

Anarchy

The following statement is proved throughout the entire Book of Judges....”There is no firm leadership to govern God’s Children leaving them to do as they best see fit[1].” The tragedy of this scenario is seen in the weaknesses of the leadership told about in this book. While they may have been sincere to a point, their weaknesses were exacerbated by being placed in the elevated position of being a “judge” over God’s people. One of the most glaring examples was Samson. He was dedicated to the Lord as a Nazirite[2], but his weakness became obvious when he lusted after a Philistine woman in Timnah. When he married her, his best friend ended up consummating the marriage and took his wife as his own. God used this even to precipitate vengeance upon the Philistines through the hand of Samson in such a way that could not have been brought about had Samson’s marriage to one of the uncircumcised Philistines stayed true[3]. Still burning with lust and being thus led, Samson’s fall ultimately came through the hand of Delilah. God capitalized on this lust filled situation by allowing it to transpire, by using it to slay 3000 Philistines at the ceremony to Dagon in an act of suicidal vengeance on Samson’s part.[4] The act served the purpose of starting the liberation of Israel from the Philistines even if the motivation of Samson was not totally spiritually pure[5].

The “judges” spoken of in the Book of Judges were, to a point, focused on the point of leadership of God’s people, but some were the victims of their humanity. Gideon failed to instill in his son Abimelech the fear of the Lord he, himself had in his heart, resulting in Abimelech massacring 70 of his brothers in order to secure his leadership status after the death of his father Gideon. It ultimately caught up with him, as is the way with sin, and he suffered an ignominious defeat[6].

If the Old Testament leaders were subject to the lusts of the flesh and they had the benefit of being brought up in the Mosaic Covenant, how much more those who have not had the pleasure of being exposed to God’s word? The pointed modern day examples of Bonnie and Clyde, Ma Barker, Jeffery Dahmer, Pol Pot, Adolf Hitler,[7] and Jack the Ripper [8] demonstrate what a life ungoverned by Christ would be like. Their end was most assuredly dire and they will suffer an eternity in the lake of fire with Satan and His followers as a result of their rebellious choices.

Salvation notwithstanding, having the Lord Jesus Christ in your heart instills in your heart the joy of submitting to His guidance and direction as well as submitting to the world government and authorities who are placed here for us[9]. Because of His Love for us[10], we are free from following the ways of the world[11], and released to live a better life governed by the Spirit of the Living God who indwells us[12].

A large number of the Psalms speak of the Joy there is in being in the presence of the Lord. As a part of the fruit of the spirit, Joy manifests itself in a feeling of inner well being. I, personally, am able to reflect the Psalmist when he said “be still and know that I am God[13]” when Joy is present in my heart. Thus Joy opens up the door to the infusion of the other parts of the fruit of the spirit: Love, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Self-control.[14] The joy is a manifestation of a relationship with God which is available only through Jesus Christ. To gain this relationship, we must acquiesce to the leadership of Jesus in our lives. We voluntarily step down and yield to Him.

The world would have us follow the path of putting ourselves in the captain’s chair of leadership in our lives. We seek after whatever makes us happy and find that we are miserable creatures who have failed, not only in finding happiness, but also at life in general. Solomon was in such a state when through a jaundiced state of disappointment, disillusionment, and discouragement he penned the Book of Ecclesiastes. This book is looked upon by many as the most dismal book in the Bible. I look upon it as a book of Joy, because the world’s system has failed when Solomon had himself on the throne of his life. For verification of this see Ecclesiastes chapters one and two. The Joy comes because God is not found in the self serving striving for worldly happiness. Rather He is found when He is on the throne of your life. Solomon finds this out at the end of the book.

Anarchy results when Satan is trying to play “king of the mountain” with your life. He is bigger and tougher than you are. Bonnie and Clyde, Ma Barker, Jeffrey Dahmer, Pol Pot, Adolf Hitler, and Jack the Ripper found this out the hard way. As a kid, when we would play king of the mountain the biggest toughest kid was always king. So it is with

life. Satan will always be king and we will have internal anarchy reigning in our souls if we choose to allow Satan a foothold in our lives.

Jesus said that He has come that we might have life and have it more abundantly[15].

He does this through indwelling our hearts, and breaking down the barriers to a relationship with God we have put up throughout our years of self serving quest for happiness. When He has taken up residence in our hearts, Joy comes in and paves the pathway to the other parts of the fruit of the spirit. There is no anarchy because there is no question who is Lord of your life. You may not always be happy, because happiness is contingent upon what happens to you; you will have Joy because Joy is based upon a relationship with God. The essence of God made a relationship with Him available. This Love was expressed through Jesus Christ's death on the cross for our Sin. The Holy Spirit of God indwells us because of our confession of Faith and belief in Jesus. The end result is Peace of Heart.

[1] Deuteronomy 12:8; Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1

[2] Judges 13:1-7

[3] Judges 14&15

[4] Judges 16

[5] Judges 16: 28

[6] Judges 9

[7] Hall, Allan: The Encyclopedia of True Crime 2006 Selected appropriately named Chapters

[8] Roland, Paul : The Crimes of Jack the Ripper Chartwell Books 2007

[9] Romans 13:1-7

[10] John 3:16

[11] Galatians 5:19-21

[12] Galatians 5: 22-23

[13] Psalm 46:10

[14] Galatians 5:22-23

[15] John 10:10