



Scriptures and Doctrine :: What Does This Word Mean to You?

What Does This Word Mean to You?, on: 2014/9/2 10:48

Brethren have any of you heard of the word "glassenheit"?

If so does this word mean something to you?

Bearmaster.

Re: What Does This Word Mean to You? - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/9/2 15:03

Hi bear-

I think it might be spelled "gelassenheit."

I looked up several definitions and I certainly agree with the concept.

In fact you may not be saved unless this word describes you.

Re: , on: 2014/9/2 15:11

Your right bro. I misspelled it. Thanks.

Blaine

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2014/9/2 15:34

A website of Elizebethtown College says this...The core value of Amish society is captured in the German word Gelassenheit (Gay-la-sen-hite). Roughly translated, Gelassenheit means yielding oneself to a higher authority. The Amish speak of "giving themselves up" to the church. Gelassenheit carries many meanings—self-surrender, submission, yielding to the will of God and to others, contentment, and a calm spirit. Most important, Gelassenheit is the opposite of bold individualism that promotes self-interest at every turn. This is the point where Amish society diverges most significantly from contemporary culture.

I had never heard the term before, but in the sense that the term seems to be used here, I would agree. Jesus said that if any man would come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. Paul said that we are baptized into Christ's death and must find our new life in Him. We must lose our life to find it right? There is not room in the kingdom of God for my agenda alongside of God's agenda. I must surrender my will to His agenda if I am to be part of His kingdom.

Re: , on: 2014/9/3 11:54

Travis I believe you have captured the essence of what this word means. More importantly how those of Anabaptist heritage lived out the Gellassenheit in their hearts.

Now how do I live out gellassenheit in my heart.

Bear.

Re: , on: 2014/9/3 11:58

Denny Kenniston does an excellent job in expounding "Gellassenheit" in a message in his Oral History of the Anabaptist . Very good message with relevance for today.

The message is the third in his series on Anabaptist history.

Bear.

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2014/9/3 13:29

Blain: I don't think that there is any real trick to living this principle out. It simply comes down to this. I give myself wholly to Christ and obey Him in every facet of my life. I spend copious amounts of time in His word and in His presence, I listen to His Holy Spirit, and I obey. There is really no magic formula and no tricks of the trade so to speak. It is the end of me, laying my own life down.

Re: , on: 2014/9/3 13:41

Agreed Travis there is no magic formula to laying down one's life and making Him first.. It is an ongoing reality of saying not my will but Yours be done.

But why were the Anabaptist of their day or even the persecuted of our day willing to lay down their life for Christ?

And why is it so hard for us to practice "gellassenheit" here in America?

Blaine

Re: - posted by dolfan (), on: 2014/9/3 15:34

Why is it so hard for Americans to practice gellassenheit?

Because, America is rooted in its opposite. In spite of his staunchly Christian rhetoric and profession, John Winthrop, who co-opted the "city on a hill" imagery of Jesus to describe the Massachusetts Bay Colony -- and which was famously quoted by Ronald Reagan (to show the reach in time of this paradox I'm about to describe) -- also considered the English to be so more advanced and superior to the New World "Indians" that he claimed a superior right for the colony on lands only seasonally used by Indians.

I use this as one example of the problem. Winthrop's ideas were instrumental in the early formation of what would become the United States. And, as Christian as his writings are, and as serious as Winthrop was about Christianity, he was seized by a competing and dominant view that he either failed to recognize or never really reconciled -- economic gain at the expense of others deemed lesser.

The entire American ethos of "pulling yourself up by your bootstraps" and "leaving your kids better off than you were", etc., still remains and still necessarily means there are winners and losers in terms of wealth. That is only part of the issue -- we know that wealth is unequally distributed and we don't stumble on that truth. But, what is a stumbling block is that gaining wealth and retaining wealth in our inherently unequal system is seen as a virtue of our nation's existence. Even "liberals" and "big government" types who would redistribute wealth don't mean it -- they just reshuffle the cards to suit their own gains, and they win whole elections on appealing to the "virtue" of it.

Gain is virtue. Cut throat profiteering, insider trading, loaning at interest. That's virtue in America.

