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General Topics :: Two classes of Christian

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I have spoken a lot about the coming of the Lord, the great falling away and the separation of the sheep from the goats. In one shape or fashion I have covered those subjects a lot and of course spoke about the Remnant of God, God's witness here on the earth being separated by times and circumstances from everything religious.

In this piece I want to speak about the differences within genuine Christianity and the basic theme of this message is to all genuine saints " seek the Lord while He may be found with your whole heart." And so, I would like to suggest that ther e are two broad categories of saints. Now, remember, these are broad categories and within these categories are degre es and measures and overlaps. But for the sake of clarity I want to speak about the two broad categories to bring unders tanding to who we are as a Body right now and what that means moving forward as the darkness continues to descend and the evil one is mustering all of his forces for his last stand before the Lord comes back.

Andrew Murray writes in "The Two Covenants,".....

Not only among the Galatians but throughout the Church there are to be found two classes of Christians. Some are cont ent with the mingled life, half flesh and half spirit, half self-effort and half grace. Others are not content with this but are s eeking with their whole heart to know full deliverance from sin and the abiding power for a walk in God's presence that the New Covenant has brought and can give. May God help us all to be satisfied with nothing less."

Can you see what brother Andrew is saying? He mentions the Galatians who of course had begun in the Spirit but were now attempting to walk out their salvation in the flesh, good works, ordinances, special days and weeks and sabbaths a nd so on. These were Christians all right, but Christians who had not continued in the Spirit and now walked in the flesh. I want to suggest that a great deal of Christendom is walking in the flesh, trying to figure things out in their own wisdom, f alling back upon what they know. If we go back to the father of faith, Abraham, we are given an insight into what it mean s to try to figure things out for yourself. We have Issac and we have Ishmael. One is the child of the flesh the other is the child of the Spirit. One is an attempted answer to the promise figured out by natural means, the other is the answer to the promise delivered by supernatural means. One gives life and birth to a blessing for all the nations, the other is separat ed and cast out and becomes an enemy to the child of promise.

The question then to you saint, how do you live? Do you live by the Spirit and follow after God with your whole heart? Or are you, as Murray puts it " content with the mingled life?" The reason I believe this to be important above all questions i s because I believe this generation will experience pressures like no generation ever has before. There is a time coming soon such as has never been before. These pressures will bear down on every genuine saint whatever of the two broad categories you belong to. Can I suggest that the saints who belonged in the mingled life category spoken of above in tim es past were very fortunate people. Not having to endure the pressures of a society that had turned against them, they were able, for the most part to muddle along. They were never really a powerful voice or witness for Christ but simply fle w under the radar so to speak because of the times in which they lived which were not particularly unfriendly to their luke warmness.

I want to suggest now, that with no great revelation, our times are rapidly changing. There was a time that Jesus and all of His disciples were warmly welcomed and those He sent out were well received everywhere they went. Yet of course, t hat all changed and Jesus told them so. He had sent them out with nothing because all of their needs would be met by a welcoming crowd, now they had to equip themselves because that same crowd, the people in general had turned agains t them and they would now be hated. Our paradigm is changing brothers and sisters. This hatred that the early Church f aced as Jesus revealed more and more of who He was and perhaps more to the point who He was not, is now beginnin g to turn on the saints today. And I might add for the same reasons. As circumstances change and the culture changes, i t is what we are not that is bringing the attention of the world. We are not of them, our ways are not their ways. What we love is not what they love. Our priorities are not their priorities and so on. You might argue and I would agree that this is t he way it should always have been, but in all of our religiosity, that was mostly hidden.

Now we are in a time when nothing will be left hidden, nothing will be left unshaken. He is coming back for a pure spotle ss Bride, He expects to find faith in the saints. Now to the point of this message. Since I believe that one can lose their s alvation, then this second broad category of saints, the ones who "are content with the mingled life," are in great danger.

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These are the ones who will fall away and not only fall away but become the enemies of those who do not. The mingled I ife will not stand in the coming days, only those who seek the Lord with their whole hearts and walk in the Spirit will stan d. The world will not be content with something mingled, it will demand absolute loyalty or nothing at all. You will either be with the world or be with Christ and there will be and can be no middle ground. So now is the time to seek the Lord with our whole hearts. Now is the time to fill our vessels with the oil that represents the Holy Spirit. Many are called indeed but few are chosen, narrow is the path that leads to life. To follow Christ with your whole heart requires being completely sold out to Him. If the world is being shaken and the foundation of Christ cannot be moved then how can one possibly st and if one has one foot on the world and one foot on the unmovable rock?

Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the un righteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. (Isa 55: 6-8)

And to those saints brothers and sisters and His faithful remnant they shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: t he mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. (Is a 55:12) There is joy and peace with God for those who seek Him with their whole hearts and praises shall be in their he arts and in their mouths no matter the circumstances and in this God will be glorified......bro Frank