

"I STAND AMAZED"

Many things cause "amazement"--especially those things that come from God, as well as the actions of MEN. We sing the song, "I Stand Amazed", and wonder how He could love us, and redeem us from sin. In Acts 3:10, the people were "greatly wondering" (*amazed, NKJ*) when they beheld the miracle of the apostles in causing a lame man to walk. When Jesus raised Tabitha from the dead, it caused folks to be "astonished with great astonishment" (*overcome with great amazement, NKJ*), Acts 5:42. The story is told about a man who was extremely dissatisfied with some merchandise he bought, and as he returned with outrage, the seller saw him coming, and said to him, "Who is that with you?", to which the man replied, "It's ME. I'm beside myself". Actually, to be amazed is to be "beside oneself". Paul so stated in 2 Cor. 5:13, and marveled that the Galatians were so quickly removed from the gospel (Gal. 1:6).

Today, "I Stand Amazed" at the awesomeness of GOD, and the foolishness of MAN. In the first place, we shall consider the POWER OF GOD.

FIRST, I stand amazed at the power of God in the creation of the universe. The things we see were made from things that did not exist, and we are without excuse to not believe in His power (Rom. 1:19f). It was by the word of God (and the wisdom it contained), that everything came into existence, and has functioned so wonderfully for thousands of years, and continues to be upheld by that powerful word (Heb. 11:3; 2 Pet. 3:5-7).

SECOND, "I Stand Amazed" at the manifestation of God's love. He loved the entire world of people to the extent He was willing to send His SON, to give his life for man. Paul discussed how improbable it is that anyone would die for another—even a righteous man, but while WE were sinners, unclean, and enemies of God—HE showed HIS love for us in sending Jesus to die for us (Rom. 5:7f). "Behold, the goodness and severity of God" (Rom. 11:22A).

THIRD, "I Stand Amazed" at the wisdom of God in His scheme of redemption and the church. When the church came into existence, the angels marveled at the "wisdom" of God (Eph. 3:10). All of God's planning, to offer His Son in the shedding of His blood to bring man into the church, is amazing indeed. Only God could put such a plan in motion as revealed throughout the two testaments (Eph. 3:11; 1Pet. 1:20). Satan destroyed his hold on man by putting Jesus to death, and fell right into the trap God set for him, even though he had been adequately warned (Gen. 3:15).

In the second place, "I Stand Amazed" at the thinking of man.

FIRST, "I Stand Amazed" at man thinking regarding trying to improve on God's purpose in the church. MEN think they can begin human denominations, teach human doctrines, and THEN mix in the word "Jesus", and even think for a moment that God is pleased. See Matt.15:9; 2 John 9. MEN can even THINK that a denomination, wearing human names, that began over 1500 years after Jesus built HIS church—are just as good as the one Jesus built. MEN can SAY we are "all one church"--yet, are divided hopelessly into over 36,000 separate, divided bodies. Virtually, every denomination believes their's is the RIGHT church, but to be politically correct, will say "Join the church of your choice". They RESENT any one particular body claiming to BE the one body of the new testament. Yet that one body DID exist in the first century without denominational division, and still does today.

SECOND, "I Stand Amazed" that church members (those who have been saved, and added TO the church, Acts 2:47), even begin to think that they can continue in some of the social sins of the day, and STILL go to heaven. Paul said that those who practice such things shall NOT inherit the kingdom of heaven (1 Cor. 6:9f). This includes some who put away their mates without the cause of "fornication" (Matt.19:9), and marry again, and still go to heaven. Many times, they KNOW what Christ's will is in this

matter, but then try to find a way to get around what Jesus said. Passion and emotion take control of their thinking, and leads them into sin. They need to remember that God cannot be deceived, and those who practice such things are sowing to the flesh, and shall reap corruption (Gal. 6:7f). Such in unscriptural marriages unions are deceiving themselves, and shall perish together. They work hard to wrest the scriptures, but to their own destruction (2 Pet. 3:16). How shall anyone supposedly "dead to sin" walk any longer therein? Rom. 6:2.

Finally, "I Stand Amazed" that so many will REJECT the revealed "will of God" (as written in the new testament, and not follow the SAFE course in the quest for heaven. Peter said we should make out calling and election SURE (2 Pet. 1:10). Jesus asked why would call Him "Lord", and yet not do the things He said (Luke 6:46). None can enter heaven by simply saying "Lord, Lord", and claiming to have used Jesus' name in their religious practices (Matt. 7:21-23). One cannot be saved by faith alone (Jas. 2:24), for the working of God involves immersion into Christ (Col. 2:12; Mark 16:16). Repentance of sin must also take place before sins are washed away in baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; 22:16).

Should you go into eternity tonight, would you be ready to face Jesus and His word? (2 Cor.5:10; John 12:48). Won't you come to Jesus for salvation? 2 Cor. 6:2.

Don Tarbet, 215 W. Sears, Denison, Tx. 75020 <donwtarbet@cableone.net>