

The Works of God Made Manifest

Sunday AM, April 21, 2024

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Straight Paths Bible Church

John 9:1-5 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

- I. It is wrong to look at trials, tribulations, loss, suffering, and handicaps as punishment.
 - A. If there is any idea that we can be sure came from the mind of the devil, this is one.
 - B. The world is full of sin and evil, and therefore full of trouble.
 - C. But there is a God in heaven who always brings good out of evil; He turns evil into good, in spite of the devil's best efforts, and all who help him.
 - D. What kind of a notion is it that says if a person is poor they must be bad?
 1. And if they are poor AND blind it must mean that they are VERY bad!
 2. A person's worth and moral standing before God is based upon his physical condition and social position – how ungodly a thought!
 - E. What kind of a notion is it that when bad things happen to someone it is evidence that they are evil?
 1. The people on the island where Paul shipwrecked concluded he was a murderer because the viper bit him, then changed their mind when he didn't die immediately and assumed he was a god.
 2. We make light of such people and then hold to the same basic views of other men that they do.
 - F. This reeks of a lack of faith in God, and agreement with the pagan ideas of karma and that man can save himself by doing more good than bad.
 - G. It is a notion that leaves God out of everything, and leaves no place or opportunity for the works of God to be made manifest.
 - H. Nothing could be more unlike the Savior, who came to seek and save that which was lost, to preach the gospel to the poor; to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. (Luke 4:18)

- II. Jesus saw a man blind from his birth.
 - A. When Jesus looked at the man He saw a man.
 1. He did not see an object, but a man; a human being, made in his own image and likeness, but marred by this infirmity and not whole; not conformed to the image in which God had designed him.
 - B. He saw a man that had been blind from his birth.
 1. How could it be known that he was blind from birth by looking at him?
 2. What was that man worth? What benefit was he to Jesus?
 3. Jesus' purpose for being on this earth was people, like this blind man.
 4. Romans 8:3 ...God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:
 - C. Jesus heart felt compassion for the man; not anger or disgust, or offense because of some injustice.

1. The perils and troubles of his own life were of no concern to Him when He saw the blind man.
- D. Jesus saw a man, and his thoughts were to help the man in his infirmity.
- E. Jesus saw an opportunity for God to work a miracle.
- F. Jesus saw an opportunity for God to be glorified.
- G. Jesus saw an opportunity to show the Father to all that were there that day, and for people of all the ages after that day.
- H. Jesus did not see what the disciples, or the Jews saw.
- I. The disciples saw a man who was born blind and had lived that way for over 40 years.
- J. They saw all as wretched, while Jesus saw all as hope, through a heart of love.
- K. They thought it to be an injustice somehow, and their first thought was, "Who is to blame for this?"
- L. "Is this his own fault, or is it his parents' fault?"
 1. What difference could it possibly make if it was someone's fault?
 2. How could it be the blind man's fault that he was born blind?
 3. Did they think that God judges people for the sin they are going to commit before they are born?
 4. Did they think that God would judge the parents by inflicting such a thing on their innocent child?
 5. What a wretched concept of God most people have!
- M. It is amazing how different the mind of Christ is from the minds of carnal men.
- N. The difference is marked mostly by love; the love of God, which is not the same as what men consider love to be.
- O. The love of God shed abroad in your heart by the Holy Ghost will make you see people differently.
- P. The only Christianity that is worth the name is that which makes us like Him.
- Q. So no matter how we may be threatened, harassed, slandered, or rejected, if we are anything like Jesus at all, there is within our soul that great place where love dwells.
 1. That ruling, prevailing Spirit that looks out at others with charity and compassion.
 2. That same Spirit of God in us turns our eyes and minds from focusing on the wretched and instead looks for the glory of God.

III. That the works of God might be made manifest.

- A. Jesus healed the blind man so that WE could see.
- B. How could we have ever known the heart of God the Father if there had not been blind men, lepers, lame, sick, and demon-possessed people on the earth when Jesus came?
- C. Sin is certainly the source of all the suffering and trouble, and Jesus did not come to simply take away the trouble, but to take away the sin.
- D. The work of God that was manifest here, was not that the blind man's eyes could see, but that his soul was delivered from sin, and from the fear of man.
- E. The work of God manifested here is that the hypocrites were uncovered for who they really were.
- F. The miracle is that all of mankind was given a living, breathing look into the heart of Almighty God, who created all things.
- G. This attribute of God is one that exceeds our ability to comprehend, that his man was born blind over 40 years before for this moment, so that the works of God might be made manifest; so that the world could see God work a miracle in his life.
- H. Trying to make this fit into our puny concepts of justice, love, and mercy, we come up with an overload for our very limited intellect.