The Threat of Being a Second-Rate Christian

Introduction

A. Do not believe your feelings and do not accept your circumstances as authoritative — you are not a second-rate Christian.

B. The danger of accepting the evaluation of being second-rate is a constant threat. It may be likened to the forcefulness of superstition.

C. The tragedy is that many believe they are second-rate. This belief and its inescapable practice in daily life, makes one, erroneously, a second-rate Christian.

I. The Spiritual Implications of Biblical Creation.

A. Scripture: Genesis 1:1; 27,28; John 1:1-4; Isaiah 43:1,7,21; Colossians l:l6; Revelation 4:11.

B. Explanation:

1. God created me by deliberate choice.

2. God created me for a purpose.

3. God created me for Himself.

II. The Spiritual Implications of Divine Revelation.

A. Scripture: John 1:1—18; 3:14—21; 8:12; 14:6; Hebrews 1:1—3; 2:1—4; 3:7 to 4:3; 6:4-9; l0:26-3l; 11:1-6; 12:25.

B. Explanation:

1. Revelation is personal (twofold).

2. Revelation is dynamic.

3. Revelation is demanding

III. The Spiritual Implications of Vicarious Atonement,

A. Scripture: John 10:1-29; 11:25; Romans 5:8-11; 8:1-3, 31-39; Ephesians 2:5,6; 4:l-l6; Philippians 2:5-16; Colossians 2:10-15; Hebrews 2:14-18; 4:l4-l6.

B. Explanations:

1. Through grace God has given Himself to me.

2. Through grace God has brought me to a position of spiritual completeness.

3. Through grace God has made me a member of His Church.

IV. The Spiritual Implications of the Universal Call of God.

A. Scripture: John 15:16; Romans 8:28,29; 11:29; I Corinthians 1:9,24; Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 1:18,19; I Thessalonians 4:7; 5:24; II Timothy 1:9-12; I Peter 2:9; II Peter 1:3.

B. Explanations:

1. My daily goal is to glorify Jesus Christ.

2. My constant provision is God Himself, the Holy Spirit.

3. My enabling gift is the office of priest.

Conclusion

A. How long are you going to wait until you believe God?

B. Accept His evaluation, not your own, and surely not that of your friends and circumstances.

C. Belief, to be genuine, must be practiced. Live as the first-rate Christian that you are!

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