

Some Things Which No One Can Know

No. 32

Introduction.

- I. In the book of Deuteronomy, we read of the children of Israel in the land of Moab.
 - A. While in Moab Moses uttered these words to them found in Deuteronomy 29:29.
 - B. Moses informed the children of Israel that the things revealed belonged to them and their children, but there are some things God has not chosen to reveal to man.
- II. I would like for us to discuss some of these secret things.
- III. I have entitled this lesson, "Some Things Which No One Can Know."
 - I. **No One Can Know When The End Of The World Will Come** - No one can know when the end of the world will come.
 - A. One time Jesus told His disciples the temple would be destroyed and not one stone would be left upon top of the other.
 1. In reply this shocking statement the disciples asked Christ these questions. (Matt. 24:3).
 2. The disciples desired to know two things. First, they desired to know when the temple would be destroyed. Second, they wanted to know the signs of Christ's coming and of the end of the world.
 - a. In answer to their first question Christ listed some events that would take place before the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. He said there would be famines, earthquakes, wars and rumors of wars before that great day.
 - b. In reply to their second question concerning His coming He said. (Matt. 24:36).
 - 1) Jesus asserted that no one knows when He will come again except the Father. The information is hidden in the mind of God.
 - 2) To emphasize this great truth Jesus spoke these words.

MAT 24:37 "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.

MAT 24:38 "For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

MAT 24:39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.

MAT 24:40 "Then there shall be two men in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left.

MAT 24:41 "Two women {will be} grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left.

MAT 24:42 "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.

MAT 24:43 "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.

MAT 24:44 "For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think {He will.}

3) In the next chapter Jesus related the story of the foolish maidens who did not make adequate preparation for His coming. He concluded the narrative about these maidens about saying. (Matt. 25:13).

4) Some years after this Paul wrote the church at Thessalonica saying:

1TH 5:1 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.

1TH 5:2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.

1TH 5:3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

B. In spite of these clear teachings there have been numerous people, past and present, who have tried to set the date of Christ's return.

1. These efforts have all proven futile and have weakened or destroyed the faith of many people when they failed.
2. We should not be led astray by these attempts to set the date of the Lord's coming. If anyone claims to know the time of His coming, you can immediately mark him down as a false teacher. He claims to know something that only God knows.

II. No One Can Know The Future - No one can know the future.

A. Sometimes people say they wish they could know the future.

B. It is best, however, that we do not know it. To know the future and all its trials and sorrows would bring much unhappiness to our lives.

1. This is well **illustrated in the life of the Master**. Jesus, as the Son of God, knew what was before Him. He knew all the pain and the agony He would have to experience on the cross. He knew He would die for the sins of humanity. This foreknowledge made Him sadder than if He had gone unaware of what was awaiting Him. (Lk. 22:42-44).

2. Another example is that of **older people**.

- a. They have had many sorrows and trials in life. Friends have failed them. Parents, children and other loved one have been taken away.
- b. Suppose they had known all this from the time of their youth. It would have made life sad and most likely unbearable. It would have been too much to bear at one time.

3. Another example is that of **friendship**.

- a. Friendship is one of the most wonderful things in the world. It brings much joy and happiness to life for many years.
- b. A person sometimes says in an hour of sorrow that he wishes that he had never known the friend he has now lost. If he had know the future and all the pain of separation, he might now have made the friendship and enjoyed these rich, wonderful moments in life. No depth of sorrow could possibly over-balance the blessings of friendship. It is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.

4. Another example is **the time of death**.

- a. It is good that we do not know the time of death. If a young person, for example, knew he would live to be eighty years of age, he would be tempted to neglect God. He would say I have plenty of time to obey God.

- b. The fact he does not know how long he will live makes him a better person of him. He knows that life can be taken away at any moment and he must be prepared at all times to meet God.
- C. I am personally glad I do not know the future. I would not if I might. I am glad that God just reveals it to me one moment at a time. Someone has written these meaningful words that I would like to share with you.

My heart gives thanks for yonder hill
That makes this valley safe and still;
That shuts from my sight my onward way,
And sets a limit to many a day;
That keeps my thoughts, so tired and weak,
From seeking what they should not see.
It shields me from the day to come,
And makes the present hour my home.

III. **No One Knows God Will Save A Person Regardless Of What He Believes** - No one knows God will save a person regardless of what he believes.

