

... they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us

Acts 17:27

## Store In My Heart

### Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Consider the contrast for a moment.

Wages are associated with work or payment for services rendered. Thus we can see that the reward or payment we receive, death, is for all the effort we put into committing sin. Those who live in sin will receive their due payment.

On the other hand, eternal life is a gift. Gifts are not given because they are earned. We don't give our children gifts because they worked enough to earn them. There are no services or labor associated with a gift.

But note where that free gift is found, in Christ. If we are 'in Christ' we can receive eternal life. So the next question for each of us should be, "How do I get in Christ?".

# The Power Of Simplicity

## Bill Hall

Jesus Christ had a deep appreciation for simple things. His teaching was profound, but always simple. He reached the hearts of His hearers, not with high-sounding philosophical jargon, but with illustrations and "to the point" teaching. He could see in a farmer sowing his seed, or a lily showing forth its beauty, or a shepherd leaving his flock to seek one lost sheep, or a loving father welcoming a wayward son, a lesson that could teach spiritual truth.

His apostles were chosen from the humble class. He could appreciate people, not for what they possessed, but for what they were; and, in some cases, not for what they were, but for what they could become. He recognized true quality, and true quality is often found in the simple and humble.

The worship He ordained was simple in nature. *"Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul spoke to them ..."* (Acts 20:7). Even the poorest could worship, for all that was required of a material nature was a little bread and fruit of the vine. Those of little talent could worship, for God was listening in view of the heart rather than the beauty of the voice.

He authorized a simple organization for His church, with each congregation appointing its own bishops and deacons (Philippians 1:1). There were no denominational associations, conferences, or synods. There were no inter-



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We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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## For Our Information

Joyce Venable has been dealing with a cough lately.

John Jackson is returning to work this week. Phyllis Jackson is still in isolation.

Paula Laubach is in isolation. A vendor at the flea market tested positive.

Amy & Gracie Simpson are out of town this weekend.

We will start with Judges 20:8 tonight.

Wednesday we will start in 2Corinthians 2:5.

**Pray for safety, courage & healing.**

church organizations or societies. Yet, through the simple organization given the church by the Lord, the world of the first century was thoroughly evangelized and the needy among them provided for. The Lord knew that success in His work would not be brought about through complexity of organization, but through dedication, faith, and commitment on the part of His followers. We make a terrible mistake when we try to substitute the former for the latter.

Why this simplicity? *“That no flesh should glory in His presence” (1Corinthians 1:29)*. The complex systems which men devise tend to bring glory to themselves rather than to God.

To return to the simplicity which our Lord ordained might not be impressive to the worldly-minded, but, then, Jesus Himself is not very impressive to the worldly-minded. Besides, our purpose is not to impress the worldly-minded, but to please God and bow in submission to His will. Let us do away with our super projects and complex systems. Let us learn to appreciate simple teaching and simple ways. Above all, let us learn to appreciate Bible teaching and Bible ways.

Someone has said: “How foolish we are to think that God will be impressed with our voices when we sing; after all, He hears the angels sing! How foolish to think He will be impressed with our cathedrals; remember, He made the Grand Canyon!” What He is seeking for is a heart that is pure, loving, and obedient to His will. And that's simple.

(I suspect each of us has heard of the KISS principle of tackling a problem. In almost every area of life it is better to keep things simple rather seek complex solutions. That is the reason most tech support lines start with checking cables and restarting whatever is having the problem. It is often the simplest thing to try and even solves a large number of issues. When we have some kind of difficulty we often try to “get back to the basics.” This too is seeking a simple plan. Most spiritual problems can be helped by a similar attitude. Getting back to Bible study, prayer, helping one another, worshipping together are all excellent ways to strengthen and encourage in times of trouble. They are also God's Way! DLH)



**We seek only to serve God according to His Will!**