29

Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 p.m., in the auditorium.

Weekly Services

Sunday

Bible Classes for all ages — 9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship Service — 10:00 a.m.

Afternoon Worship Service — 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes for all ages — 7:00 p.m.

Bellview Church of Christ

Bishops: Paul Brantley

Michael Hatcher

Bill Busch

Minister: Tim Cozad