

SELF REALIZATION IS THE KEY

By Pastor Del Wray

Job a man after God's own heart who God described as a righteous man had to come to the end of his own life before he genuinely discovered the truth about himself. For we find him saying in Job 42:6 "*Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*" Isaiah 6:5 Isaiah lamented, "*...I am a man of unclean lips...*" Here is what Paul said just before he was martyred 1Tim. 1:15 "*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief*". Could I say? Less of me as did the publican Luke 18:13 "*God be merciful to me a sinner...*" No! I must cry out "I hate myself" To see one's self in the light of divine scripture is to declare "what a wretch, how loathsome I am" the only thing good in me is the Holy Spirit. There is nothing more I hate in this world than a super-spiritual jerk; unless it is those who think they can live without sinning. Mankind is so delusional, self deceived, so caught up with the vanities of this life that the poison of piety pours from his ego. Ego-centric! Self centered! Self righteous! Self hallucination! Man refuses to be broken! So society must have its own religion to survive!

Mankind is religious by nature, the fig leaf factor, all men alike worship someone or something for men are always searching for the fountain of youth or for that which will fill the emptiness and void in the bosom of his soul. His conscience would hound him if he didn't! All men have a conscience; well some don't, if they have allowed it to be hardened, cynical they are. Others sear their consciences because of a sense of right and wrong choosing a life of sin. See our Native Americans they have their totem poles, Asians their images and idols while in America the worship of self, humanism has become the religion of most. As old as civilization itself man still refuses to own up to a Creator. "*The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.*" Eccl. 1:9,

We are excessively and sentimentally religious by nature and this religiosity is populating Hell swelling its borders by the millions every day. This continual quest for self preservation has made man delusional, believing lies about him "the lie" the art of self denial, denial of the truth about one's self.

Religions are only delusions that keep men from surrendering to Jesus Christ! All religions do is serve the Devil's aim and purpose which is keeping men from discovering their own true identity; wretchedness, helpless and hopeless we are is man's true condition without the Holy Spirit. Self-discovery of one's depravity is the key that unlocks the door to divine intervention, the new birth and spiritual growth.

Of the many things God has tried to show man through history or better the last six dispensations, as He will the seventh; the one message that should stand out above all others is that man is *a hopeless rebel, an utter failure without God*. He is simply *not capable* of living up to God's righteous standard no matter how "enlightened" and able he may think he is. You may

be the best person in the world, who if you could, live a perfect life would still die and go to Hell without Jesus Christ. Which alone is God's standard! The presence of Jesus Christ in man is God's only standard met! It's not for mercy we should be pleading but for God's presence we need! II Cor. 13:5 "*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*" His presence alone will satisfy God's every demand! And still man refuses Jesus Christ.

Place him in a beautiful garden with everything he needs, including fellowship with God, a beautiful and compatible wife, the earth under his dominion, access to the Tree of Life, etc., and man will *forsake it all* and choose death. Leave him alone with his conscience to guide him and man will become so *exceedingly wicked* that he must be removed from the earth with a flood. Give him great and sure promises and man will flee them and *speak lies in unbelieving fear*. Make of him a chosen nation for God to speak through and dwell among, with His holy Law and priesthood, and man will abandon his God and *worship dumb idols*. Give him an eternal redemption from sin and hell, everlasting life, an indwelling Holy Spirit, the promise of a new body, a home in New Jerusalem, and birth him into God's own family making him His son, and man will repay his Savior with *rebellion, worldliness, and indifference*. Give him a perfect, uncursed earth, a cooperative environment, no Satan to tempt him, extended lifespan, and Jesus Christ himself to reign over him, and man will *revolt and try to force Christ from His throne*. All is clear. Man is a wicked, vile, evil, selfish, and vain creature, and apart from God he is utterly hopeless and bound for hell. The surest proof of this is God is near the last millennium of his dealings with man (now 6000 years along), and man collectively has *not learned this ONE lesson yet!*

The lesson man refuses to learn; Matt. 7:13-14 "*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*"

"God's Great Purpose is to bring all men to the end of themselves.
Where they no longer trust themselves but trust God."

Brokenness is the only answer!