

## **Give Me The Old Time Religion – Part 2**

### **Jude 1:3-4**

We are getting geared up for revival this month. It starts on Sunday morning the 16<sup>th</sup>, and goes through Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup>. Thomas Mowery will be bringing the messages each service. He is a dynamic young preacher and his heart totally belongs to the Lord. We will hold a church wide prayer meeting on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> which he will also be conducting. I urge each one of you to be there if you really want to support this revival.

But even with Thomas' dynamic preaching style, his love for the Bible, and his dedication to God's work, cannot assure us of a successful revival, for that responsibility belongs to you and you alone.

If you don't attend each service, you are taking away your support, if you don't make a concentrated effort to bring others to the services, you are letting God down, and if you don't put your mind on your own sins and Christian growth, the revival will not last beyond Wednesday night.

I ask you to totally commit yourselves to this effort and let us experience how God can use Harmony Baptist Church to turn lives around during this revival season.

The emphasis for the revival is on the **Old Fashion Religion**. This is the same as the **Old Time Religion**. This is the only religion that saves the sinner, under girds the Christian and takes us to heaven.

Any other approach to God is a sham, leads people into complacency, fools them about importance of the Bible, and produces within them a false sense of security. If one is serious about His or her soul, they will look no further than **The Old Time Religion**.

Last Sunday I brought the first part of the message on **The Basic Beliefs of the Old Time Religion**.

- 1. The Old Time Religion includes the reality of a great God.**
- 2. The Old Time Religion includes the fact that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour of mankind.**
- 3. The Old Time Religion includes a relationship with the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity.**
- 4. The Old Time Religion includes an undeniable acceptance of the Bible as God's Holy Word to mankind.**
- 5. The Old Time Religion acknowledges as a fact that salvation comes only through the blood Christ.**

**6. The Old Time Religion and only The Old Time Religion promises eternal life in Heaven living in the presence of God, and the eternal burning fires of hell for those who ignore its truths.**

If you are having problems with any of these, you are in spiritual trouble with God and you need to be either saved or revived.

**Jude 1:3-4**

**3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.**

**4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Jude wrote in our text to earnestly contend for the faith which was one delivered to the saints. This is the Old Time Religion**

Today I will continue this theme as I speak of:

## **II. THE TANGIBLE BENEFITS OF THE OLD-TIME RELIGION**

### **1. Only The Old Time Religion will bring forgiveness of sin.**

It doesn't matter that the modern psychologists tell you that all unseemly behavior comes about because of our environment and that there is no such thing as sin.

It doesn't matter what the modernist preachers tell you about the goodness of God, and that all sin is relative.

It doesn't matter what you think about your own sins and how you are fooling yourself and other people.

The only thing that really matters about sin is that we are all sinners and the only way to be forgiven by God is through His mediator, Jesus Christ. There is only one way; the old time way of coming before God with a repentant heart and asking Him to forgive you, not because you deserve it, but because of the sacrifice Jesus made for you.

There is a black record of our sin against God. Some years ago there was a "**Wordless Book**" which soul winners often use to explain salvation? This well illustrates the Old Time Way.

The first page is **black**, representing our sin.

The second page is **red**, representing the blood of Christ which covers our sin when we come to Him.

The third page is **white**, picturing the soul washed white in the blood of the Lamb.

The fourth page is **gold**, symbolizing heaven.

It would do us well to look at the book of our own hearts this morning.

That black page remains black until mixed with the blood of Jesus which changes it to white. This symbolizes the purity of the soul when God forgives them.

### **Colossians 1:12-14**

**12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:**

**13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:**

**14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:**

**What will make us whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus as presented in the Old Time Religion.**

## **2. Only The Old Time Religion will bring us into right relationship with God.**

Before we come to Christ we are at enmity with God, we are not God's children. We actually belong to the family of Satan even if we are good people.

Men talk glibly today about "**the Fatherhood of God.**" But in a redemptive sense we are not the children of God. In our natural state, we are the children of Satan. "**Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do**" (John 8:44).

John 1:12 clearly shows that before we come to Christ we are not God's children. Only those who receive Him as Saviour become the children of God. "**But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.**"

The whole world seems to misunderstand this. They want a God on demand. They want to live as they please and then when they need God's help they demand it.

You all know people who pray in troublesome times that have absolutely no interest in God when things are going right for them. I have even some of these people tell how God has blessed them because of their prayers, but they exhibit no visible change in their lives. They had just as well to have saved their prayers and taken the credit themselves. These kinds of people don't know God, and have no interest in His work. To make these kinds of claims are blasphemy to the almighty God of the Bible.

I also sound a caution to the Christian. Even your prayers are not heard when there are un-repenting sins standing between you and God. The Christian life is a process of growing out of sin, and we need to be ever minded that we need forgiveness daily.

**1 John 1:8-9**

**8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**

**9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**3. Only The Old Time Religion will change your life. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).**

Let me share a letter with you that a noted radio preacher received from a man who heard his message of Old Time Religion:

Happy am I that I turned my radio on in time to hear your broadcast this morning for it turned me around. It gave me just the nudge I needed to turn again into the fold, for I am a "has been" that you so vividly pictured this morning. So tonight I am going back into the church. I am now discarding a habit that has kept me away for several months. I have been saying after this week I shall stop and it has been this way all along—for each consecutive week the possibilities of this speculation has appeared more and more promising. And now I am through. I used to sing in the choir and teach a Sunday school class, but today I am only a "has been." Tonight I am going back home. I am sure you can now see how effective your broadcasts are. I cannot promise to listen again for I plan now to be in church every Sunday morning from now on. May God ever bless you and renew and strengthen your courage and power to preach the truth to a weak generation.

