

Date: 25th July 2006

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Readings: John 3:1-7; Matthew 18:1-3; Luke 13:1-5.

The Three Evidences of the Christian.

In the verses we have read today, there are three requirements for a person to be a Christian.

In John 3:1-7, he must have an inward change of nature

In Matthew 18:1-3, he must have an outward change of life

In Luke 13:15, he must have a Godward change of mind.

What does it mean to be a Christian? It is not enough to be born in a “Christian” country. This country, which was once called Christian is not far away from God. There must be new birth, changed life and repentance to have a true relationship with Jesus Christ.

John 3

Nicodemus knew the Scriptures. He was religious, but he did not have Christ.

What is the answer to the question, “Where was God? when a disaster occurs? It is that man's sin is at the root and God must deal with all sin when He intervenes. Man has left God out of his life . He needs to appreciate that all are sinners but Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. We need an inward change of nature. Are you born again? Can you honestly say that you are a child of God?

The Lord Jesus reminds Nicodemus that he must be born again. Good works or doing the best we can will not get us to Heaven. “He is able to save them to the uttermost” (Heb. 7:25)

“Jesus, I will trust Thee
Trust Thee with my soul.
Guilty, vile and helpless
Thou canst make me whole”

The message is noting to do with man, preachers but everything to do with Christ.

We are only asked to repent and come by faith. The work was completed on the cross. We only need to confess Him as Lord (Rom. 10:9). We are saved from the penalty and power of sin, and one day we shall be saved from the presence of sin. This is all in view in Ephesians 2:8.

People may wonder what is the greatest need of the day. They think of better health, environment or security for old age. The greatest need is the spiritual need for “a way back to God from the dark paths of sin”. This applies to all, whether Pilate, Herod, Judas, Nicodemus or any one of us. Are you sure of your future? Do you know where you are going?

“God holds the key of all unknown, and I am glad”

Nicodemus came as he was. There is no need to try to change ourselves first. If we trust Him, He will change us. He will save and keep us.

Nicodemus came by night. He could not wait for the morning. The Scripture says, “Now is the accepted time” (2 Cor. 6:2); you cannot out off your appointment with Christ. He is available at any time to meet our need. He is available in any place. In Acts 16, the jailer found Him in the jail.

The Gospel includes all and excludes none but you can never enter Heaven in your sin. there are no barriers to Him. You may not be able to approach politicians or royalty, but all can come to Christ. John 3 :16 makes clear that the invitation is to “whosoever believeth in Him”. There are no racial, moral, religious or intellectual barriers. God loves you and Christ died for you. Nicodemus know about Chris, but he did no know Him personally. Like Naaman (2 Kings 5), he had to learn that you do not have to do any great thing, you only need to believe.

Every day takes us nearer to eternity. We cannot be sure about tomorrow so we cannot afford to put off our decision, “Now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2). You can trust the Lord Jesus where you are and you will receive a new life, an inward change of nature.

Matthew 18.

There has to be an outward change of life. Where there is faith, there will a change to show that we are a Christian. Old habits and friendships must be put away. Saul of Tarsus shows a wonderful change of life. From persecuting the church, he was transformed into a man who prayed, was baptised and preached Christ (Acts 9).

Luke 13

We need a Godward change of mind. We must think differently about sin. Paul preached “repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21).

He will never fail. he will never let us down.

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31).