



But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. -

Matthew 15:9

invaindotheyworshipme.com

Scrachin' Me Hayd Ober Dis One

Just taking a moment here to share a little something that happened in Bible class today. The teacher asked what immediately came to mind when we heard the word "propitiation."

My immediate thought was to wonder what the word means. And I was curious enough about it that I looked it up in the dictionary. By doing that I focused on reading what it had to say and didn't catch what was going on in class so I don't know what point the teacher was trying to make.

The dictionary I used gave two definitions for the word propitiation.

1. The act of propitiating
2. Something that propitiates

Now that clears things up tremendously, doesn't it. I would have never on my own guessed the meaning of that word. (No, I'm not being snarky. Promise. Not snarky. Not. Not. Not. Well, OK, maybe a little snarky.)

OK, so the definition I gave you on number 1 is not entirely the whole definition. I left a word off it. The correct interpretation for number one is: The act of propitiating; conciliating.

The word conciliating gives a little clue what the word means.

Elkanah commented that he had heard the word originally meant something else and had changed over the years, but he didn't know what the original meaning was. The dictionary source that I was using (dictionary.com) gives a

clue as to the origin and original usage of a word so I looked to see that the word originally meant “appeasement.”

It's interesting how much we don't understand because the meaning of words have changed over time. These changes cause us to misunderstand what the Bible is in reality teaching. Because of this we have to be on our guard and question everything we read in order to find the interpretation that best shows God to be a being of Love.

I am so grateful to have learned that the things I was taught and had pounded into my brain were correct are actually incorrect. And those things I was told I had to believe or else suffer the consequences didn't really make any sense to me. And the reason they didn't make sense was because they are nonsensical. When you think about it, they really and truly don't make any sense.

Then we are emotionally bullied when we are told that we need to know this stuff and go out and share it with others who don't know it. I know I'm not the only one who has had trouble with this. We'll burn for not telling others about this so-called wonderful message but how can we spread a message that we can't wrap our heads around? How can we explain something when we don't have a clue what we're talking about?

An example of this is the story of Aaron's two sons who presented strange fire before the Lord. Because of their misdeed fire came out from the Lord and devoured them. They were torched. Toasted. Burnt. But how does it make sense that Moses sent their cousins to fetch them and they drug them out by their clothing? If they were set on fire and burned to death, why did their clothing survive?

See what I mean? It doesn't make sense yet if I don't believe that it happened then I'll have to suffer the consequences by God turning me into toast. Accept it without question because questioning it will also get you burnt.

With this example we need to ask the question, “how does this teaching show God to be acting in love?” Well, how is burning someone alive an act of love instead of an act of torture? It fails the test. This teaching doesn't show God to be loving so the teaching is wrong.

But there is an answer. And it's a simple answer. God dwells in eternally burning fire. We want to be IN the fire not out. God's presence devours sin, not people. Sin is living life separate from God which leads to sinful acts. When you persist on living your life without God then he will eventually withdraw from you.

On this planet we don't have a clue what is out there and waiting for the redeemed. We do know that it is something so marvelous that we are unable to imagine it. There is plenty of evidence in the Bible that points to a different kind of fire than what we are familiar with. This other kind of fire is a non-combusting fire. It consumes sin, not sinners. That is the fire of God's presence and it's where we want to be. Satan has twisted things so badly that he has most of us afraid of the fire.

So what happened to Aaron's sons was that they went in to offer sacrifices while intoxicated and God simply revealed to them their sinful condition. This revelation was so overwhelming that they had a stroke or heart attack or something. They had a meltdown and died from shock when they faced the truth about themselves.

No need to be afraid of God about that. But there is need to fear ourselves. We need to get to know the true God and allow the Holy Spirit to work within us to change us so we will be able to not just endure, but to thrive in that non-combusting fire of God's presence.

There is such a better picture of him when you understand that reading the Bible through the lens of man's law is not an accurate interpretation. Reading both the Bible and Mrs. White with natural law lenses in your glasses paints a picture of God that is overwhelming when you stop long enough and try to let some of it soak in.

Praise God that he's showing us the reality. Praise God that he isn't what satan has tried to make us, and in many cases has made us, believe him to be.

And with that I bid you a good evening.

Lots of love,

Hannah