

Warrington

11/3/65

8/28/60

Barley

Scripture Lesson: - Matthew 25: 41 - 46.

Text: - James 4: 17.

Introduction: - In England recently a man was found guilty of criminal negligence. He had seen an automobile accident in which several people were critically hurt and had left the scene without offering a helping hand. He was given a stiff sentence because he had left undone something he should have done. Scores of people are convicted every year, on both sides of the Atlantic, for failing to do their duty. An American officer was convicted, or rather court-martialed, recently, because he had failed to do something he should have done.

The Bible teaches that possibly the greatest sins that can be committed are those of commission. Nothing would please Satan more than for Christians to fall into the rut of omission.

Hundreds of Christians are continually talking the things they do not do.

Some Christians say, "I don't dance. I do not drink, I do not gamble. And they think that because they do not do these particular things that they have a special type of righteousness. They become almost like the Pharisees of old.

The world is not half so impressed by the evil things one does not do, as by the good things that he does. Certainly, one should not do these things, but there are thousands of people who glory in the fact that they do not do certain

things while they committ even more grievous sins by leaving undone the things they should have done.

We know that fundamentally, salvation is not of works. Good works are not a means of salvation, because we are saved by grace, through faith. We are saved only on the grounds of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But our good works are an evidences of salvation and if we fail to do all the good works at any time we can, to all the people we can, by any means we can, we will be condemned at the judgment bar of God.

Jesus gave a clear strong warning against the blighting, murderous sin of omission. "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the Devil and his angels: for I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we an hungred, or athirst, or a steanger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, "Verily, I say unto you, inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not unto me." And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." (Matthew 25: 41-46.)

He called those who failed to do good as unto Him, "Cursed." He called those who did good as unto Him, "Righteous." It is very significant that in every one of Jesus parables of condemnation the sin of the condemned is the sin of omission.

ye have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy and faith."

"To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

God hears the cry of the starving millions of Asia. He hears the wail of the millions of untouchables of India. He hears the cry of the millions in every land. He can meet the needs of these millions through you. He has given you ^{means} wealth. Have you divided it? He has given you love. Have you shared it? He has given us abundance. Have you given just a little bit?

He knows the suffering of the sad, the distressed and the bereaved around the world. "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these, a cup of cold water only, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward." (Matthew 10:42)

Unless our belief in God helps us to help our fellowmen our faith stands condemned. Our love for God is best proved by our regard for the needs of our neighbors. Man is God's crowning creation. God regarded him highly enough to give His only Son for his redemption. We cannot be blind to our neighbors needs and expect the continued favor of the Almighty.

Conclusion:- The Cross represents the "I" crossed out. The Christian life, if it is to be worthy of the name, is the life of self-lessness. Self is crucified. The Lord Jesus Christ said "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me!"

Lord, help me to live from day to day
In such a self-forgetful way,
That even when I kneel to pray,
My prayer shall be for others.

I am wondering whether there is a man or a woman here this morning who wants to come for a short, and yet decisive, prayer? On what has your profession of Christianity been based? Has it been based on the things you forget, and do not do any more, or has it been based on the things you do not do for the Lord? *Does your heart condemn you when God's search light is turned on? Don't take chance & say I hope I am alright, you can know do you know this morning*

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