Lack? It creates its own perverted version of the same twisted virtue. Lack is either because you are a victim (so pay us more to protect you and help you), uneducated (so pay us to teach you), hungry (pay us to NOT grow food for you and we'll control costs of what we do feed you and you better consider yourself lucky) or some such, each of which comes attached to many ways of someone else gaining from that lack in a way that is sold as a virtue.

America's best and highest ideals and views of itself are antithetical to the whole of the kingdom of God. On its very best day, America is filthy before God. Everything in America --- and this is probably true of any democracy, but especially true here as history demonstrates --- is premised on the personal accrual of power. The kingdom of God among us is premised fully on the person of Christ and His personal giving of power. These are inextricably and immutably opposed.

As long as Americans love America as America -- which is to love the world itself -- *gellassenheit* is just another \$5 word that gets tossed around by those who like to position themselves as being in front of some cutting edge discussion. Until we hit our faces across this land in real repentance, we are not a city on a hill. We are a bushel basket smothering out the light of Jesus and draining the oil from our lamps.

Re: , on: 2014/9/4 18:11

Brethren I felt the need to bring this thread back up on the board again. Reading comments by Phil Johnson about either converting or killing those in ISIS shows the level that Christianity has sunk to in this country. Particularly when we are depending on Christian celebs to guide us and not the scriptures.

And then there are the "what if" questions. What happens if ISIS comes knocking at my door? Do I meet them with my 12 gauge?

What has Jesus called us to? Was He just spouting filler when He said that if anyone wishes to come after Him he must deny himself, take up His cross daily, and follow Him? Certainly His listeners knew what He was talking about when He said this. Roman crosses dotted the countryside as a sign of Roman justice.

Are we called to this? Are we called to die? Are we called to total surrender? Are we called to *gellassenheit*.

Brethren I exhort you to listen to the message by Denny Kenniston. It is the third message in his series on Anabaptist history. This is not a message merely expounding on a German word. It is a message for us to totally surrender ourselves to God. If we do this then we need not fear ISIS or any persecution. For we are already dead.

Bearmaster

Re: , on: 2014/9/4 18:33

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said that when Jesus bids a man to come to Him. He *Â* bids him to come and die. In other words to practice *gellassenheit*.

The believers in N. Korea say that they are already dead after coming to Christ. They are willing to risk all in following Christ in that dark country.

The Anabaptists were willing to risk everything in following Christ in renouncing infant baptism. They would not have their infants baptized. Also they were baptized as adults upon confessing Christ. This under threat of imprisonment and death.

This was *gellassenheit*. This was total surrender to the will of Christ. Even into death.

To say that Anabaptism was merely a reaction to the theology of the Reformers is simplistic. It was more. Anabaptists were believers who loved the truth of Jesus Christ. They were willing to live it out and die for it. This was total surrender. This was *gellassenheit*.

Brethren what are we willing to die for. And I speak to my self here. Am I willing to die for Christ to see souls come to Him. Am I totally surrendered to Him.

Those in ISIS under demonic control are willing to die to advance their evil agenda.

Am I willing to die to advance His Great Commission. Sobering thoughts to think about.

Bear

Re: , on: 2014/9/4 18:33

Oops. Double Post.

Re: , on: 2014/9/5 3:33

Gelassenheit is a German word. The meaning changed over time. The original meaning was to surrender to God.

Here are some interesting comments I found about surrender:

The goal of the Christian life can be summed up by Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Such a life of surrender is pleasing to God, results in the greatest human fulfillment, and will reap ultimate rewards in heaven (Luke 6:22-23).

<http://www.gotquestions.org/surrender-to-God.htm>

this is what Paul means when he talks about giving ourselves to God as a living sacrifice:

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (Rom. 12:1-2) What is being described here is not the surrender of a situation or a circumstance. No. It is the surrender of the PERSON <http://www.goodnewsarticles.com/Apr07-2.htm>

This is also an interesting article :

<http://www.discipleshiptools.org/apps/articles/default.asp?articleid=37283&columnid=>

Re: , on: 2014/9/5 8:15

Brother thank you for your Christ centered post. Your thoughts resonate on my spirit.

Bear.