

Things God Didn't Join Together

Isaiah 11:6-9; 65:25

Isaiah 11:6-9 - And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze, Their young will lie down together, And the lion will eat straw like the ox. The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 65:25 - "The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent's food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain," says the LORD.

Introduction:

- A. How many times, do you suppose, we have sung the song, "Peace in the Valley?" But, do we really notice the words. There is a verse that contains these words, "Well the bear will be gentle, And the wolves will be tame, And the lion shall lay down by the lamb, And the beasts from the wild Shall be led by a child."
- B It's interesting how many sayings are cited as if they are in the Bible. We have all heard the phrase "God helps those who help themselves" or "Cleanliness is next to Godliness." But perhaps the one from "Peace in the Valley" is the one most quoted. The interesting thing about all these is, God never said any of them.
- B. However, when we investigate God's word, we do find several things God did not put together. And if we are not careful, we find it to be the same with some things in our service to God and the way we live each day. There are things that just do not necessarily go together.

I. Righteous - Self-righteous

- A. Righteous defined
 - 1. "The character or quality of being right or just" (W. E. Vine)
 - 2. A state or condition necessary to salvation
- B. Romans Chap. 10
 - 1. 2 kinds of righteousness listed
 - a. Righteousness that God provides
 - 1) Not statement
 - 2) But attribute
 - b. Self-righteous
 - 1) Righteousness devised by man
 - c. Romans 1:16-17

Romans 1:16-17 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

- 1) Righteousness revealed in this case does not mean man is justified
- 2) Simply means something we must try to attain

C. Solomon - Eccl. 7:16-17

Ecclesiastes 7:16-17 - Do not be excessively righteous and do not be overly wise. Why should you ruin yourself? Do not be excessively wicked and do not be a fool. Why should you die before your time?

- 1. Talking about sudo-righteousness/false piety
- 2. A ridiculous air or religion
- 3. Doesn't mean you can overdo in pursuit of righteousness

- a. Just like end of Gal 5 talking about love
- b. Cannot be too much
- 4. Way of driving home point
- 5. Remember 2 other things discussed
 - a. Overly wise
 - 1) Ego trip
 - 2) Doesn't mean can study too much
 - b. Overly wicked
 - 1) Why destroy yourself
 - 2) And your influence
- D. It is crazy to think you can be just a little wicked and still be all right, just as long as you don't cross the line.

II. *Church Roll -Lamb's Book of Life*

- A. Some draw conclusion that on church roll, therefore name in Lambs Book of Life
- B. Granted, church membership is essential

- 1. Present church to Himself - Eph. 5:25-27

Ephesians 5:25-27 - Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

- 2. "... His body, which is the church" - Col 1:24

Colossians 1:24 - Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.

- 3. His body is church - Eph. 1:22-23

Ephesians 1:22-23 - And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

- 4. "We are many members in one body" - Rom. 12:4

Romans 12:4 - For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,

- C. But may be member of local church and still be hypocrite

- 1. Man can fool man, but cannot fool God

- a. Job Chap. 1

- b. All revealed, nothing hidden - Lk. 12:2-3

Luke 12:2-3 - But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed upon the housetops.

- 2. Parable of wheat and tares - Matt. 13:24ff

Matthew 13:24-30 - Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' The slaves *said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?' But he *said, 'No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.'""

- D. Sometimes get into trouble with local & universal

III. *Going To Church - Engaging In Worship*

A. God is Spirit - Jn 4:24

John 4:24 - "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

B. Need to understand "going to church" doesn't mean worship

C. Some go to be seen of men

1. Do thing in secret - Matt. 5:1-18

Matthew 5:1-18 - When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

2. Pharisee praying - Lk. 18:9

Luke 18:9 - And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt:

IV. *Age - Wisdom*

A. Friends of Job

1. When you die, wisdom will be gone

2. Being sarcastic

B. People feel because young, must have absence of wisdom - NOT SO

1. "Let no one look down on your youthfulness..." - 1 Tim. 4:12

1 Timothy 4:12 - Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

2. "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask..." - Jas 1:5

James 1:5 - But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

a. That alone won't get wisdom

b. 2 Tim. 2:15

2 Timothy 2:15 - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

V. *Sufficiently Interested In Self - Selfishness*

A. Everyone should be concerned about self

B. Only way to proceed safely is to acquire blessings of Christ

C. Need to realize spiritual plight without Gospel

D. Sin is selfishness - Jas 4:3; 1:13-15

James 4:3 - You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

James 1:13-15 - Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

1. Doesn't care how affects others
 2. Only cares about own wants
- E. Self-esteem can get you into trouble when person thinks he is better than he is
1. We place too much emphasis on self-esteem
 2. Esteem others better than self - Phil. 2:3

Philippians 2:3 - Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

VI. Traditions Of Men - Traditions Of God

- A. Must differentiate
1. Not someone else do for me
 2. Matt. 15:8-9 - Quote from Isa. 29:13

Matthew 15:8-9 - "THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN."

- B. I better be careful about what I advocate
1. Tradition of men?
 2. Tradition of God?
- C. 2 Thess.3:6

2 Thessalonians 3:6 - Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

1. Catholic Church misses point when say long standing practice
2. Has nothing to do with things that have been going on a long time
3. Greek word means precept (Strong)
4. W. E. Vine - "A handing down ... in 2 Thess. 3:6, it is used of instructions concerning everyday conduct."

Conclusion:

A. Quite often, things that would appear to go together don't. We must be able to tell the difference and the only way we can do so is to quit listening to men and study the Word of God.

B. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:3 - seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.