- A. We are living in an age when more and more people are de-emphasizing the importance of doctrine. They argue it makes no difference what you believe as long as you are sincere. This is a comforting doctrine that is being embraced by the religious world and many of our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- B. But as much as I wish this were true, I wonder how a person can make this statement. God has not revealed it.
 - 1. God has not revealed that doctrine is unimportant.
 - 2. God's word teaches it is very important what believe and teach. (Matt. 7:15; Acts 20:28-30; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 4:1, 2; 1 Jn. 4:1).
 - 3. These scriptures and many others in the New Testament show without question that it does make a difference what we believe and teach. We must embrace the gospel, the truth of God, and it only.

IV. **No One Can Know There Is Not A Place Of Punishment** - No one can know there is not a place of punishment.

- A. There are a great number of people today who do not believe in eternal punishment.
 - 1. They believe it is a myth or believe that they will be able to escape it.
 - 2. In spite of their disbelief there is no way of knowing there is not a place of torment.
- B. A number of years ago a **tract** was written with this challenging title: "Suppose It Is True After All, What Then?" The author of the tract relates a story of two friends discussing religious topics. One of the subjects they discussed was the punishment of the wicked in the future life. They decided that hell was not a reality, but only a myth. They argued that since God was a God of love He could not punish His creatures with everlasting punishment. The conversation stopped when a Christian who had been listening to the discussion said, "Suppose it is true after all, what then?" The words fell on their ears with crushing force. They thought, "How can we know that God will not punish sins? How can we know there is not a place of punishment?"
 - 1. The author of this tract then quoted Paul's statement made from Mars Hill. (Acts 17:30, 31).
 - 2. Later in the tract the author quoted this significant statement. (Heb. 9:27).

- C. Other scriptures can be quoted to show there is a place of torment. (Matt. 25:41; 2 Thess. 1:8,9; Heb. 10:31).
- V. **No One Can Know A Christian Cannot So Sin As To Be Lost** - No one can know a Christian cannot so sin as to be lost.
- A. Some years ago **I talked with a man who said it is impossible for a child of God to fall from grace.** In our discussion I made reference to several scriptures that clearly teach a child of God can fall from God's favor. One of these passages was Luke 15 which tells the story of the prodigal son who left his father and went into the far country of sin. This man went so far as to say that if this wayward son had remained in the far country of sin he would still be saved. I wondered how he could possibly know this. God's word clearly teaches he was lost in sin. (Lk. 15:24).
- B. This is a doctrine that many would like to believe. It is very comforting to think that as a child of God I cannot fall from grace regardless of what I do. I cannot even be lost if I hate God and His Son and His word.
- C. But how can I know this? It is certainly not taught in the scriptures. Here are just a few of the many verses that teach a child of God can fall from grace. (1 Cor. 10:12; Heb. 3:12; 10:26, 27).
- VI. **No One Can Know God Will Save Those Who Have Not Been Baptized** - No one can know God will save those who have not been baptized.
- A. There are many who believe and teach that baptism is non-essential to salvation. They contend it is a beautiful ceremony or an outward sign of an inward grace, but certainly has absolutely nothing to do with salvation.
- B. Again God has not revealed this doctrine. God's revelation teaches baptism is essential to salvation. (Matt. 28:19, 20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21).
- VII. **No One Can Know He has Time To Put Off The Salvation Of His Soul** - No one can know is that he has time to put off the salvation of his soul.
- A. The scriptures teach that life can be taken away at any moment. (Prov. 27:1).
1. Ignoring this fact there are many people who are postponing their decision for Christ. They are looking for a more opportune time to obey the gospel.
 2. There is a **legendary story about an Indian princess** that shows the folly of delay. This princess lived near another tribe that had corn which excelled all the other tribes. The Indian princess went to the chief of the tribe and asked if she could select the finest ear of corn for seed. She felt that if she could just get the best seed, that she could help her people do better in the raising of corn. The chief granted her permission to walk down one row in the field and take the ear she desired. The only stipulation was she could not turn back and pluck an ear once she had passed it. The princess went down the row of her choice carefully looking for the perfect ear of corn. Before she knew it she walked right out of the corn field empty handed. She had pondered too long.
- B. There are many people today, like the princess, who are looking for a perfect day to obey the Lord. Many suddenly come to the end of life unexpectedly. They ponder too long and lose their souls.

Conclusion.

- I. We urge you not to ponder any longer. Do not linger. Step out into the aisle and confess your faith in Jesus as the Son of God and then be baptized for the remission of sins.
- II. Will you come as we stand and sing the song of invitation?

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