

Thought

March 21st, 2006

A Have you ever had it come to mind the privilege that has been afforded us to have a church where the word of God is proclaimed in Spirit and truth and to have been called to be a member of it? Have we ever had cause to discover that it is the only body that is called the church of God and that it is the only body that will be translated to glory and be known as the bride of Christ? Have you ever thought of what your life and this community would be without it? Have you ever thought of the fact that the church is not yet perfect and if it were you nor I would have the privilege of belonging to it? It, therefore behoves us to be a faithful bride, which suggests faithful attendance and commitment in service as related in Heb. 10:25. Thank the Lord there is not a one of us perfect but in Christ and if we need better leadership, have we ever thought of praying for it rather than work against it?

What if?

One's life may have been ever so different "IF" we had made other decisions, which leave haunting questions. We could castigate ourselves with the many "ifs" that travel through our minds. It is probable that most are due to negative events in our lives. Some may be in terms of domestic relationships, financial transactions, accidents, and many other scenarios. On the other hand, "what if" there are certain decisions we had not made. It comes to mind that God directs the steps of a righteous man. Psalms 37:23 "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in His way." The one who submits himself to the Lord must realize that God makes Himself responsible for he who places his total trust in the Lord. We have neither the past nor the future, but we do have the present, which needs to be submitted to God, who alone can keep us. Years

ago, in the coal country of Scotland a traveller lost his way in the “hinter-lands” of the coal fields. He was constrained not to take another step in the darkness. He, therefore, set himself down and called for help. In the distance there was the glimmer of a coal miner’s cabin, which seemed so close and yet so far away. Eventually a lantern light came towards him in response to his cry for help and he was rescued from a sure death, for had he taken another step he would have fallen into a mine shaft and may never have been heard from again.

“What if” Satan had persuaded Christ to have taken the bait when he offered Christ the kingdom of this world and He had avoided the cross? Consider for a moment the battle that was raging in the wilderness were Christ was tempted as Eve was tempted and as we are tempted by 1) The lust of the eye 2) the lust of the flesh and 3) the pride of life (see I John 2:15- 17). We may well discover that the short cuts in life are dangerous and unproductive. Satan said to Jesus. “All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth Him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto Him (Matt. 4:9-11). “What if” Jesus would have made the wrong choice? We would, of all men be most miserable, lost in our sins, continuing to be in the grip of Satan and ultimately be hauled down in the pit of everlasting fire.

“What if” we have already made wrong choices and Satan is breathing down our neck? Jesus, not having fallen for Satan’s bait, qualified Him to save you where you have failed and can and will set you free. Heb. 4:14- 16 “Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which can not be touched with the feelings of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us come therefore boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in the time of need.”

“What if” this offer is rejected? There are no words to describe what will befall those who have deliberately rejected the word of God after such a visit, “See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven Heb. 13:25.” Jv/dV

Send your comments and questions and we will, prayerfully seek to get back to you as soon as possible. jandrxdv@nbnet.nb.ca