



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

Matthew 15:9

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On Saturday mornings you will usually find me sitting at my computer listening to a live Bible study class at comeandreason.com. The regular teacher is a psychiatrist named Tim Jennings. His views have been most enlightening for me and have led me to have a closer relationship with my Creator than I would have been able to have had I continued in following the penal substitution view taught by the church.

This morning during class I had a question and posted it. As soon as it was posted my phone rang and I became involved in what to me was a silly conversation which resulted in me missing that the moderator at the class had read my question to Dr. Jennings and he had responded with an answer.

The phone call was from a Mr. James White who claimed to be from Publishers Clearing House. He was calling to inform me that I had won 8.5 million dollars, a brand new Mercedes and \$5,000 would be sent to me each week by way of a moneygram. All this would be delivered to me this morning.

My immediate reaction to myself was to realize that I haven't actually entered the Publishers Clearing House sweepstakes so it's unlikely that I've won a contest I haven't entered. But I went along with him and he kept telling me (in his strong Jamaican accent) how the good Lord had blessed me. I was struggling not to giggle at him. When he finally wound down about the fortune that would be delivered to me at my home this morning he began asking the questions that we shouldn't answer when a stranger contacts us wanting to know these things.

The first thing he asked was my name. OK. This guy is claiming to award me millions of dollars from winning a contest I haven't entered plus he doesn't even know my name. My response was to ask him why I couldn't provide him with this information when they delivered the loot. His response to me was surprising. He told me to go commit an indecent act upon myself then he hung up. And let me add that he didn't use the same wording that I used in describing what I should do to myself.

My husband was here and paying attention to the class. When I got off the phone he

told me that I would want to be sure to listen to the archived lesson as soon as it's available because Dr. J had answered my question.

Those classes are aired live over youtube and I was able to listen to the repeat right away. I was a bit dismayed at what I heard and it wasn't Dr. J's fault. The fault was mine. I had worded my question incorrectly.

I had asked something along the lines of "How can we believe in/accept God's love for us when we recognize just how despicable we are?" His answer was what I had already come to know and believe and like I said, I had misworded my question. If I hadn't been distracted by Mr. James White from PCH then I would have been able to respond that I had worded my question incorrectly.

If you want his answer then go to the comeandreason.com website or go to youtube and listen to the class. My take on the question is that if we are wondering how God can love us considering how sinful we are, then our focus is on the wrong thing. We're worried about ourselves rather than focusing on the Goodness and Love of our Creator.

So what was I trying to ask? I believe that somewhere in Mrs. White's writings she stated something along the lines that those who make it to heaven will be shocked to find themselves there. They know how sinful they are and don't know how they can be fit to commune with holy beings. Also, as we grow closer to Christ and development of a perfected character is progressing in us, we recognize just how wretched we are.

Perhaps I was trying to make a comment rather than ask a question. That comment would be to point out how amazed we would be to find ourselves on the receiving end of God's grace because, although He offered it freely to everyone, we chose to accept it and by doing so we are gifted with the ability to commune face-to-face with our Creator, our Redeemer.

Our rescue from this planet of doom can't come soon enough. Holy Spirit, please work in triple overtime to finish this work so Jesus can come and take us to be with him.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

With much love to all,

Hannah