

A Christian's Works

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth”, Genesis 1:26-28.

Technically we could say that Adam and Eve, with the power God had endowed them with, were the first ‘Christians’ to have lived on this earth, until they sold their birthright to Satan!

When God sent His Son to reestablish us as sons of God, we were also empowered with a greater authority to use against Satan. By the Lord’s teaching to His Disciples, “Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son”, John 14:11-13.

Allow me to quote - to the best of my ability - an illustration another evangelist used at a meeting I was attending.

A man had a dream where he dreamed that he was talking to God. He claimed

that everywhere he went he was distressed by the amount of suffering he was witnessing, and asked God, "God, why don't You do something about all this?" God replied, "I did. I created you".

Being kind to the poor and downtrodden was central to what God had always asked of His people.

God brought about Joseph's removal to Egypt that they should have their daily needs met, Genesis 42-47.

God, through Moses, instituted the Laws of gleaning that the poor would always be able to eat, Leviticus 19.

Our Lord's teaching to the people of His Day was, "But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind:

And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just", Luke 14:13-14.

It is interesting to note that Luke, a Gentile, is the only Gospel writer to record these words!

Our Lord has called certain people, and empowered them, to minister to those who have earthly needs.

They will give food to the hungry. Ensure that the thirsty have sufficient to drink.

Ensure that travellers have a place to rest, and sufficient clothing to wear.

The greatest example we have is the meeting of Paul and Ananias, where Ananias was instructed by God to lay his hands upon Paul's eyes, that Paul could be used by God as a major Apostle, Acts 9:10-22.

Our Lord has also called certain people to minister to those who have a deeper, and more spiritual needs.

The following illustration illustrates what can be achieved by those who have a

desire to become as one with the Lord.

They became as Moses, creating signs that no ordinary man could, Exodus 7-9.

They became as the hand that wrote a prophetic word upon the wall, Daniel 5:24-28

The Disciple gave sight to the blind Apostle, Acts 9:10-22.

None of the above three were positionally better than the others, each obediently answered God's call.

During World War II, a church building in Strasbourg was destroyed. After the bombing, the members surveyed the area to see what damage was done.

They were pleased that a statue of Christ that had been sculpted centuries before by a great artist, was still standing with outstretched hands. Taking a closer look, the people discovered both hands of Christ had been sheared off by a falling beam.

Later, a sculptor in the town offered to replace the broken hands as a gift to the church.

The church leaders met to consider the offer and decided not to accept it. They felt the statue without hands spoke to them of the fact that Jesus had called them to be His hands and to minister to others.

The Apostle Paul, writing to the Ephesian Church declared, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them", Ephesians 2:8-10.