There are two parts to this story.

1. The man was once active in the affairs of God, and then drifted away into the things of the world. **This is called backsliding!**

2. Through the hearing of the word, he realized his backslidden condition, repented, and came back into the fold.

Why did this man change? Why did he turn back to God and the church? It was because he took the Gospel seriously, and applied it to his own heart and life. If you want to be closer to God then you will have to let the Gospel of the old-time religion have its way with you, it will change you, also.

**4. Only The Old Time Religion will give you a daily companion.**

Some years ago a popular song had the title, "**I'll Walk Alone.**" It was popular because many people feel alone in the world. However, the Christian never has to say that. He

will always have a sweet and wonderful Companion. Sorrows may come, tears may fall, life may be difficult, the heart may ache, but always we can hear that Companion saying, **"Fear not, I am with thee. I'll make all things work together for your good. I'll never let anything come your way that you and I cannot handle together."**

#### **5. Only The Old Time Religion will give you the privilege of prayer.**

There is only one prayer for the sinner to pray. His prayer is, **"God be merciful to me, a sinner."** But after he is saved he can claim a score of prayer promises. Jesus said, **"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (John 14:13).**

Does that mean that you can have anything you want? Does that mean that God will give you a Cadillac or a new home or a million dollars if you simply ask Him for these things? No, for when we ask in His name and according to His will and that God might be glorified, that does away with foolish requests.

Often a Christian makes some enemies. They try to hurt him by using all kinds of weapons, gossip, lies, trickery, and accusations. Now the Christian cannot use these weapons in return. He must not. His only weapon is prayer. If we live rightly, abiding in God's Word and praying, we need not fear what any man can do to us.

#### **6. Only The Old Time Religion gives you hope for the future.**

The sinner boasts and says, **"I am not afraid of the future."** Yet he has nothing on which to base his confidence. But the Christian can say, **"I have hope for the future."** His hope is based on **"nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness."** Oh, what a difference!

What does the future hold for the Christian?

Heaven and all it has to offer, reunion with our saved loved ones, living in the present of our Lord, and eternal life as promised by God in His word.

#### **Revelation 21:3-4**

**3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.**

**4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.**

But the flip side of this is for the unsaved. What about their future?

#### **Revelation 21:8**

**8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.**

**7. Only The Old Time Religion gives you help in the hour of death.**

The Psalmist said, "**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me" (Psalm 23:4).**

What a blessed assurance! One day when the last task has been completed, when the last song has been sung and the last tear has been shed, our feet shall touch the icy waters of the river of death, but, thank God, we shall not be alone. We shall feel His hand upon us, guiding us toward the everlasting sunlight and the mansions of glory. It's enough to make us shout "**Hallelujah!**"

When Mark was little, he would often go to sleep in the car. When we reached home I would gently put him in his bed and when he awoken in the morning he would find himself safe at home. That's what death means to a Christian. We go to sleep in the arms of Jesus and wake up in glory.

**8. Only The Old Time Religion gives you entrance into heaven.**

The Bible says it is appointed unto man once to die. It may be through physical death, or it may mean loss of the old nature during the rapture, but the old nature must die. It really doesn't matter when or how it comes if you are trusting in Him you are safe, whether you die or are living when He comes.

The Old Time Religion not only gives hope, it gives assurance that we who are saved will enter into heaven. Here is what Jesus said about his subject.

**John 14:2-3**

**2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.**

**3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.**

### **III. HOW CAN YOU GET THE OLD-TIME RELIGION?**

That's an easy question to answer. Just get Christ and you'll have it. You come to Him through repentance and faith. "**Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).**

Repent of what? Your sins against God. You see this all starts with belief in God's Word, the Bible. You hear a sermon, you talk to a friend, you read the Bible yourself. However you are introduced to God's word, you believe it and seek its truths.

You understand about how man has fallen, and how he stands condemned as a sinner before God. You understand that you can not work yourself into heaven, and you feel the emotion of helplessness. You know you are lost and you are willing to accept God's way through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. If you've gotten this far, then you need to callout to God to forgive you of your sins, and accept His free gift of life through his way; a personal acceptance of Christ as Saviour and Lord.

I'm afraid that too many people have only partially accepted God's way. They want the benefits of being a Christian without the dedication and commitment required by God.

They claim to know the Bible is God's word, but never read and study it.

They claim to love Jesus but never or rarely attend His church.

They claim to be headed for heaven but know absolutely nothing about its inhabitation.

I can tell you about these kinds of people, they are lost and doomed for hell unless they make it right with God while they have the time.

The Bible says that after true repentance and faith there comes an open confession of Christ. **"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation"** ( Romans 10:10 ).

This is all followed up with obedience, baptism, church membership, giving, Christian living, and serving.

If you have any of these elements missing in your life, there are only two possibilities, you are in a backslidden condition, or you are not saved.

I can't look at you and tell what your situation is, but I can tell you that if the Holy Spirit has not spoken to you this morning in either a positive or negative sense, your spiritual life is in trouble.

This can be easily taken care of by accepting the precepts of the Old Time Religion?

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