

SET YOUR AFFECTION, No. 2

INTRODUCTION

- I. In a previous lesson, we paid attention to the word “affection”, as found in Col. 3:1-2.
(Read)
 - A. We see from this passage that it is addressed to obedient believers, who have been buried with Christ in baptism, and risen with Him to a new life. v. 1; cf Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12
 - B. There are 2 words preceding this word “affection”, that begin with the letter **S** (seek) and (set). (point out in verses 1 and 2).
 1. In a previous lesson we concentrated on the divine Persons “above” (Christ and God), and the persons “below” (those who are risen with Christ).
 2. In this lesson we want to concentrate especially on the 2 words begin with **S**, with emphasis upon the first **S**, “seek”, which enables us to also do the second **S**, “set”.
- II. Now, let’s consider some of the “things that are above” that we need to seek.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st we are to SEEK THE EXISTENCE OF GOD. Isa. 55:6

- A. There are 3 basic proofs of God’s existence.
 1. 1st, the **declaration** OF His existence in the Bible. Gen. 1:1; 1 Cor. 8:4-6
 2. 2nd, the **universe**, and the magnificence and wonders of it. Psalms 19:1-6; Romans 1:19-20
 - a. No accident of “NOTHING” could result in the existence of the sun, moon, stars, gravity, and ALL THINGS necessary for human existence on the earth.
 - b. All the wisdom of all the wise men who have ever lived, could not duplicate such a universe that we have today.
 3. 3rd, the discovery of **DNA** testifies to the existence of a DESIGNER, which only could explain the existence of GOD.
 - a. DNA consists of the genetic code of plants, animals, and especially **man**, to establish the relationship between human beings—especially.
 - b. In the 1970’s, there was a public debate in Denton, Texas between Thomas B. Warren, preacher of the gospel, and a philosopher named Antony Flew, from England, on the existence of God.
 - c. About 30 years later, Dr. Flew renounced his atheistic position because of DNA, as he stated that the **design** of human beings testifies to the existence of a **DESIGNER**, who has to be GOD, the Creator and Designer of human life.
- B. So, God EXISTS, and it is foolish to deny it. Psalm 14:1

II. 2nd, we are to SEEK THE THINGS THAT GOD OFFERS.

- A. One thing God offers to mankind is **salvation** from past sins as stated in the Bible.
 1. The Bible was written over a period of 1500 years, by 40 different writers, from all parts of the world, most of whom did not know one another, but GOD brought their writings together in a book we call the BIBLE. 1 Cor. 3:1-9; 2 Tim.3:16-17
 2. The Bible is the world’s best seller, and cannot be destroyed by the futile efforts of unbelievers.
 3. Among the “things” from above that God offers is **salvation** from the guilt of sin. Isaiah 59:1-2; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38, 47

- B. Another thing God offers through His word is the **identity** of the **church** to which the Lord adds obedient believers. Acts 2:47
1. We learn from the scripture, that there were many local congregations of the church of Christ in the first century. Rom. 16:16.
 - a. Observe that the word “church” here is in the **plural**, meaning that in the **singular** each one would be “a” church of Christ”.
 - b. Where IS that church to which the Lord added the saved to in the first century?
 2. In our search for that church, let’s take a look at one church in the first century by looking at one of most prominent churches of Christ in the New Testament, and learn from the 2 letters addressed to it by the apostle Paul—the church in Corinth.
 - a. We learn that the church was to have no division, and all speak the same thing—the doctrine of the New Testament. 1 Cor. 1:10; Matt. 15:9; 2 John 9
 - b. We learn that the church was not to be identified with any man or movement than that of Christ. 1 Cor. 1:11-13; 2:2
 - c. We also learned that the church was to meet for worship every first day of the week and observe the Lord’s Supper, make offerings from their income, sing religious hymns, offer prayers to God, and teach the word of God through preaching.
 - d. We also learn that the church was not to join hands or have any fellowship with sinful movements of the world, idolatry or any other type of religious activity.
 - e. We learn that the church was ONLY entered by baptism. 1 Cor. 12:13
 3. About 50 years ago, the famous Billy Graham was preaching in a Crusade in the Philippine islands and urging people to have faith only, without anything else, to be saved. There was a man standing very close to Mr. Graham that honestly thought Mr. Graham must have forgotten Acts 2:38, so he thought he could help out by saying, “*Tell them about Acts 2:38, Mr. Graham.*” This is the verse that says “repent and be baptized for the remission of sins.” Mr. Graham was very annoyed, and responded by addressing the one man, saying, “*Shut up, you church of Christer, you.*” This caused the man to get the idea that there MUST BE THE CHURCH OF CHRIST somewhere that believed Acts 2:38. So, he began to make his search in the island, and finally found a local church of Christ, so he make contact with this congregation, and was baptized and added to the church.

III. 3Rd, we are to SEEK ETERNAL LIFE. Rom. 2:7

- A. We need to realize that our life on earth is temporal, for we all die. Eccl. 9:2-3; Heb. 9:27
- B. In view of this, everything we do should contribute to our search for eternal life.
1. God’s Son came from heaven to live, die and be resurrected to remind us that we too can have hopes of a resurrected life beyond the grave. 1 Cor. 15:19-23
 2. This life will be for those that seek it while on earth, before death overtakes us. Ro. 2:7; Tit.1:2

CONCLUSION

- I. If we truly seek the things that are most important in life, we will then be setting our affection on things above, and not on things on the earth.
- II. Right now, you have the opportunity to do the will of God for your life.
 - A. God’s will for lost sinners is to confess faith in Jesus as God’s Son, repent of sins, and be immersed in water, for the remission of sins.
 - B. God’s will for erring citizens of the kingdom is to repent and pray for pardon and continue on in faithfulness to His will.

DON TARBET

