

Those Things That Are Necessary

Introduction

- A. There are many things that all of us can do without. In times of trial and testing these unessential items of life are shown in their true light. However, as we progress into the more important areas of our daily life, we realize there are some things that we cannot do without.
- B. In the realm of man's spiritual life those things that are absolutely necessary – quickly make their appearance. In fact the Bible gives us a list. It is interesting to note that the Scripture designates a number of things and uses the word "without" to stress their necessity.

I. The Necessity of a Right Relationship with God, John 15:5.

I am the vine, ye are the branches, he that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit, for without Me ye can do nothing.

Observation: What the Lord Jesus was referring to by the term "nothing" undoubtedly has to do with "fruit". In the context of this parable the fruit is the manifestation of the vine, i.e., of the presence and work of Jesus Christ in the believer. The one who has received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord will give some evidence of that relationship and progressively more evidence as he learns to "abide" in Jesus Christ. All attempts to be loving, holy and truthful – apart from a living relationship with God can only produce a human imitation. The true believer, since He is a branch in the vine – can produce true fruit with which God is glorified.

II. The Necessity of the Atonement for the Forgiveness of Sins, Hebrews 9:22.

And almost all things are by the law purged with blood, and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Observation: This conclusion, drawn from the Old Testament Levitical Law, finds its conclusion in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. The shedding of blood in the Levitical Order was a type and prophecy of the coming Lord Jesus Christ. He has come and has died for us making it possible to be ". . . washed . . . from our sins in His own Blood". (Rev. 1:5) It is not enough that the provision was made in Jesus Christ giving His life for us – we must repent and receive the benefit of His death – and then we have the full forgiveness of our sins.

III. The Necessity of Faith to be Pleasing Before God, Hebrews 11:6.

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that cometh to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

Observation: Faith is not a feeling but a decision to respond to God and to put His Word into practice. Faith is both the basis of our relationship with God and its primary evidence. The non-Christian is dead to God – that is why faith is described as "the gift of God" in Ephesians 2:8,9. The believer, however, has the ability to exercise faith. It is important that we learn to trust Him by exercising this most important gift. God is pleased with us when we choose to take His Word as truth. We must confess as sin all attitudes and actions related to doubt and unbelief.

IV. The Necessity of Chastisement for Assurance, Hebrews 12:6,8.

For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth . . . But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, are ye bastards and not sons.

Observation: Chastisement is the way God trains and disciplines His children by testing and trials. It is an evidence of sonship. It is correct to say that chastisement is necessary for two basic reasons: (1) for the assurance of salvation, and, (2) for the preparation we all need so that we may live a godly life.

V. **The necessity of Holiness** so We May stand Accepted Before God, Hebrews 12:14.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

Observation: The term "holiness" in this verse is not referring to that legal "holiness" all believers have in Jesus Christ. It is referring to "holiness of daily life". The Bible never separates these two kinds of holiness, i.e., to have one an individual must have the other. We are boldly confronted here with the necessity of having evidence in our lives that Jesus Christ dwells within. That evidence is some measure of practical holiness i.e., a choice and practice not to sin – based on an individual's love for God. Such an act of faith brings the positive factors into manifestation in our lives – doing the will of God from the heart.

VI. The necessity of Works to Demonstrate True Faith, James 2:26.

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also

Observation: Faith, in the Bible never stands alone as a decision ~ it always is followed by action. When we make the decision to trust God and His Word it is always related to some action. Therefore, it is not faith to merely say the doctrinal creed or to say that we believe. Faith and action cannot be separated. The action proves our faith to be genuine.

Conclusion

A. It is a comfort, having looked over the list of those things that are necessary -- to realize that in Jesus Christ a provision has been made for all of these -- in the life of the believer.

B. We must use this list as a test. If we fail -- then receive Him as Savior and Lord. If we pass -- thank him.

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