

A Lenten Thought

Various

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.” – St. Matthew 28:19

There is a legend that when Christ returned to Heaven, the Angel Gabriel asked Him, “Now that you have left the earth, how will Your work be carried on?”

There are Peter and James, Mary and Martha, replied Christ. “They will tell others of my mission, who will tell still more, until the good news spreads throughout the earth.”

“But what if they fail to do that, what other plan have You.” asked Gabriel.

I have no other plan,” Christ answered, “I am depending on them.”

Can He depend on You?

During recent years Christians have travel over the world—as soldiers, doctors, nurses, representatives, and so forth. Have they also been caring Christ’s message to others, and reflecting His spirit in their lives?

And here at home, are we doing our part too?

Prayer: O Lord, help us to never fail Thy trust in us. Amen

This clipping from a recent newspaper article has been the subject of attack by ninth graders in our Redland Protestant Reformed School. They were asked to read this so-called Lenten Thought and to voice their criticism in form of an essay.

The results of the assignment follows:

A LENTEN THOUGHT

By Irvin Pieksma

When Christ said, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,” He was speaking to His disciples, after His resurrection, telling them to go out among the nations and baptize the people in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

The command to teach all nations was also meant for missionaries and ministers of today. Christ was not depending on Peter and James, Mary and Martha, for He never has to depend on us. We must depend on Him. Christ does not need our help to do His work, but His command was to do so and we are to do what God commands us. If we fail to do this, God can still carry on His work for He is not dependent on us.

Christ has appointed some missionaries and ministers to go out into this world and preach the Gospel to every creature, but every Christian must also reflect Christ in his life.

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A LENTEN THOUGHT

By Virginia Braaksma

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and the Holy Ghost.”

This command, go ye therefore, and teach all nations, was given by Christ not only to the eleven disciples but to all believers and when Christ commands, who are we that we should not obey Him.

But it is not so that God needs us to do His work, we who by nature are so corrupt that we are wholly incapable of doing any good and inclined to all evil. In Gen. 6:5 we already read that God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And God who is a just Judge will not suffer this wickedness to go unpunished. He hath declared, "Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them"

But let us first of all bear in mind that God is God, all sufficient in Himself and hath no need of sinful man. When Christ died on the cross, He bore the wrath of God against the sins of His Bride, the Church. Therefore, we may believe that God for the sake of Christ's satisfaction, will no more remember our sins and will graciously impute to us the righteousness of Christ. And Christ who now sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father is there as the head of His Church, making intercession for us, and He send us His spirit by whose power we seek the things which are above. Those who are implanted into Christ by a true faith will also bring forth fruits of thankfulness.

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A LENTEN THOUGHT

By Raymond Gaastra

In the first place a legend is a myth or a fable, and that Christ ascended into heaven after His resurrection is certainly no fable because the Bible teaches that Christ did return to heaven and what is taught in the Bible we must not doubt. Gabriel would not have asked Christ the question, "Now that you have left the earth, how will your work be carried on?" He would surely know that Christ has not really left the earth because He is in all places at once and that Christ remains the Head of the Church even though He is no longer on earth in an earthly body, but He is there spiritually.

Also Peter, James, Mary, and Martha would never have become Christians to spread His great new throughout the world except for Christ's mercy, because we do not accept Christ, He chooses us for His own. Gabriel asks Christ if He has another plan if this one should fail, but this is all wrong because what God has ordained to happen from before the beginning of the world shall and cannot be changed, for God is the I AM, and once He has made up His mind it is never changed like the minds of men. Christ is not depending on us because if Christ has chosen you for His own no one can stop it.

These soldiers, doctors, nurses, representatives, and so forth that travel over the world can only carry Christ's message to others if they fear God, and if God makes them willing to show it in their actions, speech, and daily walk of life. Here at home we can only do our part if Christ puts the fear on God into our hearts. It is only by God's great mercy that we are chosen and that we can tell others of His great doings.

The prayer that follows: “O Lord help us to never fail thy trust in us.”—should be changed to—“O Lord, help us to never fail our trust in thee.” God can not trust in us, but through His kindness and mercy we can trust in Him.

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